

# HONG KONG BAPTIST UNIVERSITY

## COURSE OUTLINE

1. **Course Title**

Research Methodology

2. **Course Code**

LANG 7110

3. **No. of Units**

3 units

4. **Offering Department**

MA in Language Studies Programme

5. **Prerequisite**

Nil

6. **Medium of Instruction**

English

7. **Aims & Objectives**

The course aims to prepare students to successfully engage in research in language studies, in particular to support dissertation writing later in the Programme and to lay the foundation for students' research in their workplaces/future study programmes. The course deals with basic research skills such as identifying a researchable area of genuine interest, framing and understanding the purpose of research questions, accessing information, locating one's own work in the scholarly literature, collecting and analyzing language data, and producing written reports of research projects in acceptable formats. Students will be introduced to research in language studies and be encouraged to identify their own areas of interest. Attention will be drawn to current research methods and tools. Much of the teaching will be concerned with approaches to the collection, description, and analysis of data in the field of language studies.

## 8. Course content

- (1) The nature of research
  - Introducing research
  - Experiencing research
  - The status of knowledge
  - Framing and articulating research questions
  - Writing a research proposal and making research presentations
- (2) Research Methods
  - Qualitative versus quantitative research
  - Research methods in language studies (Questionnaire and interview survey, experiment, ethnographic study, observation and case study)
- (3) Tools of analysis
  - Data transcription
  - Statistical analysis
  - Corpus analysis
- (4) Research in different special areas in language studies (may be covered by different guest speakers)
  - Formal linguistics (Syntax, Semantics and Phonology)
  - Sociolinguistics
  - Discourse and Pragmatics
  - Language learning and teaching

## 9. Course Intended Learning outcomes (CILOs)

<b>CILO</b>	By the end of the course, students should be able to:
<b>CILO 1</b>	Explain the assumptions and arguments of language-related research and critically evaluate published research articles
<b>CILO 2</b>	Apply the advanced principles and tools commonly used in carrying out qualitative and quantitative research in linguistics
<b>CILO 3</b>	Interpret statistical results pertaining to quantitative research
<b>CILO 4</b>	Independently design a language-related research project and give an oral presentation on the proposed research

#### 10. Teaching & Learning Activities (TLAs)

<b>CILO No.</b>	<b>TLAs</b>
CILO 1 & 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Small-group discussion on assigned research papers that exemplify good application of linguistic principles and good research methods</li></ul>
CILO 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Presentations and discussions of various statistical tools that are used in quantitative research</li></ul>
CILO 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Designing a small-scale research project utilising a specific research method</li></ul>

#### 11. Assessment Methods (AMs)

<b>Type of Assessment</b>	<b>Weighting</b>	<b>CILOs to be addressed</b>	<b>Description of Assessment Tasks</b>
Literature Review	40%	1, 2, 3	Students are asked to identify a possible research area, read articles on this area and then write a literature review
Research Proposal	40%	All	Students are asked to write a research proposal on a topic of their own choice
Presentation	20%	All	Students are asked to present and comment on one another's proposals