Course Code: HUMA 2032
Course Title: Language, Identity and Power
Course Offered in: Spring 2024
Course Instructor: Pip Freestone

Course Description:

This course aims to stimulate students' thinking around the complex notion of 'identity', challenging classic sociolinguistic and sociological approaches and introducing poststructuralist approaches. The language of individuals and/or institutions will be analysed in depth, with reference to critical theories of society, ideology and discourse. The course also aims to raise awareness of how language is used to create and maintain power through narratives of identity. Case studies will be presented, with a view to deconstructionist analysis on the role of language in producing and reproducing ostensibly stable 'identities' along binary lines such as masculine/feminine, Western/Asian and straight/queer. The course also investigates how humans perform other types of social difference and belonging such as ethnicity and social class.

Note: this course will be taught be a member of staff who is new to the university, who will need to time to get to know the institutional context and the needs of the student cohort. As such, some of the weekly content is subject to significant change.

Course Intended Learning Outcomes (ILOs):

	Course ILOs
1	Summarise key concepts in the field of language and identity
2	Explain how diverse senses of belonging and difference relate to individual and institutional practices
3	Explain how beliefs about identity can promote or inhibit social justice
4	Critique relevant approaches to the analysis of identity
5	Create, confidently and critically, academic arguments within the field of language & identity

Division of Humanities
Tentative Course Syllabus

Course Outline:

Wk	
1 (1 Feb)	Social constructionist approaches to language and identity: an overview
2 (8 Feb)	Linguistic repertoires, resources and the performance of identities
3 (15 Feb)	"Kongish": code mixing or translanguaging? (A*dd/drop deadline 16th Feb*)
4 (22 Feb)	Deconstructing everyday labels (1): national identities
5 (29 Feb)	Identity and language ideologies: language standards, 'correctness' and new forms of 'English'.
6 (7 Mar)	Taboo and political correctness
7 (14 Mar)	Language gender and sexuality: the influence of queer theory on identity theory
8 (21 Mar)	Language and queer sexual identity in Sinophone cultural contexts *(Midterm break 28th Mar- 5th April)*
9 (11 Apr)	**Mid-term exam (in class) 11th April (40%)**
10 (18 Apr)	Deconstructing everyday labels (2): a white immigrant perspective on 'Asian' and 'Western' identities in Sinophone cultural contexts
11 (25 Apr)	The linguistic performance of masculinity

12 (2 May)	Reflection, reflexivity and auto-ethnography: looking at ourselves through a linguistic-anthropological lens
13 (9 May)	**Final exam (in class) 9th May (60%)**

Course structure:
- One 2-hour lecture per week (taught by lecturer)
- Optional 1-hour seminar every two weeks (taught by TA, two possible timeslots)

Planned Assessment Tasks:

All assignments/assessments will receive feedback within 10 working days.

- Students will complete a multiple-choice, in-class mid-term quiz on topics covered on the course (40% of course grade)
- Students will complete a handwritten, in-class exam with multiple-choice and a short essay question related to topics covered on the course (60% of course grade)

AI Policy:

- No electronic devices will be allowed in examinations

Readings:
1. Joseph, J. (2004). *Language and identity: National, ethnic, religious*. London: Palgrave Macmillan.
2. Preece, S. (Ed.). (2016). *The Routledge handbook of language and identity*. Oxon: Routledge.

    Both key texts are available as an e-book in HKUST library. All other texts will either be available as e-books or shared as PDFs via Canvas.