HONG KONG BAPTIST UNIVERSITY

COURSE SYLLABUS

1. **Course Title**
    Grammar of Modern English

2. **Course Code**
    LANG 7640

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 help students acquire a systematic and up-to-date knowledge of the grammar of modern English from a corpus-based, objective and descriptive point of view, with an added focus on its practical and pedagogic applications.

8. **Course content**
    (1) Descriptive vs. prescriptive grammars
    (2) Language corpora as evidence for the state of the language
    (3) Overview of English grammar
    (4) English word formation
    (5) Nouns and noun phrases
    (6) Verbs and verb phrases
    (7) Tense, aspect, modality, voice
    (8) Adjectives and adverbs
    (9) Clause and sentence structure

(10) Grammar in language-teaching

9. Course Intended Learning outcomes (CILOs)

CILO	By the end of the course, students should be able to:
CILO 1	Analyze systematic, up-to-date standard English grammar, as used by educated speakers today on the basis of corpus evidence
CILO 2	Explain the nature of grammar and grammatical rules, and how they differ from traditional prescriptive 'rules'
CILO 3	Research on the current state of the English language, and draw well-supported generalizations and conclusions concerning particular grammatical structures with online databank
CILO 4	Apply their knowledge of grammar for pedagogic purposes, including the identification and explanation of grammatical errors

10. Teaching & Learning Activities (TLAs)

CILO No.	TLAs
CILOs 1, 2	• Students will investigate various aspects of English grammar by analyzing data presented in class on selected grammatical constructions, coming up with their own generalizations and hypotheses, and checking them against the findings in standard grammars
CILO 3	• Students will learn how to use an online corpus (the Collins WordbanksOnline), including data search and various concordancing functions
CILOs 1, 2, 3	• Students will search for data on selected expressions and grammatical constructions, analyze the data for patterns and regularities, and draw well-supported generalizations on how these expressions or constructions are used today • They will capture these generalizations in the form of descriptive grammatical rules, and contrast them with traditional prescriptive 'rules' and evaluate the accuracy and objectivity of the latter • They will search the databank for evidence of variability in the form and usage of various grammatical constructions and lexical expressions

CILO 4	• Students will analyze data from learners' English, and identify and explain the nature of the errors that occur

11. **Assessment Methods (AMs)**

Type of Assessment	Weighting	CILOs to be addressed	Description of Assessment Tasks
2 assignments	20 + 20%	1, 2, 3	Some of the assignment questions are problem-solving exercises, where students have to analyze and evaluate a given grammatical construction or 'rule', with the help of data from the databank as evidence, and construct a grammatical rule or generalisation on that basis; other questions will deal with theoretical issues, requiring students to think critically about them
Oral presentation	15%	2, 3, 4	Students will make a 5-minute presentation in which they analyze a notable grammatical feature (including possible errors) of their choice either from HK English or international English
Active participation	10%		Based on the students' participation in class discussions and blogs, and their attendance
Term paper	35%	1, 2, 3, 4	A detailed investigation of a particular grammatical structure or feature in English, requiring data collection, analysis and argumentation