HUMA3030 SPRING 2021 Language, Communication and Culture
Course outline

Instructor: Dr. Cathy Ping PAN (hmpanping@ust.hk)
Time: Tuesday & Thursday 10.30am-11.50am
Office hours: Thursday 2.30-4.30pm; Friday 1.30pm-3.30pm
Course TA: Mr. Yijiao GUO (yguoba@connect.ust.hk)

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. **Quizzes/Assignments: 40%**
   There will be in-class quizzes, exercises and post-class assignments to test knowledge and understanding of the key notions and discussions of the lectures and readings. Class attendance is, therefore, essential. 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.

2. **Project (individual or groups of 2-3): 60%**
   - Project proposal 10%
   - Presentation & peer evaluation 15%
   - Research paper 35%

   Guidelines will be provided on Canvas regarding the components, format, and procedure of the project.

Course Schedule (*subject to changes*):

Week 1 – February 2 & 4, 2021
Course Introduction: Overview of the course and topics to be covered, the approaches, and expectations.

Week 2 – February 9 & 11, 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.

Week 3 – February 16 & 18, 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 – February 23 & 25, 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 5 – March 2 & 4, 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 6 – March 9 & 11, 2021
Politeness principles, facework and (im)politeness

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 7 – March 16 & 18, 2021
Conversational routines, discourse and culture

Readings:
Birner, J. B. (2013). Information structure. In *Introduction to pragmatics*. Chichester: Wiley-Blackwell. Chapter 7.

Gee, J. P. (2011). Form–function correlations, situated meanings, and figured worlds. In *An introduction to Discourse analysis: theory and method (3rd)*. London and New York: Routledge. Chapter 5.

Week 8 – March 23 & 25, 2021
Cross-cultural and intercultural pragmatics

Readings:
Wierzbicka, A. (2003). *Cross-cultural pragmatics: The semantics of human interaction* (2nd ed.). Berlin & New York: Mouton de Gruyter. Chapter 3 'Cross-cultural pragmatics and different cultural values.'

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.

Week 9 – April 13 & 15, 2021
Language variation (1): On uses and users

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

Meyerhoff, M. (2019). Gender. In *Introducing sociolinguistics (3rd ed.)*. New York: Routledge. Chapter 10.

Week 10 – April 20 & 22, 2021
Language variation (2): On uses and users

Readings:
Holems, J. (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 – March 30 & April 8, 2021
Language contact: Multilingual societies and multilingual discourse

Readings:
Holems, J. (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 – April 27 & 29, 2021 (Exact arrangement TBC)
Student presentations

Language contact: Language through time

Readings:
Meyerhoff, M. (2019). Real time and apparent time. In *Introducing sociolinguistics (3rd ed.)*. New York: Routledge. Chapter 7.

Week 13 – May 4 & 6, 2021
Student presentations

Recommended readings:

(All of the following books are available in the HKUST Library and 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 Reserve: P118.B475 2016)

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. (2014). *An introduction to language* (10th ed.). Boston, MA: Wadsworth Publishing. (HKUST 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. (2017). *An introduction to sociolinguistics (5th ed.)*. Harlow: Longman. (2nd Edition on HKUST Library Reserve: P40. H66 2001)

Huang, Y. (2014). *Pragmatics (2nd ed.)*. Hong Kong: Oxford University Press. (1st Edition on HKUST Library Reserve: P99.4.P72 H83 2007)

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 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 Resource: https://lbdiscover.ust.hk/bib/991012638636003412)

Wierzbicka, A. (2003). *Cross-cultural pragmatics: The semantics of human interaction*. Berlin: Mouton de Gruyter. (HKUST Library Reserve: P99.4.P72 W53 2003)

Wierzbicka, A. (2006). *English: Meaning and culture*. New York: Oxford University Press. (HKUST Library E-Resource: PE1585.W53 2006eb)

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)