Course code and title: LING 1000 Invitation to Linguistics

Course overview:
This course invites students to explore the central components of human language, examining its structure and functions, how it is acquired and how it changes over time. Students will develop a basic understanding of language as a computational system that interacts with other cognitive systems of the human brain. Students will gain an appreciation of recent advances in linguistic science, with respect to universals and particulars of language, language and society, language variation and change, language acquisition, as well as language, mind and the brain.

Learning outcomes:
- Attain an increased awareness of the complexity, rule-governed nature and rich diversity of human languages across different linguistic modalities
- Develop an appreciation for the role of language in human thought, culture and society in communities around the world
- Develop an understanding and empathy for the social rights of linguistically oppressed groups such as users of dialects and minority languages, and deaf sign language users
- Be able to describe basic concepts of how languages are structured and acquired
- Be able to analyze specific linguistic phenomena with relevant concepts and tools of linguistics
- Be able to identify a linguistic phenomenon of interest in real-life situations, apply the concepts learnt in class to analyze it and present the analysis in a concise manner.

List of topics:

Topic	Contents/fundamental concepts
Language, mind and nature	Design features of human language; relation of language and brain
Languages of the World	Language diversity, language extinction, preservation of endangered languages, language families, pidgins, creoles
Semantics	Nature of meaning, different types of sense relations
Morphology	Classification of morphemes, different types of word formation processes
Syntax	Concept of constituency, using simple tree diagrams to represent hierarchical structures of phrases and clauses in a sentence

Phonetics and Phonology	Articulatory properties of different types of sounds, minimal pairs, examples of phonological processes
Language Acquisition	Characteristics and steps in first language acquisition, other types of acquisition
Language Change and Variations	How language variations relate to language change, types of social factors that underlie variation patterns.

Learning activities:

Lecture (hr) in /out class		Interactive tutorial (hr) in /out class		Lab (hr) in /out class		Discussion of case (hr) in /out class		Field-trip (hr) in /out class		Projects (hr) in /out class		Web-based teaching (hr) in /out class		Other (hr) in /out class	
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M;~~O, NA~~		M;~~O, NA~~	M;O; NA	M;O; NA	M;O; NA	M;O; NA	M;O; NA	M;O; NA	M;O; NA	M;O; NA	M;O; NA	M;O; NA	M;O; NA	M;O; NA	M;O; NA

M: Mandatory activity in the course
O: Optional activity
NA: Not applicable

Assessment scheme

Task nature	Description	Weight
Linguistic diary	Students are required to write two linguistic diaries. In each dairy, students need to choose a linguistic concept covered in the course and illustrate them with daily examples and everyday experience. Critical reflection is required.	20%
Mid-term Quiz	Questions are based on reading materials and concepts covered in class (purpose: consolidate students' knowledge)	25%
Final Quiz	Questions are based on reading materials and concepts covered in class (purpose: consolidate students' knowledge)	55%

| Attendance | 2 points will be deducted from the final score for each unexcused absence in lectures or tutorials | |
| *Weekly reading quizzes | *At most 5 extra points will be awarded to students who complete all the weekly online quizzes by the end of the semester. The exact bonus points awarded depend on the number of quizzes completed and the accuracy of the answers (purpose: encourage students to read the assigned reading materials) | |

Grade descriptors

Grade	Overall Course
A	Outstanding performance on all learning outcomes; A solid understanding of the linguistic concepts covered in class; and Outstanding ability to analyze linguistic data with appropriate linguistic concepts.
A-	Generally outstanding performance on most learning outcomes; A good understanding of the linguistic concepts covered in class; and Strong ability to analyze linguistic data with appropriate linguistic concepts.
B	Satisfactory performance on most of the learning outcomes; Satisfactory understanding of most of the linguistic concepts covered in class; Sufficient ability to analyze linguistic data with appropriate linguistic concepts, with occasional errors.
C	Satisfactory performance on some of the learning outcomes, possibly with a few weaknesses; Satisfactory understanding of some of the linguistic concepts covered in class; and Still developing the ability to analyze linguistic data with appropriate linguistic concepts.
D	Barely satisfactory performance on some of the learning outcomes. A basic understanding of some of the linguistic concepts in class only; and Still developing the ability to analyze linguistic data with appropriate linguistic concepts.
F	Unsatisfactory performance on a number of learning outcomes, or failure to meet specified assessment requirements. Very little understanding of the linguistic concepts in class; and Little ability to analyze linguistic data with appropriate linguistic concepts

Recommended learning resources for students

Course textbook:

Fromkin, V., R. Rodman and N. Hyams. 2017. *An Introduction to language*, 11[th]edition. Boston, MA: Wadsworth Cengage Learning. (online access at CUHK Library)

Recommended references:

Kirk, Hazen. 2015. An introduction to language. West Sussex, England: Wiley Blackwell. (online access at CUHK Library)

John, Rhoades. 2014. An introduction to language description. Newcastle upon Tyne, England: Cambridge Scholars Publishing. (online access at CUHK Library)

Genetti, Carol. 2019. How languages work: an introduction to language and linguistics. Cambridge, New York: Cambridge University Press.

Crystal, D., 2010. *The Cambridge encyclopedia of language*, 3rd edition. Foreign Language Teaching and Research Press & Cambridge University Press

O'Grady, W., Archibald, J., Aronoff, M., & Rees-Miller, J., 2017. *Contemporary Linguistics: An Introduction*, 7th edition. Boston: Bedford Books.

Yule, G., 2014. *The study of language*, 5th edition. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Course schedule: (If the lectures are done online, recordings of the lectures will be made available in Blackboard)

Week 1	10 Sept	Course Introduction Language, mind and nature (I)	Fromkin *et al.*(2017) Chapter 1: What is language? Chapter 10: Language Processing and the Human Brain
Week 2	17 Sept	Language, mind and nature (II)	Fromkin *et al.*(2017) Chapter 1: What is language? Chapter 10: Language Processing and the Human Brain
Week 3	24 Sept	Languages of the world	Fromkin *et al.*(2017) Chapter 7: Language in Society (Languages in Contact) Chapter 8: Language Change (Extinct and Endangered Languages, the Genetic Classification of Languages)
	1 Oct	No Class (Public Holiday)	

Week 4	8 Oct	Structure of language (I) ● Semantics	Fromkin *et al.*(2017) Chapter 4: The meaning of language
Week 5	15 Oct	Structure of language (II) ● Morphology	Fromkin *et al.*(2017) Chapter 2: Morphology: The Words of Language
Week 6	22 Oct	Structure of language (III) ● Syntax	Fromkin *et al.*(2017) Chapter 3: Syntax: Infinite Use of Finite Means
Week 7	29 Oct	Mid-Term Quiz Structure of language (IV) ● Phonetics and Phonology	Fromkin *et al.*(2017) Chapter 5: Phonetics: the Sounds of Language Chapter 6: Phonology: the Sound Patterns of Language
Week 8	5 Nov	Structure of language (IV) ● Phonetics and Phonology	Fromkin *et al.*(2017) Chapter 5: Phonetics: the Sounds of Language Chapter 6: Phonology: the Sound Patterns of Language
Week 9	12 Nov	Language acquisition	Fromkin *et al.*(2017) Chapter 9: Language Acquisition
	19 Nov	No class (Congregation for the Conferment of Bachelor's Degrees)	
Week 10	26 Nov	Language as a dynamic system: ● Language change	Fromkin *et al.*(2017) Chapter 8: Language Change: The Syllables of Time
Week 11	3 Dec	Language as a dynamic system: ● Language variations	Fromkin *et al.*(2017) Chapter 7: Language in Society (Dialects)
Make-up class		Final Quiz	Date to be confirmed later

Contact details of the instructor and teaching assistant

Instructor:	
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Teaching Venue:	Lecture: TBC Tutorial: TBC
Lecture Time:	Thursday 03:30PM - 05:15PM Tutorial: Thursday 05:30PM - 06:15PM
Teaching Assistants:	
Name:	KAN Ka Ho, Arthur
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A facility for posting course announcements

A Blackboard account has been set up for students to access information of the course.

Academic honesty and plagiarism

Attention is drawn to University policy and regulations on honesty in academic work, and to the disciplinary guidelines and procedures applicable to breaches of such policy and regulations. Details may be found at http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/policy/academichonesty/. With each assignment, students will be required to submit a statement that they are aware of these policies, regulations, guidelines and procedures.

You have to submit a soft copy to VeriGuide (i.e. CUPIDE, the Chinese University Plagiarism Identification Engine System) on or before the date of the deadline via http://veriguide1.cse.cuhk.edu.hk/portal/page/index.jsp. The VeriGuide system will issue a receipt which also contains a declaration of honesty. Sign the receipt and stapled to the hard copy of the assignments. Assignments without the VeriGuide receipt will NOT be graded.

Details of the Assessment Scheme

- **Weekly reading quizzes**: Students are strongly suggested to complete the weekly quiz posted on Blackboard. Bonus points will be given to students who complete the quizzes. The exact bonus points awarded will depend on the number of quizzes completed and the accuracy of the answers.

- **Linguistic diary:** Students need to choose two linguistic concepts learnt in this course and write up two linguistic diaries. Please explain the concept with a linguistic phenomenon in real-life context together with your reflections. There will be no restrictions on the topic, as long as they can be related to the course content. There will be no restriction on the language data, which can be about any language. Each dairy is expected to be 3 – 4 pages (double-spaced, Times New Roman, font 12, left/right margin 3.17 cm). Deadline for submitting the diaries: First diary - 30 October 2020; Second diary - 27 November 2020.

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