

HUMA3030 FALL 2021 Language, Communication and Culture Course outline

Instructor: Dr. Cathy Ping PAN (hmpanping@ust.hk)

Time: Wednesday & Friday 1.30pm-2.50pm

Office hours: Monday 10am-12pm; Friday 3.30pm-5.30pm; Or by appointment

Course TA: JIANG Yuting (yjiangcp@connect.ust.hk)

Course delivery: FTF or mixed mode as appropriate

Course description

This course explores human language in relation to the communicative functions which it serves and the cultural context in which it is used. Issues such as how human language is distinct from other communication systems, how language is used to convey different meanings and how culture affects the use of language will be examined in order to highlight the uniqueness of human language.

This course is designed as a required course in the interdisciplinary area of "Literature, Communication and Media" for SHSS's major program. Students major in Global China Studies can take it in their first or second year of study. This course is also open to non-major students who can take it to fulfill their elective requirement.

Course Intended Learning Outcomes (ILOs):

- Identify the differences between language and other forms of communication systems.
- Analyze the correspondence between form and meaning/function.
- Be aware of the social factors that play a role in shaping the way we use language. Improve the competence in interpersonal and group communication.

Assessment

1. Class participation: 15%

Attendance is essential to the course. Students should attend the lectures on time, and regularly. There will be graded in-class activities, exercises, or assignments during the lectures. In total they constitute 15% of the final grade. Students are advised to bring their laptop or tablets for these activities.

2. Quizzes: 25%

There will be 2 in-class quizzes to consolidate and test understanding of the key notions and discussions of the lectures and readings. Students are expected to follow the lectures carefully, support your learning by reading the materials provided, and participate actively in class discussions and student presentations.

3. Group Project (groups of 2-3): 60%

- Project proposal 10%
- Presentation and peer evaluation 15% (10% presentation & 5% evaluation)
- Research paper 35%

Guidelines are available on Canvas regarding the components, format, and procedure of the project.

Course Schedule (*subject to changes*):

Week 1 – September 1 & 3, 2021

Course Introduction: Overview of the course and topics to be covered, the approaches, and expectations.

Week 2 – September 8 & 10, 2021

Language as a complex system of communication: Sound grammar, lexicon, and meaning

Readings:

Akmajian, A., Farmer, A. K., Bickmore, L., DeMers, R. A., & Harnish, R. M. (2017). What is linguistics? In *Linguistics: An introduction to language and communication* (7th ed.). Chapter 1.

(Optional) Fromkin V., Rodman, R. & Hyams, N. (2014). *An introduction to language* (10th ed.). Boston, MA: Wadsworth Publishing. Chapter 1.

Week 3 – September 15 & 17, 2021

The meaning of 'meaning': Utterances, sentences and propositions

Readings:

Birner, J. B. (2013). *Introduction to pragmatics*. Chichester: Wiley-Blackwell. Chapter 1.

Thomas, J. (1996). What is pragmatics? In *Meaning in interaction: An introduction to pragmatics*. Harlow, Essex: Longman. Chapter 1.

Week 4 & 5 – September 24 & 29, 2021

Cooperative Principle and conversational implicature

Readings:

Grice, H. P. (1975). Logic and conversation. In Cole, P. & Morgan, J. L., *Speech acts. Vol. 3 of Syntax and semantics* (pp. 41–58). New York: Academic Press.

Huang, Y. (2017). Implicature. In Huang, Y. (ed.) *The Oxford handbook of pragmatics* (pp. 155–179). Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Week 6 – October 6 & 8, 2021

Speech acts: Doing things with words

Readings:

- Thomas, J. (1996). Speech acts. In *Meaning in interaction: An introduction to pragmatics* (pp. 28-54). Harlow, Essex: Longman.
- Levinson, S. C. (2017). Speech acts. In Huang, Y. (ed.) *The Oxford handbook of pragmatics* (pp. 199-216). Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Week 7 – October 13 & 15, 2021

Politeness principles, facework and (im)politeness

In-class Quiz 1

Readings:

- Brown, P. (2017). Politeness and impoliteness. In Huang, Y. (ed.) *The Oxford handbook of pragmatics* (pp. 383-399). Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- O'Driscoll, J. (2017). Face and (im)politeness. In Culpeper, J., Haugh, M. & Kadar, D. (eds.). *The Palgrave Handbook of Linguistic (Im)Politeness* (pp. 89-118). Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan Ltd.
- Watts, R. J. (2005). Linguistic politeness and politic verbal behaviour: Reconsidering claims for universality. In Watts, R. J., Ide, S., & Ehlich, K. *Politeness in language: Studies in its history, theory, and practice* (pp. 43-70). Mouton de Gruyter.

Week 8 – October 20 & 22, 2021

Cross-cultural and intercultural pragmatics

Readings:

- Chen, R. (2010). Pragmatics East and West: Similar or different? In Trosborg, A (ed.). *Pragmatics across languages and cultures* (pp.79-102). Berlin: De Gruyter Mouton.
- Kecskes, I. (2012). Sociopragmatics and cross-cultural and intercultural studies. In Allan, K. & Jaszczolt, K. M., *The Cambridge Handbook of Pragmatics* (pp. 599-616). Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Wierzbicka, A. (2010). Cultural scripts and intercultural communication. In Trosborg, A (ed.). *Pragmatics across languages and cultures* (pp. 43-78). Berlin: De Gruyter Mouton.

Week 9 – October 27 & 29, 2021

Language variation (1): On uses and users

Readings:

- Meyerhoff, M. (2011). Gender. In *Introducing sociolinguistics* (2nd ed.). New York: Routledge. Chapter 10.

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Wardhaugh, R. & Fuller, J. M. (2015). Language variation. *An introduction to sociolinguistics* (7th ed.). Wiley Blackwell. Chapter 6.

Week 10 – November 3 & 5, 2021

Language variation (2): On uses and users

Readings:

Holmes, J. & Wilson, N. (2017). Style, context and register. In *An introduction to sociolinguistics* (5th ed.). Harlow: Longman. Chapter 10.

Wardhaugh, R. & Fuller, J. M. (2015). Ethnographic approach to sociolinguistics. *An introduction to sociolinguistics* (7th ed.). Wiley Blackwell. Chapter 9.

Week 11 – November 10 & 12, 2021

Language contact: Multilingual societies and multilingual discourse

In-class Quiz 2

Readings:

Holmes, J. & Wilson, N. (2017). *An introduction to sociolinguistics* (5th ed.). Harlow: Longman. Chapter 2 & 4.

Deumert, A. (2011). Multilingualism. In Mesthrie, R. (2011). (ed.) *The Cambridge handbook of sociolinguistics*. Chapter 15.

Week 12 – November 17 & 19, 2021

Student presentations

Week 13 – November 24 & 26, 2021

Student presentations

Recommended readings:

(All of the following books are available in the HKUST Library. They are e-resources, or they have already been put on reserve.)

Aitchison, J. (1996). *The seeds of speech: Language origin and evolution*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. (HKUST Library Reserve: P116. A38 1996)

Austin, J. L. (1975[1962]). *How to do things with words*. Oxford, England: Calderon Press. (HKUST Library Reserve: B1618.A8 H6 1975)

Akmajian, A., Farmer, A. K., Bickmore, L., DeMers, R. A., & Harnish, R. M. (2017). *Linguistics: An introduction to language and communication* (7th ed.). Cambridge, MA: The MIT Press (HKUST Library E-Resource for the 6th edition: <https://lbdiscover.ust.hk/bib/991004153179703412>)

- Beaken, M. (2011). *Making of language*. Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press. (HKUST Library E-resource: <https://lbdiscover.ust.hk/bib/991012638398403412>)
- Berwick, R. C. & Chomsky, N. (2016). *Why only us: Language and evolution*. Cambridge, MA: The MIT Press. (HKUST Library E-resource: <https://lbdiscover.ust.hk/bib/991012897967103412>)
- Birner, J. B. (2013). *Introduction to pragmatics*. Chichester: Wiley-Blackwell. (HKUST Library E-Resource: <https://lbdiscover.ust.hk/bib/991005363519703412>)
- Brown, P., & Levinson, S. (1987). *Politeness: Some universals in language usage*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. (HKUST Library Reserve: P40.5.E75 B76 1987)
- Chambers, J. K., Trudgill, P., & Schilling-Estes, N. (2018). *The handbook of language variation and change* (2nd ed.). Malden: Blackwell publishing Ltd. (HKUST Library E-Resource: <https://lbdiscover.ust.hk/bib/991005749119703412>)
- Fromkin V., Rodman, R. & Hyams, N. (2017). *An introduction to language* (11th ed.). Boston, MA: Wadsworth Publishing. (The 10th Edition on Library Reserve: P107 .F76 2014)
- Haspelmath, M. & Tadmor, U. (eds.). (2009). *Loanwords in the world's Languages: A comparative handbook*. Berlin: De Gruyter Mouton. (HKUST Library E-Resource: <https://lbdiscover.ust.hk/bib/991012638247903412>)
- Hauser, M. D. (1997). *The evolution of communication*. Cambridge: The MIT Press. (HKUST Library E-resource: <https://lbdiscover.ust.hk/bib/991011282259703412>)
- Holmes, J. & Hazen, K. (eds.). (2014). *Research methods in sociolinguistics: A practical guide*. (HKUST Library E-resource: <https://lbdiscover.ust.hk/bib/991005866589703412>)
- Holmes, J. (2006). *Gendered talk at work: Constructing gender identity through workplace discourse*. MA: Blackwell. (HKUST Library E-Resource: P120.S48 H63 2006: <https://lbdiscover.ust.hk/bib/991012335589703412>)
- Holmes, J. & Wilson, N. (2017). *An introduction to sociolinguistics* (5th ed.). Harlow: Longman. (HKUST Library E-resource: <https://lbdiscover.ust.hk/bib/991012900465503412>)
- Huang, Y. (2015). *Pragmatics* (2nd ed.). Hong Kong: Oxford University Press. (HKUST Library E-resource: <https://lbdiscover.ust.hk/bib/991012900562303412>)
- Leech, G. (2014). *The pragmatics of politeness* (Oxford studies in sociolinguistics). New York, NY: Oxford University Press. (HKUST Library E-Resource: <https://lbdiscover.ust.hk/bib/991004117599703412>)
- Levinson, S. C. (1983). *Pragmatics*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. (HKUST Library Reserve: P99.4.P72 L43 1983)

- Matras, Y. (2009). *Language contact*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. (HKUST Library E-Resource: <https://lbdiscover.ust.hk/bib/991012638855203412>)
- Mesthrie, R., Swann, J., Deumert, A. & Leap, W. L. (2009). *Introducing sociolinguistics* (2nd ed.). Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press. (HKUST Library E-Resource: <https://lbdiscover.ust.hk/bib/991012638690203412>)
- Meyerhoff, M. (2019). *Introducing sociolinguistics* (3rd ed.). New York: Routledge. (2nd Edition accessible via HKUST Library E-Resource: <https://lbdiscover.ust.hk/bib/991012638287603412>)
- Salzmann, Z., Stanlaw, J., & Adachi, N. (2015). *Language, Culture, and Society* (6th ed.). Boulder CO: Westview Press. (HKUST Library E-Resource: <https://lbdiscover.ust.hk/bib/991008007739703412>)
- Trosborg, A (ed.). (2010). *Pragmatics across languages and cultures*. Berlin: De Gruyter Mouton. (HKUST Library E-Resource: <https://lbdiscover.ust.hk/bib/991012638224803412>)
- Verschueren, J. & Östman, J.-O. (eds). (2009). *Key notions for pragmatics*. Amsterdam: John Benjamins. (HKUST Library E-Resource: <https://lbdiscover.ust.hk/bib/991012638843103412>)
- Wardhaugh, R. & Fuller, J. M. (2015). *An introduction to sociolinguistics* (7th ed.). Wiley Blackwell. (HKUST Library E-Resource: <https://lbdiscover.ust.hk/bib/991007234939703412>)
- Watts, R. J., Ide, S. & Ehlich, K. (eds.) (2005). *Politeness in language: Studies in its history, theory, and practice*. Mouton de Gruyter. (HKUST Library E-Resource: <https://lbdiscover.ust.hk/bib/991012638636003412>)
- Wierzbicka, A. (2003). *Cross-cultural pragmatics: The semantics of human interaction*. Berlin: Mouton de Gruyter. (HKUST Library E-Reserve: <https://lbdiscover.ust.hk/bib/991012900765803412>)
- Wierzbicka, A. (2006). *English: Meaning and culture*. New York: Oxford University Press. (HKUST Library E-Resource: <https://lbdiscover.ust.hk/bib/991002925589703412>)
- Yule, G. (2020). *The study of language* (7th ed.). Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. (3rd Edition accessible via HKUST Library E-Resource: <https://lbdiscover.ust.hk/bib/991012639066903412>)
- Yule, G. (1996). *Pragmatics*. Oxford: Oxford University Press. (HKUST Library Reserve: P99.4.P72 Y85 1996)