

# HONG KONG BAPTIST UNIVERSITY

## COURSE OUTLINE

1. **Course Title**

Language Development

2. **Course Code**

LANG 7580

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 deal with both first and second language acquisition, with the emphasis being on the latter. Theories of first and second language acquisition are introduced with the aim of providing students with the tools to evaluate theories in light of research and their own experience. Specific problems and important patterns of first and second language acquisition processes are compared and discussed against the background of the introduced theories. Students will have practice analyzing real language data. Emphasis will also be placed on the impact of individual differences in second language acquisition.

8. **Course content**

- (1) First language acquisition
  - the behaviorist position
  - the innatist position
- (2) Second language acquisition

- comparison of first and second language acquisition processes
  - the contrastive approach
  - the monitor model
  - the interlanguage theory
  - interactionist theories
  - sociolinguistic and sociocultural theories
- (3) Individual differences and second language learning
- (4) Learner Language

**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 processes of first and second language learning
<b>CILO 2</b>	Explain the social and cultural influences over language learning
<b>CILO 3</b>	Analyze learner problems in learning a new language
<b>CILO 4</b>	Research on first and second language learning to further study or verify relevant theories

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

<b>CILO No.</b>	<b>TLAs</b>
CILO1/ CILO2/ CILO3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The instructor will introduce to students concepts and theories that are relevant in first and second language acquisition</li> <li>• Students will discuss in-class about their personal experience in language learning</li> <li>• Students will be asked to analyze their own problems and/or others' problems in learning a new language</li> <li>• Journal articles will be assigned to students for reading and evaluation</li> </ul>
CILO 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Students will be asked to conduct a small project focusing on one aspect of language learning</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>
Presentation	10%	1, 2 & 3	It will assess students' ability to analyze learning problems according to the relevant concepts and theories
Reading report	40%	1, 2 & 3	It will assess students' ability to understand and evaluate relevant concepts and theories in language acquisition
Term paper	50%	All	It will assess students' ability to gather relevant data and conduct original research with theoretical underpinning