

The Chinese University of Hong Kong
Department of Linguistics and Modern Languages
Second Term of 2023-24

Course code and title

LING1000 Invitation to Linguistics 語言學導論

Instructor and Teaching Assistant

Instructor: Dr. Margaret Lei

Teaching Assistants: Ms. Ziyang Meng, Ms. Mijia Ou

Lecture time and venue

Thursdays, 2:30pm-4:15pm; Room 506, Wu Ho Man Yuen Building (WMY 506)

Tutorial time and venue

[Session A] Wednesdays, 12:30pm-1:15pm; Room 404, Wu Ho Man Yuen Building (WMY 404)/

[Session B] Wednesdays, 1:30-2:15pm; Room 404, Wu Ho Man Yuen Building (WMY 404)

Course overview

This course introduces students to the nature of human language. It examines the grammatical properties of language, with respect to its words (morphology), sentence structure (syntax), meaning (semantics), and sound (phonetics and phonology). The course will highlight the biological foundations of language, in terms of how it is acquired and processed by the human brain. It also discusses the social aspects of language and the computer processing of human language.

Learning outcomes

Students are expected to achieve the following learning outcomes:

- (a) An appreciation of the species-specific properties of human language, as well as the universalities and diversities among different languages of the world;
- (b) A basic grasp of the grammatical properties of language, with respect to its meaning, structure, and sound patterns;
- (c) An understanding of the biological basis of language, in terms of how language is acquired and processed;
- (d) An awareness of the role of language on human thought and society;
- (e) An ability to apply linguistic concepts to describe daily language phenomena.

List of topics

Topic	Contents/fundamental concepts
Module 1: What is language?	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Human language versus other animal communication systems▪ Languages of the world	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Conceptions of language; design features of language▪ Living, endangered, and extinct languages; preservation of endangered languages; the classification of languages; language families
Module 2: The structure of language	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ The study of words▪ The study of sentence structure▪ The study of meaning▪ The study of sound	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Types of morphemes; word classes (parts of speech); word formation rules▪ Phrase structure; syntactic constituency▪ The nature of meaning; semantic features; types of meaning relationships▪ The representation of speech sounds; articulatory properties of different types of speech sounds; phonological rules
Module 3: The biological and cognitive aspects of language	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ The study of child language development▪ The study of second language learning	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Stages/milestones in child language development; methodologies used in studying child language development; the critical period hypothesis▪ Cross-language influence; code-mixing; similarities and differences between first and second language acquisition
Module 4: The social and technological aspects of language	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Language and society▪ Human language technology	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Dialects versus languages; language in use; language variation and change▪ Speech recognition; speech synthesis; natural language processing (NLP)

Learning activities

Lecture		Interactive tutorial		Assigned readings		Writing assignments		Web discussions		Quizzes		Project / Essay	
(hr)		(hr)		(hr)		(hr)		(hr)		(hr)		(hr)	
in	out class	in	out class	in	out class	in	out class	in	out class	in	out class	in	out class
26	0	12	0	0	2	0	0	0	2	3	0	6	6
M	NA	M	NA	NA	O	NA	NA	NA	O	O	NA	M	M/O

M: Mandatory activity in the course; O: Optional activity; NA: Not applicable

Assessment scheme

Task nature	Weight
Mid-term quiz (multiple-choice questions)	25%
Final exam (multiple-choice questions and short-answer questions)	35%
Individual essay (description of daily language phenomena using linguistic concept(s) covered in the course)	20%
In-class mini-quizzes (3-5 multiple-choice questions per class)	10%
In-class participation and tutorial exercises	10%

Grade descriptors for assessment

Grade	Overall course
A	Outstanding performance on all learning outcomes; A solid understanding of the linguistic concepts covered in class; and Outstanding ability to analyze linguistic data with appropriate linguistic concepts.
A-	Generally outstanding performance on most learning outcomes; A good understanding of the linguistic concepts covered in class; and Strong ability to analyze linguistic data with appropriate linguistic concepts.
B	Satisfactory performance on most of the learning outcomes; Satisfactory understanding of most of the linguistic concepts covered in class; Sufficient ability to analyze linguistic data with appropriate linguistic concepts, with occasional errors.

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- C Satisfactory performance on some of the learning outcomes, possibly with a few weaknesses;
Satisfactory understanding of some of the linguistic concepts covered in class; and
Still developing the ability to analyze linguistic data with appropriate linguistic concepts.
- D Barely satisfactory performance on some of the learning outcomes.
A basic understanding of some of the linguistic concepts in class only; and
Still developing the ability to analyze linguistic data with appropriate linguistic concepts.
- F Unsatisfactory performance on a number of learning outcomes, or failure to meet specified assessment requirements.
Very little understanding of the linguistic concepts in class; and
Little ability to analyze linguistic data with appropriate linguistic concepts.
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Recommended learning resources

A. Textbook

Fromkin, Victoria, Robert Rodman, and Nina Hyams. 2019. *An Introduction to Language*. Eleventh edition. Boston: Cengage Learning.

[Hardcopy on UL reserve: P107 .F76 2017]

B. Other introductory texts

Crystal, David. 2010. *The Cambridge Encyclopedia of Language*. Third edition. Cambridge; New York: Cambridge University Press.

[Hardcopy on UL reserve: P29 .C72 2010]

Fasold, Ralph, and Jeff Connor-Linton. eds. 2014. *An Introduction to Language and Linguistics*. Second edition. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press.

[Hardcopy on UL reserve: P121 .I58 2006 (first edition)]

O'Grady, William and John Archibald. 2017. *Contemporary Linguistics: An Introduction, 7th edition*. Boston: Macmillan Learning.

[Hardcopy on UL reserve: P121 .C667 2017 (seventh edition)]

Yule, George. 2017. *The Study of Language*. Sixth edition. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press.

[Hardcopy on UL reserve: P107 .Y85 2014 (fifth edition)]

Feedback for evaluation

A mid-term course evaluation and an end-of-term course evaluation will be conducted. Students are welcome to give feedback to the course teacher at any time in person or through emails.

Course schedule

Week	Date	Topic	Readings	
1	Jan 11	Module 1: What is language? 1A – Human language versus other animal communication systems	[Textbook] Chapter 1 “What is language?”	
2	Jan 18	Module 1: What is language? 1B – Languages of the world	Crystal (2010) Chapters 47, 48 & 50 “How many languages? How many speakers? Families of languages”	
3	Jan 25	Module 2: The structure of language 2A – The study of words [Jan 24: Tutorial 1]	[Textbook] Chapter 2 “Morphology: The words of language”	
4	Feb 1	Module 2: The structure of language 2B – The study of sentence structure [Jan 31: Tutorial 2]	[Textbook] Chapter 3 “Syntax: The sentence patterns of language”	
5	Feb 8	Module 2: The structure of language 2C – The study of meaning [Feb 7: Tutorial 3]	[Textbook] Chapter 4 “The meaning of language”	
6	Feb 15	No lecture and tutorial – Lunar New Year Vacation		
7	Feb 22	Module 2: The structure of language 2D – The study of sound [Feb 21: Tutorial 4]	[Textbook] Chapter 5 “Phonetics: The sounds of language”	
8	Feb 29	Mid-term quiz Module 3: The biological and cognitive aspects of language 3A – The study of child language development [Feb 28: Tutorial 5]	[Textbook] Chapter 9 “Language acquisition”	
9	Mar 7	No lecture and tutorial – Reading Week		

Week	Date	Topic	Readings
10	Mar 14	Module 3: The biological and cognitive aspects of language 3A – The study of child language development (Part II)	[Textbook] Chapter 9 “Language acquisition”
11	Mar 21	Module 3: The biological and cognitive aspects of language 3B – The study of second language learning [Mar 20: Tutorial 6]	[Textbook] Chapter 9 “Language acquisition”
12	Mar 28	Module 4: The social and technological aspects of language 4A – Language and society [Mar 27: Tutorial 7]	[Textbook] Chapter 7 “Language in society”
13	Apr 4	No lecture – Ching Ming Festival [Apr 3: Tutorial 8]	
14	Apr 11	Module 4: The social and technological aspects of language 4B – Human language technology	Fromkin, Rodman & Hyams (2014) Chapter 11 “Computer processing of human language”
15	Apr 18	Final exam [Apr 17: Tutorial 9]	
16	Apr 30	Submission of individual essay	

Contact details for instructor and TA

Instructor

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Teaching Assistants

Name: Ms. Ziyang Meng, Ms. Mijia Ou
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Details of course website

LING1000 on Blackboard
<https://blackboard.cuhk.edu.hk/>

Academic honesty and plagiarism

Attention is drawn to University policy and regulations on honesty in academic work, and to the disciplinary guidelines and procedures applicable to breaches of such policy and regulations. Details may be found at <http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/policy/academichonesty/>.

With each assignment, students will be required to submit a signed declaration that they are aware of these policies, regulations, guidelines and procedures.

- In the case of group projects, all members of the group should be asked to sign the declaration, each of whom is responsible and liable to disciplinary actions, irrespective of whether he/she has signed the declaration and whether he/she has contributed, directly or indirectly, to the problematic contents.
- For assignments in the form of a computer-generated document that is principally text-based and submitted via VeriGuide, the statement, in the form of a receipt, will be issued by the system upon students' uploading of the soft copy of the assignment.
- Students are fully aware that their work may be investigated by AI content detection software to determine originality.
- Students are fully aware of the AI approach(es) adopted in the course. In the case where some AI tools are allowed, students have made proper acknowledgment and citations as suggested by the course teacher.

Assignments without a properly signed declaration will not be graded by teachers.

Only the final version of the assignment should be submitted via VeriGuide.

The submission of a piece of work, or a part of a piece of work, for more than one purpose (e.g. to satisfy the requirements in two different courses) without declaration to this effect shall be regarded as having committed undeclared multiple submissions. It is common and acceptable to reuse a turn of phrase or a sentence or two from one's own work; but wholesale reuse is problematic. In any case, agreement from the course teacher(s) concerned should be obtained prior to the submission of the piece of work.

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Use of Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI) Tools in Teaching, Learning and Assessment

All use of AI tools is prohibited in assignments and assessment tasks.