

HONG KONG BAPTIST UNIVERSITY

COURSE OUTLINE

1. **Course Title**

Language in Society

2. **Course Code**

LANG 7510

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**

This course aims to introduce learners to the way language is used in social interactions. It is also about defining a very broad field which includes recognizing how individuals use different language(s) in different situations, how language use varies in different towns or regions, how governments make decisions about what language is to be used in what particular situation and how language changes over time. We will look at what causes change in language. In particular, the course enables learners to identify and analyze questions of language use in Hong Kong in an up-to-date sociolinguistic framework. Learners will look to their own work contexts and living environments as starting points for their research.

8. **Course content**

- (1) Language variation
- (2) Societal Multilingualism and diglossia

- (3) Language Choice
- (4) Language Planning
- (5) Ethnographic Descriptions
- (6) Cultural literacies and the language classroom
- (7) Language attitude
- (8) Language change

9. Course Intended Learning outcomes (CILOs)

CILO	By the end of the course, students should be able to:
CILO 1	Explain the elements of micro- and macro-sociolinguistics including language variation, social stratification, gender, age, politeness, geographic region, code-switching, diglossia and bilingualism, language shift and how language changes
CILO 2	Design a domain analysis
CILO 3	Conduct an ethnographic micro-analysis to describe social situations
CILO 4	Analyze sociolinguistic variables in Chinese and English
CILO 5	Apply knowledge of macro-choices to the language teaching situation in Hong Kong

10. Teaching & Learning Activities (TLAs)

CILO No.	TLAs
CILO 1	The instructor will explain basic concepts with examples. Students will: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • have interactive in-class discussions • critically analyze the concepts in sociolinguistics
CILO 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The instructor will raise specific questions about domains of language • Students will analyze the questions through discussion and then present the results in class
CILO 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The instructor will demonstrate the situation of learning and using second languages through video clips • Students will do group projects and present their group work

	in class
CILO 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students will search for sociolinguistic features of Chinese and English in the contexts of Hong Kong and China • Oral reports of the results of these studies will be presented as individual and/or group presentations
CILO 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students will make analysis of the video-recordings of language teaching in Hong Kong schools

11. Assessment Methods (AMs)

Type of Assessment	Weighting	CILOs to be addressed	Description of Assessment Tasks
Knowledge test	20%	1 and 4	The test will check students' understanding of the basic concepts about sociolinguistics
Project	20%	2-5	Projects will offer students opportunities to collaborate, to use the knowledge to analyze real situations
In-class participation	10%	2-5	It will assess students' ability to interact with peers, analyzing and solving problems
Term paper	50%	1-2	It will test students' ability to integrate theoretical frameworks with some realistic sociolinguistic problems