

The Chinese University of Hong Kong
Department of Linguistics and Modern Languages
Second Term, 2024-25

<p>Course Code: LING1000/UGED1924 Title in English: Invitation to Linguistics Title in Chinese: 語言學概論</p>
<p>Course Description: This course invites students to explore the central components of human language, examining its structure and functions, how it is acquired and how it changes over time. Students will develop a basic understanding of language as a computational system that interacts with other cognitive systems of the human brain. Students will gain an appreciation of recent advances in linguistic science, with respect to universals and particulars of language, language and society, language variation and change, language acquisition, as well as language, mind and the brain.</p>

Course Syllabus

Topic	Contents/fundamental concepts
Language, mind and nature	Design features of human language; relation of language and brain
Languages of the World	Language diversity, language extinction, preservation of endangered languages, language families, pidgins, creoles
Phonetics and Phonology	Articulatory properties of different types of sounds, minimal pairs, examples of phonological processes
Morphology	Classification of morphemes, different types of word formation processes
Semantics	Nature of meaning, different types of sense relations
Syntax	Concept of constituency, using simple tree diagrams to represent hierarchical structures of phrases and clauses in a sentence
Language Acquisition	Characteristics and steps in first language acquisition, second language acquisition and bilingualism
Language Change and Variations	How language variations relate to language change, types of social factors that underlie variation patterns

Computational Linguistics	How computer technology interacts with different aspects of linguistic science; Speech Recognition and Speech Synthesis; Computational Sign Language, Forensic Linguistics.
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Learning outcomes

- Attain an increased awareness of the complexity, rule-governed nature and rich diversity of human languages across different linguistic modalities
- Develop an appreciation for the role of language in human thought, culture and society in communities around the world
- Develop an understanding and empathy for the social rights of linguistically oppressed groups such as users of dialects and minority languages, and deaf sign language users
- Be able to describe basic concepts of how languages are structured and acquired
- Be able to analyze specific linguistic phenomena with relevant concepts and tools of linguistics
- Be able to identify a linguistic phenomenon of interest in real-life situations, apply the concepts learnt in class to analyze it and present the analysis in a concise manner.

Learning activities

Lecture (hr) in /out class		Interactive tutorial (hr) in /out class		Lab (hr) in /out class		Discussion of case (hr) in /out class		Field-trip (hr) in /out class		Projects (hr) in /out class		Web-based teaching (hr) in /out class		Other (hr) in /out class	
2		1													
M;O ;NA	M;O ;NA	M;O ;NA	M;O ;NA	M;O ;NA	M;O ;NA	M;O ;NA	M;O ;NA	M;O ;NA	M;O ;NA	M;O ;NA	M;O ;NA	M;O ;NA	M;O ;NA	M;O ;NA	M;O ;NA

M: Mandatory activity in the course

O: Optional activity

NA: Not applicable

Assessment scheme

Task nature	Description	Weight
Linguistic diary	Students are required to write TWO linguistic diaries (500-750 words each). In each diary, students need to choose a linguistic concept covered in the course and illustrate it with daily examples and everyday experiences. Critical reflection is required. <i>(Deadline: 1st diary due on 28th February; 2nd diary due on 18th April)[#]</i>	15% x 2 = 30%
Mid-term Quiz	Questions are based on reading materials and concepts covered in class <i>Date: 25th February</i>	30%
Final Quiz	Questions are based on reading materials and concepts covered in class <i>Date: TBC</i>	40%
Participation	Tutorial participation and attendance. TWO points will be deducted for EACH unexcused absence in lectures or tutorials.	

[#] No late submissions are allowed.

Required and recommended readings

<p>Course textbook: Fromkin, V., R. Rodman and N. Hyams. 2019. <i>An Introduction to Language</i>, 11th edition. Boston, MA: Wadsworth Cengage Learning. (online access at CUHK Library)</p> <p>Recommended references: Kirk, Hazen. 2015. <i>An Introduction to Language</i>. West Sussex, England: Wiley Blackwell. (online access at CUHK Library)</p> <p>John, Rhoades. 2014. <i>An Introduction to Language Description</i>. Newcastle upon Tyne, England: Cambridge Scholars Publishing. (online access at CUHK Library)</p> <p>Genetti, Carol. 2019. <i>How Languages Work: An Introduction to Language and Linguistics</i>. Cambridge, New York: Cambridge University Press.</p> <p>Crystal, D., 2010. <i>The Cambridge Encyclopedia of Language</i>, 3rd edition. Foreign Language Teaching and Research Press & Cambridge University Press</p> <p>O'Grady, W., Archibald, J., Aronoff, M., & Rees-Miller, J., 2017. <i>Contemporary Linguistics: An Introduction</i>, 7th edition. Boston: Bedford Books.</p> <p>Yule, G., 2014. <i>The Study of Language</i>, 5th edition. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.</p>
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Feedback for evaluation

Students are encouraged to give feedback or comments on course contents and teaching materials throughout the course, in addition to the midterm and final course evaluation. Students can contact either the lecturer or tutor directly. See contact details below.

Grade Descriptors

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.
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.

Course schedule

Class/ week	Date	Topic	Requirements
Week 1	7 January	Language, mind and nature (I)	Fromkin et al. (2019) Chapter 1: What is language? Hocket, Charles (1960). The origin of speech. (extended lecture; no tutorial)
Week 2	14 January	Language, mind and nature (II)	Fromkin et al. (2019) Chapter 10: Language Processing and the Human Brain Tutorial 1
Week 3	21 January	Languages of the world	Fromkin et al.(2019) Chapter 7: Language in Society (Languages in Contact) Chapter 8: Language Change (Extinct and Endangered Languages, the Genetic Classification of Languages)

			Tutorial 2
Week 4	28 January	Happy Chinese New Year (no class)	
Week 5	4 February	Structure of language: Phonetics and Phonology	Chapter 5: Phonetics: the Sounds of Language Chapter 6: Phonology: the Sound Patterns of Language Tutorial 3
Week 6	11 February	Structure of language: Morphology	Fromkin et al.(2019) Chapter 2: Morphology: The Words of Language Tutorial 4
Week 7	18 February	Structure of language: Semantics	Fromkin et al.(2019) Chapter 4: The meaning of language Tutorial 5
Week 8	25 February	<i>Mid-term Quiz</i>	
	28 February	<i>1st Diary Due</i>	
Week 9	4 March	Reading week (no class)	
Week 10	11 March	Structure of language: Syntax (I)	Fromkin et al.(2019) Chapter 3: Syntax: Infinite Use of Finite Means Tutorial 6
Week 11	18 March	Structure of language: Syntax (II) Language acquisition (I)	Fromkin et al.(2019) Chapter 3: Syntax: Infinite Use of Finite Means Fromkin et al.(2019) Chapter 9: Language Acquisition Mid-term revision
Week 12	25 March	Language acquisition (II)	Fromkin et al.(2019) Chapter 9: Language Acquisition Tutorial 7
Week 13	1 April	Language as a dynamic system: Language change	Fromkin et al.(2019) Chapter 8: Language Change: The Syllables of Time Tutorial 8
Week 14	8 April	Language as a dynamic system: Language variations	Fromkin et al.(2019) Chapter 7: Language in Society (Dialects)

			Tutorial 9
Week 15	15 April	Computational Linguistics	Fromkin et al.(2014) 10 th edition Chapter 11: Computer Processing of Human Languages
	18 April		Revision
	TBC		<i>2nd Diary Due</i> <i>Final Quiz</i>

Teachers' or TA's contact details

Professor/Lecturer/Instructor:	
Name:	Dr. Jiangling Zhou
Office Location:	Tsang Shiu Tim Building 309
Telephone:	39431273
Email:	jiangling.zhou@cuhk.edu.hk
Teaching Venue:	Lecture: ARC G03 Tutorial: ARC G03/ ELB 202
Teaching time:	Lecture: Tuesday 1:30PM – 3:15PM Tutorial: Tuesday 3:30PM – 4:15PM

Teaching Assistant/Tutor:	
Name:	Nicole Jiaqi Nie
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Teaching Assistant/Tutor:	
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Teaching Assistant/Tutor:	
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A facility for posting course announcements

A Blackboard account has been set up for students to access information of the course.
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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 statement that they are aware of these policies, regulations, guidelines and procedures.

You have to submit a soft copy to VeriGuide (i.e. CUPIDE, the Chinese University Plagiarism Identification Engine System) on or before the date of the deadline via <http://veriguide1.cse.cuhk.edu.hk/portal/page/index.jsp>. The VeriGuide system will issue a receipt which also contains a declaration of honesty. Sign the receipt and stapled to the hard copy of the assignments. Assignments without the VeriGuide receipt will NOT be graded.

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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.

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