

Division of Humanities
Tentative Course Syllabus

Course Code: HUMA 2010
Course Title: Metaphors in English and Chinese [C]
Course Offered in: Fall 2025
Course Instructor: Professor Zhang Min

Course Description: A comprehensive study of metaphors in English and Chinese, not only as a rhetorical device, but also as an essential tool of our ordinary language and thought. The course encompasses a wide range of diverse topics such as literary metaphors, metaphors in everyday language (about time, life, change, quantity, love, anger, etc.), and metaphors in politics, mathematics, physics, artificial intelligence, and cyberspace. The approach is interdisciplinary and comparative, and most topics are to be discussed from a cross-linguistic and cross-cultural perspective. An ordinary reading knowledge of Chinese is required for enrollment.

Course Outline:

Week	Topic
1	Why Study Metaphor?
2	Traditional and Contemporary Theories of Metaphor
3	How Literary Metaphor Works
4	Properties of Conceptual Metaphor
5	Types of Metaphor
6	Orientational Metaphors & The Grounding of Metaphors
7	TIME AS SPACE: A Contrastive Study of Chinese and English
8	From Space to Non-space: Motion Verbs & Locative Nouns in English and Chinese
9	Emotion Metaphors

**Division of Humanities
Tentative Course Syllabus**

Supplementary Topic 1: Conventional Metonymies in English
Supplementary Topic 2: Image Schema and Function Words in English and Chinese
Supplementary Topic 3: Figure vs Ground; Trajectory vs Landmark, and the OVER Schema
Supplementary Topic 4: Logical Inference, and TIME IS A LIMITED RESOURCE
Supplementary Topic 5: Force Dynamics, Image Schemata, and Metaphorical Extension of Modal Verbs
Supplementary Topic 6: Up and Above in Chinese: Metaphorical Extensions of Meaning
Supplementary Topic 7: Metaphors We Compute By
Supplementary Topic 8: Metaphors in Scientific Thinking

Course Intended Learning Outcomes

- 1 describe how metaphor works with examples from our ordinary language.
- 2 distinguish the traditional and contemporary theories of metaphor.
- 3 identify and analyze metaphors in English and Chinese in the contemporary cognitive approach to metaphor.
- 4 identify, analyze, and account for similarities and differences between English and Chinese in metaphorical conceptualization.

Planned Assessment Tasks:

Attendance:	10%
Quizzes:	40%
Final examination:	50%

Samples of readings:

George Lakoff. 1993. "The Contemporary Theory of Metaphor". Available online @ <http://terpconnect.umd.edu/~israel/lakoff-ConTheorMetaphor.pdf>

Kovecses, Zoltan. 2002. *Metaphor: A Practical Introduction*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Yu, Ning. 1998. *The Contemporary Theory of Metaphor: A Perspective from Chinese*. Amsterdam: John Benjamins.