

HONG KONG BAPTIST UNIVERSITY

COURSE OUTLINE

1. **Course Title**
Language, Politics, and Identity
2. **Course Code**
LANG 7680
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 provide students with an overview of how language functions politically, including the construction of social and individual identity. It will examine not only the political and identity-related use of language, but also how the structure of languages themselves has been moulded by these uses and functions. The linguistic issues in Hong Kong and Greater China Region, as well as cultural issues arising from class discussions, will be focused on. These issues will also be discussed in comparison with the language use and cultures of various communities. As an area of study which is by nature interdisciplinary, this course will draw ideas from the fields of linguistics and English studies, as well as adjacent disciplines such as cultural studies, sociology and political science. On this basis, this course serves as a good platform for students to develop a critical awareness on the different academic approaches employed by, not only linguistics, but also various fields of knowledge.
8. **Course content**
 - (1) Identity as a linguistic phenomenon
 - (2) Politics embedded in language
 - (3) Issues of identity in language studies
 - (4) Linguistic imperialism and language ecology
 - (5) Linguistic correctness and language choice
 - (6) Language in nation and national identity

- (7) Language in ethnic/ racial and religious identity
- (8) Rhetoric and propaganda
- (9) Language and social power

9. Course Intended Learning outcomes (CILOs)

CILO	By the end of the course, students should be able to:
CILO 1	Recognise the key issues concerning language and identity, the language of politics, and the politics of language
CILO 2	Appraise the key literature relating to the political and identity aspects of language
CILO 3	Apply concepts, methods and theories to the original study of the issues in language, politics and identity in their various social contexts
CILO 4	Assess the concepts, methods and theories used in critical analysis

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 on issues concerning language, identity, and politics • critically analyse the concepts in language, politics and identity
CILO 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The instructor will assign key readings on language, politics and identity • Students will critically analyse these readings through in-class discussions
CILO 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students will conduct an original project investigating an issue of either language and identity or language and politics in a particular social context
CILO 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In the project, students will use their findings to critically assess the concepts, methods, and theories they applied

11. Assessment Methods (AMs)

Type of Assessment	Weighting	CILOs to be addressed	Description of Assessment Tasks
Interim test	20%	1,2	Students' understanding of the basic concepts about language,

			politics and identity will be tested
Oral presentation	30%	2,3,4	Students will be offered opportunities to collaborate, to use the knowledge to analyse issues of language, politics, and identity in social contexts
Active participation	10%	1,2	Students' ability to interact with peers, analysing and discussing issues of language, politics, and identity will be evaluated
Term paper	40%	2,3,4	Students' ability to integrate concepts, methods, and theories with some issues of language, politics, and identity will be assessed