

Division of Humanities
School of Humanities and Social Science

Course syllabus

Course code & title: HUMA 1010 Introduction to Language [actually, "Introduction to Linguistics"]
Course offered: Spring 2021
Course instructors: Dr. Quentin Zhen QIN (hmzqin@ust.hk)
Course time: 3:00-4:20 PM, Monday & 10:30-11:50 AM, Friday
Office hours: 3:00-4:00 PM, Tuesday (TA, online) & 3:00-4:00 PM, Friday (Instructor, online/f2f)

Course Description

An examination of fundamental concepts and principles in the scientific analysis of human language, especially concerning speech sounds, syntax, meaning, language acquisition, language processing, and sociolinguistics. Students who have taken an introductory course in linguistics in other universities should not enroll in this course.

Intended Learning Outcomes (ILOs)

- Grasp fundamental concepts in the structural analysis of language as a rule-governed and productive system of communication.
- Describe the systems of speech sounds in English and Chinese with the International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA).
- Question the origins of the brain's linguistic capability in relation to aphasias, child language acquisition, and universal properties of languages around the world.
- Discuss the social aspects of language within the framework of contemporary linguistics.
- Aim at sound testing of hypotheses, argumentation and causal reasoning, especially with regard to linguistic phenomena.

Textbook

Fromkin, Rodman, and Hyams. 2014. *An Introduction to Language*. 10th ed. Australia: Cengage Learning. (Earlier and latest editions are also fine.)

Assessment

1. Class attendance and participation (online/offline, individually assessed – 10%)
2. In-class quizzes (8-10 short quizzes, individually assessed – 30%)
3. Assignments (4-5 online assignments, individually assessed – 30%)
4. Open-book exam (1 online exam-tentative, individually assessed – 30%)

Attendance policy

You should attend class regularly and participate in class discussion. Poor attendance will have a negative impact on your performance, slow down the class pace, and consequently negatively impact other students' learning. In past experience, students who didn't do well in this course were those that routinely missed lectures.

Quiz and assignment policy

As a general rule, **NO make-up quiz/exam or late submission will be accepted** for credits unless:

- (a) You got **advance** permission (before due) from me about a make-up quiz or a late submission of assignment
- (b) You could not attend the class for quiz or submit the assignment on the day the assignment is due because of a serious illness or unexpected emergency. You need to contact me with a written explanation of the situation and provide **proof** (e.g., medical certificate).

Plagiarism and misconduct policy

Plagiarism (e.g., academic theft) in quizzes, assignments, and exams, depending on the severity, will result in penalties in the range from a zero for that portion of your work, an F for the course, transcript citation, to suspension/expulsion from HKUST. For library guidelines on plagiarism and other resources on referencing/citation, see <https://libguides.ust.hk/referencing/plagiarism>. For HKUST policies on academic misconduct, see <http://ugadmin.ust.hk/integrity/student-1.html>.

Tentative Schedule (subject to change)

Week	Date	Topic	Reading
1	Feb 01	Syllabus and Introduction	Chapter 1(optional)
	Feb 05	What is Language?	Chapter 1
2	Feb 08	Brain and Language	Chapter 10
	Feb 12	CHINESE NEW YEAR HOLIDAYS (Feb 12-15) Note: Last Day of Add/Drop Period is Feb 17	
3	Feb 15		
	Feb 19	Brain and Language	Chapter 10
4	Feb 22	Brain and Language	Chapter 10
	Feb 26	Phonetics	Chapter 5
5	Mar 01	Phonetics	Chapter 5
	Mar 05	Phonetics/Phonology	Chapter 5/6
6	Mar 08	Phonology	Chapter 6
	Mar 12	Phonology	Chapter 6
7	Mar 15	Review 1 (assignment 1-2)	
	Mar 19	Morphology	Chapter 2
8	Mar 22	Morphology	Chapter 2
	Mar 26	Syntax	Chapter 3
9	Mar 29	Syntax	Chapter 3
	Apr 02	SPRING BREAK (Mar 31-Apr 06)	
10	Apr 05		
	Apr 09	Semantics	Chapter 4
11	Apr 12	Semantics	Chapter 4
	Apr 16	Review 2 (assignment 3-4)	
12	Apr 19	(Frist) Language Acquisition	Chapter 9
	Apr 23	(Second) Language Acquisition	Chapter 9
13	Apr 26	(Second) Language Acquisition/Socio	Chapter 9/7
	Apr 30	Socio	Chapter 7
14	May 03	Review 3 (assignment 5)	
	May 07	Open-book exam (tentative)	
		Note: Last Day of Spring is May 08	

Useful references

David, Crystal. 2010. *The Cambridge Encyclopedia of Language*. 3rd ed. Cambridge; New York: Cambridge University Press.

Fasold, Ralph, and Jeff Connor-Linton. eds. 2006. *An Introduction to Language and Linguistics*. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press.

Henning, Reetz, and Allard, Jongman. 2020. *Phonetics: Transcription, production, acoustics, and perception*. 2nd ed. Malden, MA: Wiley-Blackwell.

More useful references, if any, might be posted on Canvas.