

---

## LANGUAGE AND COMMUNICATION

The Undergraduate Interdisciplinary Studies Programme in Language and Communication focuses on the study and use of language and languages in society. It is an interdisciplinary programme and therefore reflects different approaches among the departments that contribute to the programme. The programme aims to produce graduates who are broadly skilled in the areas of language and communication and will fulfill a need in the community for linguistically versatile and intellectually fluent leaders. Admission is on the basis of academic record including at least a minimum C grade in the Use of English AS-level exam.

Prospective majors in Language and Communication must, as a co-requisite, be accepted to take one of the following majors or minors:

A major in either Chinese, English, French, German, Human Language Technology, Japanese Studies, Linguistics, Linguistics and Philosophy or Spanish (offered by the Faculty of Arts); or a major in Psychology, Media and Cultural Studies (offered by the Faculty of Social Sciences); or a minor in a language programme (offered by the Faculty of Arts) for which a major is not available; or a minor in Journalism and Media Studies (offered by the Faculty of Social Sciences).

Prospective majors must also pass the prerequisite course LCOM1001 in their first year with at least a satisfactory result (C grade, 53%), and the required courses for enrolment in the co-requisite major. Prospective minors are also required to pass LCOM1001 in their first year with at least a satisfactory result (C grade, 53%).

### The Major

A major in Language and Communication consists of 48 credits taken in the second and third years of the programme. Students have to take the compulsory course LCOM2001 (6 credits), 30 credits of 'core' courses, and a further 12 credits of 'elective' courses, as listed below. Students should note that any courses taken for the co-requisite major may not be counted towards the major in Language and Communication. Students are also asked to note that departmental pre-requisites for both 'core' and 'elective' courses must be met unless otherwise waived.

### The Minor

A minor in Language and Communication consists of second- and third-year courses totaling 24 credits from the Language and Communication syllabus. LCOM2001 (6 credits) is a compulsory course; for the 18 remaining credits, two courses (12 credits) have to be chosen from the list of core courses, and one course (6 credits) from the list of electives.

**Special Honours**

Students in Language and Communication must take **LCOM3003** (LCOM Papers). Upon completing their programme and meeting the Special Honours requirements, these students will be given special recognition by the School (for further details, see “Introduction” of the School syllabus).

---

**Language and Communication courses****First Year course****LCOM1001. Introduction to language and communication (6 credits)**

In this course, students will be acquainted with two central concepts of language and communication, the concept of a “linguistic situation” and the concept of a “communicative situation.” The former relates language(s) to broader social factors in a given geographical unit and touches upon a number of fields of sociolinguistic investigation (e.g., language and power, bi- and multilingualism, contact languages, language policy and language planning, language and culture, language attitudes, language and ethnicity/identity). Students will research one specific area of a particular linguistic situation and present their findings in class. In turn, the concept of a communicative situation applies to actual linguistic encounters. It is constituted by numerous interrelated variables, as, among other things, the type of communicative situation, the social organizations, the location, the ‘players’ involved, their roles, etc. Students will explore different kinds of communicative situations. They will learn to evaluate the corresponding linguistic behavior and to identify potential sources of conflict, for example in intercultural encounters, where different expectations and conventions regarding a specific kind of communicative situation may collide.

Assessment: 50% final 2-hour exam and 50% coursework

---

**Second and Third Year courses****LCOM2001. Theories of language and communication (6 credits)**

Prerequisites: LCOM1001

This compulsory course for LCOM majors and minors covers a variety of approaches to language and communication. We will look at various assumptions about language and the philosophical positions they are based on, their merits and shortcomings, as well as possible points of contact between them. We will also consider models/metaphors of communication. Students will investigate how these models of communication are expressed in the languages they study. An examination of these different models of communication will also enable the students to understand the difference between subjectivist, objectivist, and constructionist conceptions of communication.

Assessment: 100% coursework

---

**LCOM2002. Language in the workplace (6 credits)**

Prerequisites: LCOM1001

People spend a considerable amount of time at work. The workplace thus provides a useful site for investigating various aspects of language and communication. This course will discuss a range of features of workplace discourse and illustrate the impact social factors may have on the ways in which language is used in this context. We will also discuss and compare different methodological approaches and a variety of theoretical frameworks used for an analysis of workplace discourse. These tools will then be used by the students to analyse naturalistic data.

Assessment: 100% coursework

**LCOM2003. Language and politeness (6 credits)**

Prerequisites: LCOM1001

This course will discuss various approaches to linguistic politeness. Students will be introduced to a number of theoretical frameworks that have been developed in order to capture and assess this complex concept. A particular focus will be on the question of universality and culturally influenced perceptions of politeness. Moreover, the impact of various social factors (including power, gender and ethnicity) on the performance and perception of linguistic politeness is discussed, and the topic of impoliteness is covered.

Assessment: 60% examination and 40% in-class presentation

**LCOM3001. Cultural dimensions of language and communication (6 credits)**

This course will look at the interrelatedness of culture and language. First, some influential ideas in the history of linguistics (by Humboldt and Whorf) concerning this topic will be discussed. Then, students will be acquainted with the latest developments in Cultural Linguistics and Cognitive Sociolinguistics, new branches of Cognitive Linguistics that specifically deal with culture-specific realizations in language and language varieties. These methods, which allow for a better understanding of cultural *meaning*, will be carried over to the field of intercultural communication, where functionalist approaches have dominated so far. In their final project, students will be required to apply some of the methods introduced in the seminar to elicit culture-specific realizations in linguistic varieties of their choice.

Assessment: 100% coursework

**LCOM3003. LCOM Papers: writing for, editing, and producing an academic e-journal (12 credits)**

This course is designed for students who wish to pursue advanced work in a specialized area, while at the same time gaining practical experience of the editing and production process of an academic e-journal (LCOM Papers) in the form of a 'mini-internship'. Students will meet regularly with the course co-ordinator for guidance while working on their own research project. This course will provide students with several skills relevant to the workplace, including cooperation and team-work, IT, drafting, editing and the presentation and organization of ideas, time-management and logistics. Students intending to enroll in this course should have obtained at least a B in LCOM1001 and LCOM2001.

Assessment: 100% coursework

**First Year**

Students intending to declare a major in Language and Communication in their second and third years must complete the following course in their first year of study:

LCOM1001. Introduction to language and communication (6 credits)

Students are also reminded that they must complete either the prerequisite courses for a major in one of the following areas:

Chinese (major in Chinese Language and Literature or Translation only)

English

French

Extract from BA Regulations and Syllabuses (for students admitted in 2009-10)

German  
 Human Language Technology  
 Japanese Studies  
 Linguistics  
 Linguistics and Philosophy  
 Media and Cultural Studies  
 Psychology  
 Spanish

OR

the prerequisites for a minor in one of the following areas:

Arabic  
 Italian  
 Korean  
 Journalism and Media Studies  
 Portuguese  
 Swedish  
 Thai

Students are also strongly advised to take LING1001 Introduction to Linguistics, because this course is a prerequisite for all courses taught in the Linguistics department in the second and third years of study

### **Second and Third Years**

Students declaring a major in Language and Communication must, as a co-requisite, declare either a second major from List A or a minor from List B (below)

List A	List B
Chinese	Arabic
English	Italian
French	Journalism and Media Studies
German	Korean
Human Language Technology	Portuguese
Japanese Studies	Swedish
Linguistics	Thai
Linguistics and Philosophy	
Media and Cultural Studies	
Psychology	
Spanish	

The major in Language and Communication consists of courses totaling 48 credits from the following lists, of which 36 credits must be from the 'core' courses (including the compulsory course LCOM2001) and 12 credits from the 'elective' courses to be chosen from courses offered by at least two different departments.

### **The Minor**

A minor in Language and Communication consists of second- and third-year courses totaling 24 credits from the Language and Communication syllabus. LCOM2001 is a compulsory course; for the 12 remaining credits, one course (6 credits) from the list of core courses has to be chosen, and one course (6 credits) from the list of electives.

## Core courses

The following course is compulsory for all students taking the major:

LCOM2001. Theories of language and communication (6 credits)

The remaining 30 credits may be selected from the following list:

- ENGL2002. Language in society (6 credits)
- ENGL2003. The history of English (6 credits)
- ENGL2004. English syntax (6 credits)
- ENGL2007. Literary linguistics (6 credits)
- ENGL2030. World Englishes (6 credits)
- ENGL2031. The semantics and pragmatics of English (6 credits)
- ENGL2039. Language and gender (6 credits)
- ENGL2046. English words (6 credits)
- ENGL2047. English discourse structures and strategies (6 credits)
- ENGL2048. Language and jargon (6 credits)
- ENGL2049. The history of English: sociolinguistic perspectives (6 credits)
- ENGL2050. English corpus linguistics (6 credits)
- ENGL2054. Race, language and identity (6 credits)
- ENGL2058. Narrative prose: a linguistic investigation (6 credits)
- ENGL2062. The history of Western linguistics (6 credits)
- ENGL2065. Meaning and metaphor (6 credits)
- ENGL2066. Orientalism and linguistics (6 credits)
- ENGL2069. Form and meaning (6 credits)
- ENGL2087. Persuasion (6 credits)
- ENGL2094. Cultural approaches to second language varieties of English (6 credits)
- ENGL2099. Language, identity, and Asian Americans (6 credits)
- ENGL2100. Language and social interaction (6 credits)
- ENGL2103. Language and new media (6 credits)
- ENGL2104. Language in the USA (6 credits)
- ENGL2112. An introduction to the history of English (6 credits)
- ENGL2115. Theories of Language Acquisition I (6 credits)
- ENGL2116. Theories of Language Acquisition II (6 credits)
- ENGL2117. English phonology and morphology (6 credits)
- ENGL2119. English in Hong Kong: making it your own (6 credits)
- ENGL2123. Language and Identity in Hong Kong (6 credits)
- ENGL2124. Language and the Law (6 credits)
- ENGL2125. English construction grammar (6 credits)
- ENGL3036. Research seminar in English linguistics (6 credits)
- ENGL3037. Research seminar in language & society (6 credits)

LCOM2002. Language in the workplace (6 credits)

LCOM2003. Language and politeness (6 credits)

LCOM3003. LCOM Papers: writing for, editing, and producing an academic e-journal (12 credits)

## Electives

Majors must select courses totaling 12 credits from the following list of electives, ensuring that the courses selected are from at least two different departments.

Extract from BA Regulations and Syllabuses (for students admitted in 2009-10)

- CHIN2138. Chinese etymology (6 credits)  
CHIN2139. Chinese phonology (6 credits)  
CHIN2140. Modern Chinese language I (6 credits)  
CHIN2143. Modern Chinese language II (6 credits)  
CHIN2144. Functional Chinese (6 credits)  
CHIN2333. Culture and translation (6 credits)  
CHIN2334. Power of speech in written translation (3 credits)  
CHIN2337. Journalistic translation (3 credits)  
CHIN2340. Film translation workshop (6 credits)  
CHIN2341. Translating writings on art (3 credits)
- CLIT2005. Literary and cultural theory (6 credits)  
CLIT2007. Film culture I (6 credits)  
CLIT2026. Digital culture and new media technologies I (6 credits)  
CLIT2064. Hong Kong culture: Popular culture (6 credits)  
CLIT2065. Hong Kong culture: Representations of identity in literature and film (6 credits)  
CLIT2072. Deconstruction (6 credits)  
CLIT2088. Critical approaches to film studies (6 credits)
- EUST2010. European identity (6 credits)  
EUST3013. Linguistics of the European languages (6 credits)
- JAPN2016. Comparative linguistics: Cantonese and Japanese I - Comparative phonology (6 credits)  
JAPN2027. Comparative linguistics: Cantonese and Japanese II - Phonological transfer and pedagogy in foreign language acquisition (6 credits)  
JAPN2030. Japanese business, culture and communication (6 credits)  
JAPN3021. Communication and society (6 credits)
- LING2002. Conversation analysis (6 credits)  
LING2003. Semantics: meaning and grammar (6 credits)  
LING2004. Phonetics: describing sounds (6 credits)  
LING2009. Languages of the world (6 credits)  
LING2011. Language and literacy in the information age (6 credits)  
LING2022. Pragmatics (6 credits)  
LING2027. Phonology: An introduction to the study of sound systems (6 credits)  
LING2033. Contrastive grammar of English and Chinese (6 credits)  
LING2037. Bilingualism (6 credits)  
LING2041. Language and information technology (6 credits)  
LING2048. Language and cognition (6 credits)  
LING2050. Grammatical description (6 credits)  
LING2054. Language and social interaction (6 credits)
- PHIL2060. Wittgenstein (6 credits)  
PHIL2075. The semantics/pragmatics distinction (6 credits)  
PHIL2230. Philosophy and cognitive science (6 credits)  
PHIL2460. Philosophical Chinese (6 credits)  
PHIL2510. Logic (6 credits)  
PHIL2511. Paradoxes (6 credits)  
PHIL2610. Philosophy of language (6 credits)  
PSYC0038. Psychology of language and bilingualism (6 credits)