

# EN3591: HONG KONG LANGUAGE AND SOCIETY

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## Effective Term

Semester A 2025/26

## Part I Course Overview

### Course Title

Hong Kong Language and Society

### Subject Code

EN - English

### Course Number

3591

### Academic Unit

English (EN)

### College/School

College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences (CH)

### Course Duration

One Semester

### Credit Units

3

### Level

B1, B2, B3, B4 - Bachelor's Degree

### Medium of Instruction

English

### Medium of Assessment

English

### Prerequisites

Nil

### Precursors

Nil

### Equivalent Courses

EN2819 Hong Kong Language and Society

### Exclusive Courses

Nil

## Part II Course Details

### Abstract

This course introduces students to the systematic study of language and society, and helps students achieve a better understanding of the relevant approaches and methodologies in the study of language and society, especially in the Hong

Kong context. It also provides students with the appropriate tools, both theoretical and practical, to describe and analyse a number of language issues in Hong Kong society. Specifically, this course aims at enabling students to:

- Describe and exemplify some basic sociolinguistic concepts: biliteracy, trilingualism, code-mixing and code-switching, standard language and dialect, written language and spoken language, speech community.
- Apply these concepts to analyse the main contextual variables of a communicative event: “who speaks what to whom when and where” .
- Apply these concepts to analyse the language situation in Hong Kong.
- Apply these concepts to analyse the language needs of ethnic minority groups in Hong Kong.
- Apply these concepts to analyse the relationships among language, identity, culture and society

### Course Intended Learning Outcomes (CILOs)

CILOs		Weighting (if DEC-A1 DEC-A2 DEC-A3 app.)			
1	Describe and give an example from their experience or everyday observations to illustrate some basic sociolinguistic concepts			x	
2	Apply these concepts to analyse the main contextual variables of a communicative event: “who speaks what to whom when and where” .			x	
3	Analyse the language situation in Hong Kong.			x	x
4	Understand the language needs of ethnic minority groups in Hong Kong.		x	x	x
5	Develop research skills to analyse the relationships among language, identity, culture and society.		x	x	x

#### A1: Attitude

Develop an attitude of discovery/innovation/creativity, as demonstrated by students possessing a strong sense of curiosity, asking questions actively, challenging assumptions or engaging in inquiry together with teachers.

#### A2: Ability

Develop the ability/skill needed to discover/innovate/create, as demonstrated by students possessing critical thinking skills to assess ideas, acquiring research skills, synthesizing knowledge across disciplines or applying academic knowledge to real-life problems.

#### A3: Accomplishments

Demonstrate accomplishment of discovery/innovation/creativity through producing /constructing creative works/new artefacts, effective solutions to real-life problems or new processes.

### Learning and Teaching Activities (LTAs)

LTAs	Brief Description	CILO No.	Hours/week (if applicable)
1	Interactive lectures	Students will learn to describe and give an account and example of sociolinguistic concepts through participating in interactive lectures where these concepts are introduced and illustrated through examples and case studies.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5

2	Out-of-class reading tasks and in-class discussions	Students will further learn to describe and give an account of sociolinguistic concepts through completing the required readings and consulting the recommended readings that are assigned to them each week along with a set of study questions based on these readings. Students are to prepare responses to the study questions and to share and discuss those responses in class.	1, 2, 3	
3	Group project work and presentations	Students will work in small groups to choose a topic and design a study on a chosen topic. In this way, students can develop their skills in presenting their collective findings, analysing their relationships between language, identity, society and culture.	1, 3, 5	

**Assessment Tasks / Activities (ATs)**

	ATs	CILO No.	Weighting (%)	Remarks ("- for nil entry)	Allow Use of GenAI?
1	Class Participation	1, 2, 3	10	Individual: Based on how frequently, actively, and constructively students participate. In-class activities, discussions and presentations measure students' ability to apply newly learned principles to real contexts and situations.	Yes

2	Group Final Written Report	3, 5	30	Group work: Students will have the opportunity to apply their knowledge to critically analyze and evaluate authentic language data. Students will apply analytical methods in their analysis. Students will also have the opportunity to identify and reflect on the relationship between language and identity in Hong Kong society.	No
3	Group Final Project In-Class Presentation	3, 5	15	Group work: Students will demonstrate their ability to apply their knowledge and analytical tools and report their findings in a succinct, organized, and professional manner in an oral presentation.	No
4	Test	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	45	Individual: The test will be designed to test students' facility with theoretical concepts and analytical skills from lectures and readings. It will also test students' application of knowledge.	No

**Continuous Assessment (%)**

100

**Examination (%)**

0

**Assessment Rubrics (AR)****Assessment Task**

1. Class Participation

### **Criterion**

Attendance and active class participation

#### **Excellent (A+, A, A-)**

An excellent record of attendance and participation. Attended all classes punctually, always participated actively and constructively in class and group activities.

#### **Good (B+, B, B-)**

Satisfactory attendance and punctuality. Generally participated actively and constructively in class and group activities.

#### **Fair (C+, C, C-)**

Satisfactory attendance and punctuality. Frequently participated actively and constructively in class and group activities.

#### **Marginal (D)**

Attendance and punctuality not fully satisfactory and/or participation in class and group activities was inconsistent.

#### **Failure (F)**

Attendance and punctuality were unsatisfactory. Did not meaningfully engage with class and group activities.

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### **Assessment Task**

2. Group Final Written Report

#### **Criterion**

Written paper on a topic that presents data collected and analyzed using a sociolinguistic perspective.

#### **Excellent (A+, A, A-)**

Able to analyze and present a sociolinguistic issue very clearly and insightfully, applying the theoretical framework, accurately giving evidence from data collected, and synthesizing points into a coherent argument expressed in clear and accurate English and within the word limit.

#### **Good (B+, B, B-)**

Able to analyze and present a sociolinguistic issue clearly, applying the theoretical framework fairly accurately giving evidence from data collected, and synthesizing points into a relatively coherent argument expressed in clear and mostly accurate English and within the word limit.

#### **Fair (C+, C, C-)**

There may be some inaccuracies in understanding the sociolinguistic issue under investigation. Sufficient evidence may not be provided. The paper may lack focus or be poorly argued. There may be problems with the organization or grammar of the paper. The paper may exceed the word limit.

#### **Marginal (D)**

There are serious flaws and/or inaccuracies in understanding the sociolinguistic issue under investigation. Sufficient evidence is not provided. The paper lacks focus or is poorly argued. There are serious problems with the organization or grammar of the paper. The paper is incomplete or incomprehensible due to a large number of language inaccuracies.

#### **Failure (F)**

Unable to apply the theories in an accurate way, present a coherent analysis and/or communicate in written English to an acceptable standard.

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### **Assessment Task**

3. Group Final Project In-Class Presentation

### **Criterion**

Organization/Delivery/Grammar/Effectiveness/Timing of presentation

#### **Excellent (A+, A, A-)**

The presentation provides a very clear and insightful analysis. It draws effectively upon evidence from various types of data collected, and synthesizing findings into a coherent argument.

The presentation is very well organized, delivered in clear and accurate, fluent and idiomatic English, and within the time limit.

#### **Good (B+, B, B-)**

The presentation provides a clear analysis. It draws upon evidence from various types of data collected, and synthesizing findings into an argument.

The presentation is well organized, delivered in largely accurate, fluent and idiomatic English, and within the time limit.

#### **Fair (C+, C, C-)**

The presentation provides an adequate analysis. It draws upon some evidence from data collected, and synthesizing findings into a coherent argument.

The presentation is adequately organized and comprehensible, but the standard of the spoken English may need improvement. It may exceed the time limit.

#### **Marginal (D)**

The presentation provides a poor analysis. It exhibits insufficient evidence from data collected, and may lack a coherent argument.

The presentation is incomplete or partially incomprehensible due to poor organization or the standard of the spoken English.

#### **Failure (F)**

The presentation does not identify an issue relevant to the course.

The presentation is incomplete or largely incomprehensible due to poor organization or significant problems in the standard of the spoken English.

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### **Assessment Task**

4. Test

#### **Criterion**

The test will be marked according to the accuracy of the answers. Correct answers will be awarded full marks of the respective questions, half-correct answers will be awarded half of the marks devoted to the respective questions, and wrong or irrelevant answers will be awarded zero.

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## **Part III Other Information**

### **Keyword Syllabus**

Biliteracy, trilingualism, code-mixing and code-switching, standard language and dialect, written language and spoken language, speech community, language and identity, language and education, language in Hong Kong workplace and school settings.

### **Reading List**

#### **Compulsory Readings**

Title	
1	Li, E. S. H. (2015). <i>Language, society and culture in Hong Kong</i> . Hong Kong: The Open University Press.
2	Bolton K. (Eds.). (2002). <i>Hong Kong English: Autonomy and creativity</i> . Hong Kong: Hong Kong University Press

### Additional Readings

Title	
1	Edwards, J. G. H. (2018). <i>The Politics of English in Hong Kong: Attitudes, Identity, and Use</i> . Oxon: Routledge.
2	Evans, S. (2013). The long march to biliteracy and trilingualism: Language policy in Hong Kong education since the handover. <i>Annual Review of Applied Linguistics</i> , 33, 302-324.
3	Evans, S. (2016). <i>The English Language in Hong Kong: Diachronic and Synchronic Perspectives</i> . London: Palgrave Macmillan.
4	Halliday, M. A. K. (1998). Where languages meet: The significance of the Hong Kong experience. In Asker, B. (Ed.), <i>Teaching language and culture: Building Hong Kong on education</i> (pp. 27-37). Hong Kong: Longman.
5	Li, D. C. S. (1999). The functions and status of English in Hong Kong: A post-1997 update. <i>English World-Wide</i> , 20(1), 67-110.
6	Lin, A. M. Y. (2006). Beyond linguistic purism in language-in-education policy and practice: Exploring bilingual pedagogies in a Hong Kong science classroom. <i>Language and Education</i> .
7	Luke, K. K. (1998). Why two languages might be better than one: Motivations of language mixing in Hong Kong. In M. C. Pennington (Ed.), <i>Language in Hong Kong at century's end</i> (pp. 145-159). Hong Kong: Hong Kong University Press.
8	Pun, J. (2019). Salient language features in explanation texts that student encounter in secondary school chemistry textbooks. <i>Journal of English for Academic Purposes</i> .42, 100781. <a href="https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jeap.2019.100781">https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jeap.2019.100781</a>
9	Pun, J., Chan, E.A., Eggins, S. & Slade, D. (2019). Training in communication and interaction during shift-to-shift nursing handovers in a bilingual hospital: A case study. <i>Nursing Education Today</i> . <a href="https://doi.org/10.1016/j.nedt.2019.104212">https://doi.org/10.1016/j.nedt.2019.104212</a>
10	Pun, J. Chan, E.A., Wang, S. & Slade, D. (2018). Health professional-patient communication practices in East Asia: An integrative review of an emerging field of research and practice in Hong Kong, South Korea, Japan, Taiwan, and Mainland China. <i>Patient Education and Counseling</i> . 101(7), 1193-1206. <a href="https://doi.org/10.1016/j.pec.2018.01.018">https://doi.org/10.1016/j.pec.2018.01.018</a>
11	Pun, J., Chor, W. & Zhong, L. (2019). Delivery of patient-centered care in complementary medicine: Insights and evidence from the Chinese medical practitioners and patients in primary care consultations in Hong Kong. <i>Complementary Therapies in Medicine</i> . <a href="https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ctim.2019.06.013">https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ctim.2019.06.013</a>
12	Pun, J. & Macaro, E. (2019). The effect of first and second language use on question types in English medium instruction science classrooms in Hong Kong. <i>International Journal of Bilingual Education and Bilingualism</i> . 22(1) 64-77. <a href="https://doi.org/10.1080/13670050.2018.1510368">https://doi.org/10.1080/13670050.2018.1510368</a>
13	Pun J, Matthiessen C.M.I.M., Slade D, Murray K. (2015). Factors affecting communication in emergency departments: doctors and nurses' perceptions of communication in a trilingual ED in Hong Kong. <i>International Journal of Emergency Medicine</i> , 8:48, <a href="https://doi.org/10.1186/s12245-015-0095-y">https://doi.org/10.1186/s12245-015-0095-y</a>
14	Macaro, E., Curle, S., Pun, J., An, J., & Dearden, J. (2018). A systematic review of English medium instruction in higher education. <i>Language Teaching</i> , 51(1), 36-76. <a href="https://doi.org/10.1017/S0261444817000350">https://doi.org/10.1017/S0261444817000350</a>
15	Setter, J., Wong, C.S.P. & Chan, B.H.S. (2010) <i>Hong Kong English (Dialects of English)</i> . Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press Ltd.