

HONG KONG BAPTIST UNIVERSITY

COURSE OUTLINE

1. **Course Title**

Introduction to the Study of Language, Parts I-II

2. **Course Code**

LANG 7401-2

3. **No. of Units**

6 units (3 units for LANG 7401, and 3 units for LANG 7402)

4. **Offering Department**

MA in Language Studies Programme

5. **Prerequisite**

Nil

6. **Medium of Instruction**

English

7. **Aims & Objectives**

This two-semester course introduces students to five core components in linguistics: phonetics, phonology, morphology, syntax, and semantics. It will provide students with a solid grounding in fundamental concepts and methodologies of these five linguistic areas, which will enable them to tackle linguistic problems systematically and help them understand that despite superficial diversity, human languages share fundamental similarities in terms of the universal principles that govern their possible structures. This aim will be approached and achieved through exploring language data. Methods of formal analysis will be applied to data drawn from a variety of languages, with a focus on the analysis and comparison of English and Chinese. Systematic properties generalized from the analysis will be discussed in relation to their application to language teaching and other fields.

8. Course content

PART I (1st semester)

1. Phonetics and phonology (21-24 hours)
 - Organs of speech, classification of speech sounds
 - Phonetic transcription
 - Phonemic analysis and underlying representations
 - Alternation and distribution
 - Syllable structure and stress
 - Tone and intonation
 - Sound variation and sound change
 - Contrastive phonology

2. Morphology (15-18 hours)
 - Morphemes and allomorphs
 - Word structure
 - Word formation: derivation, compounding
 - Inflection vs. derivation
 - Morphology and phonology: morphophonemic rules, deriving allomorphs
 - Chinese word formation: derivation, compounding and reduplication

PART II (2nd semester)

3. Syntax (21- 24 hours)
 - Language typology
 - Constituent structure and X-bar theory
 - Empty categories and movement
 - Multi-clause constructions

4. Semantics (15-18hours)
 - Lexical semantics: sense and reference; lexical relations
 - Semantic relations and grammatical relations
 - The meanings and forms of temporal references/aspect/modality
 - NP related properties

5. Applications of Linguistics (3 hours)

9. **Course Intended Learning outcomes (CILOs)**

PART I (1st semester)

CILO	By the end of the course, students should be able to:
CILO 1	Broadly transcribe into IPA a given sample of speech sounds
CILO 2	Construct simple phonological analyses
CILO 3	Explain the general principles of morphological and morphophonemic processes and analytical methods
CILO 4	Analyze morphological properties, discover and describe patterns and regularities in the data

PART II (2nd semester)

CILO	By the end of the course, students should be able to:
CILO 5	Analyze structures of phrases and sentences to illustrate the general principles that underlie structural patterns
CILO 6	Explain structural and cognitive aspects of meaning which are relevant to the description and theory of grammar
CILO 7	Identify patterns at the syntax and semantics interface
CILO 8	Explain the values of linguistic study and its applications to the analyses of language-related phenomena

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

PART I (1st semester)

CILO No.	TLAs
CILO 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Presentation of challenges and problems for the study of sound systems in languages• Discussion and formulation of principles for a transcription system

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In-class and take home exercises to strengthen ability to provide accurate transcription
CILO 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation of language data that motivate and exemplify phonological constructs and concepts • Discussion for construction of phonological theories • In-class and take home exercises to strengthen learning through application of classroom learning
CILO 3 & 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation of language data that motivate and exemplify morphological and morphophonemic processes and concepts • Discussion for application of different methods in describing morphological and morphophonemic processes • In-class and take home exercises to strengthen learning through application of classroom learning

PART II (2nd semester)

CILO No.	TLAs
CILO 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation of challenges and problems for the study of sound systems in languages • Discussion and formulation of principles for a transcription system • In-class and take home exercises to strengthen ability to provide accurate transcription
CILO 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation of language data that motivate and exemplify phonological constructs and concepts • Discussion for construction of phonological theories • In-class and take home exercises to strengthen learning through application of classroom learning
CILO 7 & 8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation of language data that motivate and exemplify morphological and morphophonemic processes and concepts • Discussion for application of different methods in describing morphological and morphophonemic processes • In-class and take home exercises to strengthen learning through application of classroom learning

11. Assessment Methods (AMs)

PART I (1st semester)

Type of Assessment	Weighting	CILOs to be addressed	Description of Assessment Tasks
Take home assignment on Phonetics and Phonology	20%	1, 2	Students will be given homework in the form of an exercise or a journal entry to encapsulate their training in the area of phonetics and phonology
Take home assignment on morphology	20%	3, 4	Students will be given homework in the form of an exercise or a journal entry to encapsulate their training in the area of morphology
Affinity learning	10%	1,2,3 and 4	Students are to engage each other actively in team work tasks related to the two take-home assignments, using off- and on-line platforms, within and beyond the classroom
Tests	50%	1, 2, 3 and 4	There will be two take-home tests: the morphology test and the phonetics/phonology test at the end of each topic section. Both tests consist of sets of linguistic data and/or problems. The tests assess students' ability to apply the knowledge and skills acquired in the course

PART II (2nd semester)

Type of Assessment	Weighting	CILOs to be addressed	Description of Assessment Tasks
Assignment (Syntax)	20%	5	Students will be asked to analyze syntactic structures of natural language data

Assignment (Semantics)	20%	6	Students will be asked to analyze meaning structures of language data and also discuss issues at the interface of syntax and semantics
Tests	60%	5, 6, 7 & 8	There will be two take-home tests: the syntax test immediately after the completion of the syntax part and the semantics test at the end of the semester. Both tests consist of sets of linguistic data. The tests assess students' ability to apply the knowledge and skills acquired in the course