

LT1101: AMAZING THINGS ABOUT LANGUAGE

Effective Term

Semester A 2025/26

Part I Course Overview

Course Title

Amazing Things about Language

Subject Code

LT - Linguistics and Translation

Course Number

1101

Academic Unit

Linguistics and Translation (LT)

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

CLA1302 The Many Faces of Language

Exclusive Courses

Nil

Part II Course Details

Abstract

The aim of this course is to introduce to the students the various ways in which language manifests itself. Some particular languages of the world are brought in to illustrate the intricacy of natural language. Also discussed is how language is

related to certain aspects of human cognition and biology, culture and society, as well as communication between different cultures and societies. Students will be exposed to the various ways in which texts are generated from language and how language effects communications between interlocutors and across cultures.

Course Intended Learning Outcomes (CILOs)

CILOs	Weighting (if app.)	DEC-A1	DEC-A2	DEC-A3
1	Demonstrate knowledge of the nature and properties of natural language, as abstract concepts and in practical applications in human communication, in particular, translation.	x	x	x
2	Discuss how language is related to culture, society, psychology, cognition, biology and human communication.	x	x	x
3	Describe how texts are created from language.	x	x	x
4	Reflect critically on how language enables and enhances inter-personal, cross-linguistic, and cross-cultural communication.	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	Readings	Students read critically reference materials selected from books and journals.	1, 2, 3, 4
2	Lectures	Students will engage with (i) presentations of concepts, theories, models, explanations, illustrations, synthesis of readings, exercises and feedback thereon, and (ii) discussions of issues arising.	1, 2, 3, 4 3 hours/week

3	Writing	Students critically review an article and express own opinions about the issues. Moreover, students will select their own topic to write on, and through writing a short essay, further explore issues related to language and its use.	1, 2, 3, 4	
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Assessment Tasks / Activities (ATs)

	ATs	CILO No.	Weighting (%)	Remarks ("- " for nil entry)	Allow Use of GenAI?
1	Two in-class tests (multiple choice, fill-in-the-blank, and short questions, 2 hours)	1, 2, 3, 4	40	20% each	No
2	Two written assignments (1,000 words for each assignment), one on linguistics and another on translation.	1, 2, 3, 4	60	Each assignment carries equal weight (30%). Students can use GenAI tools to gather information, format references, and edit language. However, they should give proper acknowledgment to all the content from GenAI tools that they incorporated into the assignment and keep a journal of their GenAI conversations. They should not present texts generated or translated by GenAI tools as their own original work.	Yes

Continuous Assessment (%)

100

Examination (%)

0

Assessment Rubrics (AR)

Assessment Task

1. Written assignments

Criterion

Demonstrate the ability to critically discuss and analyse fundamental issues in language, language use, inter-cultural communication as well as the formal and cultural differences between languages.

Excellent (A+, A, A-)

Demonstrate excellent ability to critically discuss and analyse fundamental issues in language, language use, intercultural communication as well as the formal and cultural differences between languages.

Good (B+, B, B-)

Demonstrate good ability to critically discuss and analyse fundamental issues in language, language use, intercultural communication as well as the formal and cultural differences between languages.

Fair (C+, C, C-)

Demonstrate adequate ability to discuss and analyse fundamental issues in language, language use, intercultural communication as well as the formal and cultural differences between languages.

Marginal (D)

Show little ability to discuss and analyse fundamental issues in language, language use, intercultural communication as well as the formal and cultural differences between languages.

Failure (F)

Show virtually no ability to discuss and analyse fundamental issues in language, language use, intercultural communication as well as the formal and cultural differences between languages.

Assessment Task

2. Tests

Criterion

Demonstrate understanding of basic concepts in the study of language discussed in class, discussing briefly some fundamental issues in language use and its relation to some other aspects of cognition such as perception as well as to culture.

Excellent (A+, A, A-)

Demonstrate excellent understanding of basic concepts in the study of language discussed in class, discussing briefly some fundamental issues in language use and its relation to some other aspects of cognition such as perception as well as to culture.

Good (B+, B, B-)

Demonstrate good understanding of basic concepts in the study of language discussed in class, discussing briefly some fundamental issues in language use and its relation to some other aspects of cognition such as perception as well as to culture.

Fair (C+, C, C-)

Demonstrate adequate understanding of basic concepts in the study of language discussed in class, discussing briefly some fundamental issues in language use and its relation to some other aspects of cognition such as perception as well as to culture.

Marginal (D)

Show little understanding of basic concepts in the study of language discussed in class, discussing briefly some fundamental issues in language use and its relation to some other aspects of cognition such as perception as well as to culture.

Failure (F)

Show virtually no understanding of basic concepts in the study of language discussed in class, discussing briefly some fundamental issues in language use and its relation to some other aspects of cognition such as perception as well as to culture.

Part III Other Information**Keyword Syllabus**

Language, properties of natural languages, language typology, human cognition, interpersonal communication, intercultural communication.

Reading List**Compulsory Readings**

	Title
1	Rickerson, E. M. and Barry Hilton. 2006. The 5 minute linguist. London: Equinox Publishing.
2	Yule, Goerge. 2017. The Study of Language. 6th edition. Cambridge University Press.

Additional Readings

	Title
1	Fromkin, V., Rodman, R., & Hyams, N. (2018). An introduction to language. Cengage Learning.
2	Bellos, David. 2012. Is that a fish in your ear?: Translation and the meaning of everything. New York: Faber & Faber.
3	Deutscher, Guy. 2011. Through the language glass: Why the world looks different in other languages. London: Arrow.