

Division of Humanities
School of Humanities and Social Science

Course syllabus

Course code & title: HUMA 1010/CORE1501 Introduction to Language
[actually, "Introduction to Linguistics"]
Course offered: Spring 2023
Course instructors: Dr. Quentin Zhen QIN (hmzqin@ust.hk)
Course time: 12 PM-1:20 PM, Monday & Wednesday
Course venue: Rm 2302
Office hours: 2:30-3:30 PM, Wednesday (Instructor)

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 aphasia, 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 (individually assessed – 10%)
2. In-class short quizzes (individually assessed – 30%)
3. Assignments (individually assessed – 30%)
4. Final exam (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 (including COVID) 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 06	Syllabus and Introduction	Chapter 1
	Feb 08	What is Language?	Chapter 1
2	Feb 13	What is Language? / Brain and Language	Chapter 1/10
	Feb 15	Brain and Language	Chapter 10
3	Feb 20	Brain and Language	Chapter 10
	Feb 22	Brain and Language	Chapter 10
4	Feb 27	Phonetics	Chapter 5
	Mar 01	Phonetics	Chapter 5
5	Mar 06	Phonetics	Chapter 5
	Mar 08	Phonology	Chapter 6
6	Mar 13	Phonology	Chapter 6
	Mar 15	Phonology	Chapter 6
7	Mar 20	Mid-term Review	
	Mar 22	Morphology	Chapter 2
8	Mar 27	Morphology	Chapter 2
	Mar 29	Morphology/Syntax	Chapter 2/3
9	Apr 03	Syntax	Chapter 3
	Apr 05	SPRING BREAK (Apr 05-Apr 11)	
10	Apr 10		
	Apr 12	Syntax	Chapter 3
11	Apr 17	Semantics	Chapter 4
	Apr 19	Semantics	Chapter 4
12	Apr 24	(Frist) Language Acquisition	Chapter 9
	Apr 26	(Frist) Language Acquisition	Chapter 9
13	May 01	LABOR DAY	
	May 03	(Second) Language Acquisition	Chapter 9
14	May 08	Final Review	
	May 17 12pm-2pm	Final Exam	

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.