

LANGUAGE AND COMMUNICATION

Language and Communication (L&C), an interdisciplinary programme within the Faculty of Arts, centres on the study and use of language in society in a multilingual, globalized world, with a particular focus on the positioning of languages of global import, such as English, as well as those with local significance, in how they are appropriated in multilingual, cosmopolitan contexts of Asia. The programme provides the theoretical foundations and applied contexts for understanding and addressing linguistic and social questions of language and communication. It equips students with the intellectual and practical tools to critically examine, intelligently reflect on, and competently participate in communicative situations, in real-world contexts, such as in the workplace as well as in more informal sites of multilingual communication. Both traditional as well as experiential learning, such as fieldwork and internships, are pursued. Fulfilling a need in society for linguistically versatile and culturally sensitive leaders in the 21st-century knowledge economy of Asia's world city and beyond, the programme prepares students with an appreciation of communicative competence. The programme also aims at honing of transferable skills for a wide range of careers, including education, editing and publishing, public administration, public relations, marketing, the media, tourism, and cultural affairs.

Students who declare a major or minor in Language and Communication will:

- Identify and critique relevant issues in the study of language and communication, and apply theoretical and methodological knowledge to real-world social and linguistic data;
- Critically evaluate established knowledge and creatively apply it to novel, contemporary contexts of communication, in this multilingual, globalised world, in particular in the settings of Hong Kong and Asia;
- Identify, appreciate and critically examine the role of diversity in languages and communicative strategies across cultures and time, and how this shapes one's linguistic identity and comes to bear upon communicative situations, drawing on cross-cultural perspectives in the study of language and communication;
- Use the necessary intellectual, communicative and practical skills to participate in intellectual discussions of socio/linguistic issues and collaborate productively in research projects;
- Demonstrate an understanding of the complexities of contemporary social and political issues of language and communication in the context of globalization – such as the positioning of languages of global significance, in particular English, in how they are appropriated in multilingual, cosmopolitan contexts of Asia, and the fine balance struck with other local languages for sustainability – which allows for intelligent, significant and responsible contributions to society.

Requirements

Admission to the first year is on the basis of academic record including at least a minimum C grade in the Use of English AS-level exam or its equivalent.

Students intending to major or minor in Language and Communication must pass the first-year prerequisite course LCOM1001 with a satisfactory result of at least a C grade.

Syllabus for students admitted in the academic year 2010-11

First Year Course

Students intending to declare a major or minor in Language and Communication must complete the following prerequisite course in their first year of study with at least a C grade:

LCOM1001. Introduction to language and communication (6 credits)

Extract from BA Regulations and Syllabuses (for students admitted in 2010-11)

Note:

- Students who declare a major or minor in Language and Communication and have passed LCOM1001 at grade C or above will be given a waiver of “ENGL1009. Introduction to English studies” and “LING1001. Introduction to Linguistics” for taking senior ENGL and LING courses as listed in the curriculum below.
- Students should check with individual departments about the actual course offerings, updated course information including pre-requisite(s) for electives to be met unless otherwise waived.

Second and Third Year Courses

The Major in Language and Communication consists of 54 credits taken in the second and third years of the programme. This comprises 12 credits of core courses (LCOM2001 and LCOM3001); and 42 credits of electives in the manner specified below.

The Minor in Language and Communication consists of 30 credits taken in the second and third years of the programme. This comprises 6 credits of core course (LCOM2001 or LCOM3001); and 24 credits of electives (including at least one 6-credit LCOM course).

An optional capstone experience for advanced students is provided by elective final-year research, lecture and seminar courses.

Core courses

The following core courses are compulsory for all students taking the major:

- LCOM2001. Theories of language and communication (6 credits) (to be taken in the second year)
LCOM3001. Cultural dimensions of language and communication (6 credits) (to be taken in the third year)

Elective courses

Students majoring in Language and Communication must complete a total of 42 credits in elective courses from the list below. Courses must be taken from at least 3 different majors in the list and must include at least 12 credits from LCOM courses and at least 12 credits from ENGL courses.

Translation

- CHIN2331. Choice of words in translation (6 credits)
CHIN2332. Translation in Hong Kong society (6 credits)
CHIN2333. Culture and translation (6 credits)
CHIN2334. Power of speech in written translation (6 credits)
CHIN2336. Interpretation workshop I (6 credits)
CHIN2339. Translation for administration and business (6 credits)
CHIN2340. Film translation workshop (6 credits)
CHIN2341. Translating writings on art (6 credits)
CHIN2342. Interpretation workshop II (6 credits)
CHIN2343. Legal interpreting (6 credits)
CHIN2344. Translating short stories (6 credits)
CHIN2345. Syntax-based translation (6 credits)

Comparative Literature

- CLIT2050. Globalization and cultures (6 credits)

Extract from BA Regulations and Syllabuses (for students admitted in 2010-11)

English Studies

- ENGL2002. Language in society (6 credits)
- ENGL2030. World Englishes (6 credits)
- ENGL2031. The semantics and pragmatics of English (6 credits)
- ENGL2039. Language and gender (6 credits)
- ENGL2047. English discourse structures and strategies (6 credits)
- ENGL2048. Language and jargon (6 credits)
- ENGL2054. Race, language and identity (6 credits)
- ENGL2065. Meaning and metaphor (6 credits)
- ENGL2087. Persuasion (6 credits)
- ENGL2099. Language, identity, and Asian Americans (6 credits)
- ENGL2104. Language in the USA (6 credits)
- ENGL2123. Language and identity in Hong Kong (6 credits)
- ENGL2126. Law, meaning and interpretation (6 credits)
- ENGL2127. Legal discourse and the mind (6 credits)
- ENGL2129. English as a language of science (6 credits)
- ENGL2130. Signs, language and meaning: integrational reflections (6 credits)
- ENGL3036. Research seminar in English linguistics (6 credits)
- ENGL3037. Research seminar in language & society (6 credits)

Japanese Studies

- JAPN2030. Japanese business, culture and communication (6 credits)
- JAPN2031. The media and Japan (6 credits)
- JAPN2039. Negotiation and conflict resolution: a cross-cultural perspective (6 credits)

Language and Communication

- LCOM2002. Language in the workplace (6 credits)
- LCOM2003. Language and politeness (6 credits)
- LCOM2004. Language, communication and the media (6 credits) [*Non permissible combinations: ENGL2103*]
- LCOM2005. Language, communication and globalisation: Politics, peril, pop (6 credits)
- LCOM2006. Language and communication field trip (6 credits) [*course offering will be subject to student enrolment*]
- LCOM3003. LCOM Papers: Writing for, editing, and producing an academic e-journal (12 credits)

Linguistics

- LING2009. Languages of the world (6 credits)
- LING2040. Languages in contact (6 credits)
- LING2041. Language and information technology (6 credits)
- LING2056. Sociolinguistics (6 credits)

Philosophy

- PHIL2075. The semantics/pragmatics distinction (6 credits)
- PHIL2230. Philosophy and cognitive science (6 credits)
- PHIL2410. Mind and language in Chinese thought (6 credits)

Special Honours Programme

Students who have achieved an outstanding academic performance in the first-year Language and Communication course with tutors' recommendation will be invited to become Special Honours candidates, for which they will be given priority for admission to senior LCOM and ENGL courses as listed in the curriculum. Special Honours students majoring in Language and Communication must complete an additional 12 credits in the second and third years, including a 6-credit research seminar in the field of language and communication, and another 6-credit senior course preferably in LCOM.

First Year course

LCOM1001. Introduction to language and communication (6 credits)

(This course is also offered to first year non-BA students for inter-Faculty broadening purposes.)

This course introduces fundamental concepts in the study of contemporary communication that are relevant for students who are living and communicating in today's multilingual, globalized world. Students will be introduced to the three crucial dimensions in the study of language and communication: language structures (the study of language as a system), language in context (how language is used in communicative practices), and mediating language ideology (the evaluations of language and its contexts). The course provides students with the theoretical foundations from which they may proceed to examine the practical applications of language and its social relevance in contemporary communities.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

Second and Third Year courses

Translation

CHIN2331. Choice of words in translation (6 credits)

(This course is also offered to second and third year non-BA students for inter-Faculty broadening purposes.)

This course takes a new semantic approach to the analysis of different types of word meaning in a text. It addresses some key issues of a functional grammar pertaining to translation studies in Hong Kong and it is specially planned for students who aspire to carve out for themselves a career in administration, publishing, advertising and journalism.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

CHIN2332. Translation in Hong Kong society (6 credits)

(This course is also offered to second and third year non-BA students for inter-Faculty broadening purposes.)

The basic aim of this course is to provide students who intend to become professional translators in Hong Kong with an overall view of translation as a communicative activity. The translators' work demands specialised knowledge of the ways translation functions in specific social contexts. The principal concern of this course is the practical information about the various circumstances in which translation serves its purpose as a communicative activity, either in the Government or in the private sector. This course will be assessed on the basis of a written seminar paper presented orally and participation in discussion.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

CHIN2333. Culture and translation (6 credits)

(This course is also offered to second and third year non-BA students for inter-Faculty broadening purposes.)

This course focuses on the cross-cultural dimension of translation. It examines the most complex cultural barriers faced by the translator – such as differences in the expression of emotions (for instance - love, anger, fear), codes of behaviour (for instance intimacy, privacy, politeness), values and world views, notions of gender, aesthetic taste, humour and forms of symbolism and metaphor. These issues arising from translation practice will be discussed in light of current theories on culture and translation from multiple disciplines.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

CHIN2334. Power of speech in written translation (3 credits)

(This course is also offered to second and third year non-BA students for inter-Faculty broadening purposes.)

This is a crash course designed to teach both Translation and non-Translation students specific communication skills required for social interaction in a cosmopolitan city such as Hong Kong. ‘Good communication behaviour’ exhibited in bilingual texts is studied within the general framework of an Interpersonal Rhetoric model.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

CHIN2336. Interpretation workshop I (6 credits)

(This course is also offered to second and third year non-BA students for inter-Faculty broadening purposes.)

This course aims to introduce to students the different modes of interpreting, i.e. sight translation, consecutive interpreting and simultaneous interpreting, and to familiarise them with the basic skills and techniques essential for interpreting. In addition to note-taking skills, students will also be introduced to a brief history of interpreting, different environments where interpretation service is required and the professional ethics of the interpreter. Training will focus on sight translation and consecutive interpretation between English and Chinese. This course consists of both lectures and workshops.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

CHIN2337. Journalistic translation (3 credits)

(This course is also offered to second and third year non-BA students for inter-Faculty broadening purposes.)

The primary focus of this course is the linguistic features and stylistic conventions of press material. Texts of various types from the mass media will be examined, and their generic characteristics identified. Students will familiarize themselves in this course with the basic techniques of news reporting and the skills needed to render press material from one language into another.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

CHIN2338. Translation of promotional material (3 credits)

(This course is also offered to second and third year non-BA students for inter-Faculty broadening purposes.)

Promotional material usually has a unique appeal that lies in the skilful manipulation of rhetorical devices. In this course their linguistic and stylistic characteristics will be studied, with emphasis on how best to translate the original into Chinese or English. Students will be provided with opportunities to examine the creative use of language and to improve their ability through training and regular practice to deal with different kinds of writing for advertizing products and services.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

CHIN2339. Translation for administration and business (3 credits)

(This course is also offered to second and third year non-BA students for inter-Faculty broadening purposes.)

This course examines the role of translation in Hong Kong's public administration procedures, and how it is used by Hong Kong and Chinese business concerns in conducting international business. Students will practise translating papers related to negotiation, administration and the law arising from such contexts, and explore suitable translation techniques in the process.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

CHIN2340. Film translation workshop (6 credits)

(This course is also offered to second and third year non-BA students for inter-Faculty broadening purposes.)

Film-making today is becoming increasingly international, rendering translation almost indispensable to the industry. Translating films for dubbing and subtitling requires special skills distinct from those outside the field. This course concentrates on such skills, emphasizing audio-visual awareness and cinematic elements such as drama, dialogue, vernacular, and pacing. Critical theories on media and on cultural production and consumption will be introduced. Students learn through group projects, the hands-on translation of feature films, and critiques of film translation.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

CHIN2341. Translating writings on art (6 credits)

(This course is also offered to second and third year non-BA students for inter-Faculty broadening purposes.)

In this course students will have the opportunity to practise translating from Chinese to English and vice-versa within the field of art history, art appreciation and art criticism. Writings on Chinese and western art, such as those published by museums and art galleries, will be used as study texts, and translation skills and strategies will be discussed to enable students to build up bilingual vocabulary and linguistic expressions for describing Chinese and western works of art in specific historical, social, cultural and aesthetic contexts.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

CHIN2342. Interpretation workshop II (6 credits)

(This course is also offered to second and third year non-BA students for inter-Faculty broadening purposes.)

This course is a continuation of Interpretation Workshop I and aims to prepare students for the pursuit of a career in interpreting. Students will be provided with intensive training in interpreting on a variety of topics and taught the skills to improvise in times of a crisis. This course will also provide training in the essential skills and techniques for simultaneous interpreting, including shadowing, rephrasing, memory retention, abstraction and the cultivation of split attention.

Prerequisite: CHIN2336. Interpretation Workshop I

Assessment: 100% coursework.

CHIN2343. Legal interpreting (6 credits)

(This course is also offered to second and third year non-BA students for inter-Faculty broadening purposes.)

This course aims to provide students, who have already acquired the basic skills and techniques required for the different modes of interpreting, with the opportunity to develop advanced interpreting skills in legal interpreting. The introductory lectures will provide students with an overview of the legal system of Hong Kong, trial procedures, and the nature of legal interpreting. This course will also familiarise students with the characteristics of legal English, common terms pertaining to trial proceedings as well as principles and protocol associated with interpreting in the judicial system. Effects of legal bilingualism on legal interpreting will also be discussed. This course consists of lectures, workshops and visits to law courts to observe court interpreters at work.

Prerequisite: CHIN2336. Interpretation Workshop I

Assessment: 100% coursework.

CHIN2344. Translating short stories (6 credits)

(This course is also offered to second and third year non-BA students for inter-Faculty broadening purposes.)

In this course, students will learn to pay close attention to the unique narrative techniques involved in the composition of short stories in both Chinese and English, and be encouraged to explore ways of re-creating such exposition in their translations.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

CHIN2345. Syntax-based translation (6 credits)

(This course is also offered to second and third year non-BA students for inter-Faculty broadening purposes.)

This is an interdisciplinary, Linguistics-Translation crossover course offered to third year students majoring in Translation, Linguistics, and Law. As its course title suggests, it aims to help students acquire two types of skills: (i) to analyze highly complex sentence structures in English and Chinese; (ii) to translate legal documents from English into Chinese, and *vice versa*.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

Comparative Literature

CLIT2050. Globalization and culture (6 credits)

(This course is also offered to second and third year non-BA students for inter-Faculty broadening purposes.)

How do we understand the issue of globalization in Hong Kong and China in relation to other cultures? Are we becoming more alike everywhere or more aware of our cultural differences because of globalization? How do cultures everywhere localize strategies in face of globalizing influences? How can we analyze the problems of globalization from the spread of European cultures in the age of colonialism to the present new world orders in terms of culture and political-economy? This course takes a cultural studies approach to contextualize the history of debates on globalization. Globalization has become the new buzzword of the decade, signifying that something profound is happening. Many contemporary theorists are converging on the position that globalization is a distinguishing trend of the present moment. Moreover, developments in transnational capitalism are producing a new global historical configuration of a new cultural logic of capitalism. In significant modern and postmodern social theories, globalization is thus taken as a salient feature of our times. Yet the conceptions of globalization deployed, the purposes for which the concepts are used, and the evaluations of the processes described by the concepts vary wildly. We will think through these key ideas with reference to local and global phenomena and texts.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

English Studies

ENGL2002. Language in society (6 credits)

This course will provide an introduction to the study of ‘sociolinguistics’, which deals with the relationship between language and society. Topics will vary, but may include the following: multilingualism, language varieties, language planning, language change, English in contact with other languages.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

ENGL2030. World Englishes (6 credits)

This course explores both structural and sociolinguistic aspects of World Englishes, with particular attention to New Englishes, especially postcolonial Englishes of Asia. We will examine how the structural features found in these Englishes are not a consequence of a lack of ability to learn English perfectly, or pronounce it correctly, or express it clearly. Rather, such features are completely appropriate to the multilingual and multicultural ecologies in which the Englishes have evolved, ecologies in which numerous other languages of diverse typologies abound. We will also critically consider issues and debates in World/ New Englishes, involving concepts of ‘mother tongue’, ‘nativeness’ and ownership, issues of ideology, attitudes and identity, and challenges of creative expression, pedagogy and planning.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

ENGL2031. The semantics and pragmatics of English (6 credits)

This course introduces the study of meaning in the English language. We will examine semantic meanings – meanings encoded in the language system itself – and also pragmatic meanings – meanings inferred from the communicative context of language use.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

ENGL2039. Language and gender (6 credits)

This course examines the relationship between cultural attitudes and language, how gender socialization is reflected in the structure and use of language, and the effectiveness of political and social forces in “legislated” linguistic change. Stereotypes and biases about the sexes, standard and vernacular norms will also be examined in the course.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

ENGL2047. English discourse structures and strategies (6 credits)

This course will provide an introduction to the analysis of English discourse from a linguistic perspective. Students will learn rhetorical methodologies and examine their effects on readers and listeners. Units include: spoken and written English discourse, global organization and cohesion, discourse markers, information structure, narrative, and non-verbal structures and strategies.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

ENGL2048. Language and jargon (6 credits)

This course focuses on specialized sub-group languages or jargons, and uses texts from a range of historical period to examine the socio-cultural dynamics behind the creation, maintenance and disappearance of such jargons. Particular attention will be paid to the history of criminal jargon, prison jargon and other speech varieties associated with other marginal or criminalized sub-groups (e.g. drug addicts, “tramps”, etc.), as well as to the history of the study of such jargons and the inclusion of jargon and slang items in mainstream dictionaries. Students will read texts from different periods in the history of English, as well as considering the role of jargons in modern societies such as the United States, Britain and Hong Kong, as well as in “cyber-space”.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

ENGL2054. Race, language and identity (6 credits)

This course looks at different notions of identity and the origins of modern understandings of ethnicity. It focuses on the contribution made by ideas about language to theories of group identity, including nationalism, and the tensions between linguistic, racial, religious and cultural notions of identity.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

ENGL2065. Meaning and metaphor (6 credits)

This course will introduce students to a number of questions about linguistic meaning and examine various definitions of metaphor. Among the questions considered are: What role does metaphor play in human language? In what way (if at all) do languages create or embody particular culturally specific world-views?

Assessment: 100% coursework.

ENGL2087. Persuasion (6 credits)

This is a course about rhetoric, in which students will explore ways in which language can be used to convey, reinforce or change ideas. The objective is to help students to understand, analyse, and develop the arts of discourse in English, and the critical skills on which they depend.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

ENGL2099. Language, identity, and Asian Americans (6 credits)

This interdisciplinary course explores the relationship between language and identity with a special focus on Asian Americans and linguistic issues relevant to Asian Americans. With particular attention to the linguistic practices of Asian Americans, we will examine such questions as: What attitudes are associated with being bilingual? Do Asian Americans speak with an accent? Does accent determine whether Asian Americans are perceived of as ‘white’? Do any Asian Americans speak ‘black’? We will also explore the position of Asian Americans in social, political, and educational discourses in order to understand how an ‘Asian American’ identity can be constructed through language practices. Although the course focuses on Asian American identities and experiences, students will be encouraged to discuss issues of social identity and language in general.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

ENGL2104. Language in the USA (6 credits)

This course addresses the problems (theoretical and practical) inherent in defining a variety of English as ‘American’. Issues treated include the history of American English; dialectology; sociolinguistics; Black English; and the politics of American English.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

ENGL2123. Language and identity in Hong Kong (6 credits)

This course is a continuation of ENGL2002 Language in Society with a special focus on language and identity in Hong Kong. Students who have taken ENGL2002 will have a foundation in sociolinguistics, which certainly will be helpful, but ENGL2002 is not a prerequisite. This course examines identity studies and related language ideology research in sociolinguistics and linguistic anthropology (including some relevant literature from sociology and social psychology). It specifically draws on research based in Hong Kong for comparison understanding, and application of currently available theoretical models.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

ENGL2126. Law, meaning, and interpretation (6 credits)

In this course law is used as a means of focusing discussion on a range of issues in the study of language, meaning and interpretation. No prior knowledge of law is assumed. The course shows how the interpretative issues that arise in law reflect fundamental questions in the way societies, institutions and individuals assign meaning to words, phrases and texts. Theories of language and meaning derived from linguistics and literary theory are applied to problems in legal interpretation, and models of language, meaning and interpretation developed by legal practitioners and legal theorists analyzed. Of particular interest are cases where social controversy, linguistic interpretation and law intersect, such as 'hate speech' issues on American university campuses, arguments over the commercialization of language in trademark law, the control of language on the internet. These cases illustrate the role of law in the politics of language, and the pervasiveness of language politics at all levels of social interaction. Students are introduced to practical and intellectual problems of legal interpretation, and develop their analytical and rhetorical skills through applying general principles and interpretative strategies to difficult or contentious cases.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

ENGL2127. Legal discourse and the mind (6 credits)

This course is a critical enquiry into how the law, as a cultural construct, attempts to reflect a society's values by regulating behaviour, and the challenges embedded in this ideology. It is argued that an improved understanding of the workings of the human mind will inform these issues. The course shows how the processes of human perception, interpretation of meaning, memory reconstruction and decision-making interact with the legal system, and how such interactions sometimes pose challenges to justice.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

ENGL2129. English as a language of science (6 credits)

English is sometimes called "the" language of science. This could be more myth than reality, but there is no question that a great deal of academic communication takes place in English. Well-established notions like "scientific English" or "academic English" suggest that this is a special kind of English which has features that differ from "general" English. This course will provide a context for reflection on the present role of English in a globalized academic world and the history of that role, as well as on the nature of English-language discourse in various academic disciplines. It is not an academic writing course, but an analytical course dealing, on the one hand, with the sociology and history of the language of science, and, on the other, with the textual and linguistic characteristics of the discourse produced in natural-scientific, social-scientific and humanities disciplines.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

ENGL2130. Signs, language and meaning: integrational reflections (6 credits)

This course introduces students to the basic tenets of integrational linguistics and integrationism. Integrational linguistics takes as its point of departure a theory of the sign which emphasizes the temporal, contextual and experiential dimensions of language and communication. Language users are also seen as language makers, in that they constantly create meaning and integrate and adapt their linguistic experience to novel situations. The course aims to provide insight into a wide range of topics, including the nature of memory, experience, consciousness, and other psychological and philosophical questions.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

Courses available for third year students only

ENGL3036. Research seminar in English linguistics (6 credits)

This course is designed for students who wish to pursue advanced work in the study of English language and linguistics. This course is open to third year students only. Students are normally expected to have prior knowledge in the subject area and should consult individual seminar coordinators before registering for the course. There will be no formal lectures. Students will meet regularly with their tutor for guidance but they will also be required to work independently. They will be expected to take the initiative in locating and evaluating primary and secondary sources research materials.

Assessment: 100% coursework (written essay or project).

ENGL3037. Research seminar in language & society (6 credits)

This course is designed for students who wish to pursue advanced work in the study of language and society. This course is open to third year students only. Students are normally expected to have prior knowledge in the subject area and should consult individual seminar co-ordinators before registering for the course. There will be no formal lectures. Students will meet regularly with their tutor for guidance but they will also be required to work independently. They will be expected to take the initiative in locating and evaluating primary and secondary sources research materials.

Assessment: 100% coursework (written essay or project).

Japanese Studies

JAPN2030. Japanese business, culture and communication (6 credits)

(This course is also offered to second and third year non-BA students for inter-Faculty broadening purposes.)

This interdisciplinary content course focuses on intercultural communication involving Japanese professionals. The course will explore how and why members of different groups misunderstand each other in spoken, written and electronically mediated communication. It will consider the ways in which people use language to claim and display complex and often multiple identities. Rather than adopting a one-size-fits-all approach and applying it to both Japanese and Chinese professionals, the course will take a situation-based approach to the examination of professional communication across cultures.

Assessment: 100% coursework (projects, presentations and essays).

JAPN2031. The media and Japan (6 credits)

(This course is also offered to second and third year non-BA students for inter-Faculty broadening purposes.)

This interdisciplinary content course introduces students to the workings of the electronic media in Japan. The course will focus on the following three areas: coverage of the Hong Kong handover; TV documentary features on international affairs; and Japanese TV entertainment programmes available in Hong Kong. It will examine how the Japanese media covered the 1997 handover and will contrast its coverage of the event with that of other international media organisations. Students will watch and analyse feature-length documentaries whose broadcasting subsequently influenced the decisions of high-ranking Japanese Government officials. The course will also look at the distribution and consumption of Japanese cartoons, dramas and entertainment shows amongst the local Hong Kong Chinese population from the 1970s onwards.

Assessment: 100% coursework (projects, presentations and essays).

JAPN2039. Negotiation and conflict resolution: a cross-cultural perspective (6 credits)

(This course is also offered to second and third year non-BA students for inter-Faculty broadening purposes.)

This course introduces students to some powerful frameworks for analyzing and preparing for negotiations and for resolving conflicts. Students will practice applying these frameworks through in-class simulations and role plays. The course will make use of numerous cross-cultural cases and readings (particularly relating to Japan and mainland China) to help students develop an awareness of how the cultural contexts and the cultural backgrounds of negotiators could influence negotiations.

Assessment: 100% course work (class participation, negotiation planning documents, class diary and research paper or book review).

Language and Communication

LCOM2001. Theories of language and communication (6 credits)

The core course following LCOM1001 examines theoretical discussions of language and communication, with special reference to underlying assumptions about language (i.e. their metatheory) and the respective philosophies of language they are based on, their merits and shortcomings, as well as possible points of contact between them. These assumptions will also be critically discussed on the basis of exemplary linguistic studies presented in class. We shall hence consider the various traditions contributing to language and communication theory, among which the semiotic, the phenomenological, and the sociocultural traditions. Particular emphasis will be placed on how sociolinguistic theory has dealt with the phenomena of language and communication.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

LCOM2002. Language in the workplace (6 credits)

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)

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.

LCOM2004. Language, communication and the media (6 credits)

[Non permissible combinations: ENGL2103. Language and new media]

This course introduces students to the study of mass media discourse in today's society. The 'mass media' phenomenon deserves particular attention because, as sociologists and sociolinguists point out, it has a deep impact on our knowledge of and on how we communicate about the world. The course considers cross-cultural issues of mediated discourse and looks how eastern and western ideologies amalgamate to form new local ideological discourses, with particular attention to Hong Kong. The course will take as its foundation the field of (social) semiotics, and will look more closely at how this field's theoretical premises match with our personal experiences as communicating members of society. The course also introduces students to philosophical-semiotic questions about epistemology and ontology.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

LCOM2005. Language, communication and globalization: Politics, peril, pop (6 credits)

This course, centring on the phenomenon of 'globalisation' in relation to language and communication, critically examines some widely held notions, such as the view that globalisation has resulted in the homogenisation of cultures and languages, and in the hegemony of English, and is organised along three main lines. It investigates the *politics* of language and globalisation, in how various nations, particularly those in Asia, struggle with the balance between their indigenous languages and languages of global import and/or wider local significance, e.g. English or Mandarin. It addresses the phenomenon of globalisation bringing communities and languages into contact, the consequences of which are often viewed as situations of *peril*, involving the endangerment of languages, as well as the evolution of new linguistic varieties such as World/New Englishes. It identifies a number of communicative practices in *pop* culture that are ubiquitous in and representative of today's global world, such as SMSes, e-mail and other electronic communication, hiphop, and callcentres, and explores how languages are appropriated by users in managing their own local identity alongside wider global needs.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

LCOM2006. Language and communication field trip (6 credits)

[Course offering will be subject to student enrolment]

The LCOM field trip provides students with a valuable international experience and a perfect opportunity for experiential learning: in this course, students of language and communication witness first-hand, engage in and intellectually reflect on communicative practices in multilingual settings, such as Singapore or Switzerland, where languages of global import are used – in complementary or competing fashion – alongside languages of local significance.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

Courses available for third year students only

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

Taking its cue from the view of communicative practices as constitutive of the culture of everyday life, this course has as a focus the speakers and cultures involved in language and communication. A number of topics usually studied under the heading of linguistic anthropology will be explored, including linguistic relativity, linguistic diversity, and the ethnography of communication. The course addresses not only the theories involved but just as importantly the methods for intellectual investigation, and activities and assignments will involve investigative fieldwork projects on speech communities in Hong Kong, including local Hongkongers as well as other 'minority' groups such as ethnic minorities and domestic workers.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

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

Prerequisites: LCOM1001. Introduction to language and communication and LCOM2001. Theories of language and communication

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.

Linguistics

LING2009. Languages of the world (6 credits)

(This course is also offered to second and third year non-BA students for inter-faculty broadening purposes.)

This survey of the world's languages covers how languages are classified into families and types as well as issues of linguistic diversity and endangered languages. The course involves regular practical work. The course satisfies the prerequisite for the advanced course, Language typology, and also provides useful background for all courses in linguistics.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

LING2040. Languages in contact (6 credits)

(This course is also offered to second and third year non-BA students for inter-faculty broadening purposes.)

No language exists in isolation and all show some effect of contact with other languages. The course will introduce basic concepts in language contact such as code-mixing, lexical borrowing, language shift and language creation. We focus on contact languages – including pidgins and creoles – and the challenges and opportunities they present to linguistics. The course is especially relevant to students interested in East-West contacts and the pre- and colonial linguistic ecologies of Monsoon Asia such as Sri Lanka, the Malay/Indonesian archipelago and the Pearl River Delta.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

LING2041. Language and information technology (6 credits)

(This course is also offered to second and third year non-BA students for inter-faculty broadening purposes.)

This course continues with major themes from LING1002. 'Language.com: Language in the contemporary world' and aims to create a greater awareness of the growing importance of language information processing methods. The objective of the course is to explore the interface between language, linguistics, and information technology.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

LING2056. Sociolinguistics (6 credits)

(This course is also offered to second and third year non-BA students for inter-faculty broadening purposes.)

The course introduces students to the study of the relationship between language and society. During the course we cover the following topics: (i) fundamentals of language variation and change, (ii) multilingualism and language contact (iii) language maintenance, shift and death, (iv) language planning, policy and education, and (v) linguistic landscapes. The course has both theoretical and empirical content; in terms of the former, we focus in particular on evolutionary theories of language and usage-based approaches; as for the latter, we focus on the study of Asian contexts, in particular China, South and Southeast Asia through ethnographic methods. The course includes an active fieldwork component on sociolinguistic issues in Hong Kong. A good understanding of sociolinguistics is seriously recommended for linguistics majors and is an important asset for anyone who seeks to competently engage in the field of language usage in society.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

Philosophy

PHIL2075. The semantics/pragmatics distinction (6 credits)

(This course is also offered to second and third year non-BA students for inter-Faculty broadening purposes.)

One of the central issues in contemporary philosophy of language and linguistics concerns whether and where one should draw the line between semantic meaning and pragmatic meaning, or the meanings had by the words and sentences a speaker uses, and what a speaker means in using those words and sentences. One reason the issue is central is that there are debates over the semantic meanings of certain expressions, e.g. names and definite descriptions. Without a general account of the difference between semantic and pragmatic meaning, these debates cannot be settled. Another reason the issue is central is that there are some who, in a roughly Wittgensteinian manner, deny that there is any real sense to be made of the notion of semantic, or literal, meaning. According to them, there is, therefore, no line between pragmatic and semantic meaning at all. In this course we will try to determine whether the distinction can be drawn, and, if so, where.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

PHIL2230. Philosophy and cognitive science (6 credits)

(This course is also offered to second and third year non-BA students for inter-Faculty broadening purposes.)

We shall look at some of the philosophical issues involved in studying minds and behaviour scientifically. We might discuss questions such as: Can we explain all mental phenomena in computational terms? What is consciousness? What is the role of language in thinking? How useful are neural networks in understanding the mind?

Assessment: 100% coursework.

There is no prerequisite for this course.

PHIL2410. Mind and language in Chinese thought (6 credits)

(This course is also offered to second and third year non-BA students for inter-Faculty broadening purposes.)

The philosophy of mind and language plays a crucial role in the philosophical dialectic of classical China. This course will guide students in reconstructing this dialectic and exploring its philosophical significance by interpreting and critically evaluating selected early Chinese philosophical texts that treat mind, language, and interrelated aspects of psychology. Issues to be discussed include the nature and functions of the heart-mind (*xīn*), its relation to other organs, the nature of perception and knowledge, semantic theories, and the role of language in knowledge and action. Texts may include the *Analects*, *Mozi*, *Mencius*, *Daodejing*, *Xunzi*, *Zhuangzi*, and *Lushi Chunqiu*. Students will be encouraged to read the original sources in Chinese, but translations will be made available for those without reading knowledge of classical Chinese.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

There is no prerequisite for this course, but one Philosophy course is highly recommended.

SCHOOL OF HUMANITIES

AFRICAN STUDIES

The African Studies Programme at the University of Hong Kong offers a Bachelor of Arts Minor in African Studies, through which students can explore Africa as a study area from interdisciplinary perspectives.

To obtain a Minor in African Studies students are required to take AFRI1001 “Foundations in African Studies”, and 30 credits from second- and third-year courses. The courses FINE2057 and LING2052 are also counted towards the 30 second/third-year credits required in the minor. Please refer to the Fine Arts and Linguistics syllabi for details.

Courses within the African Studies Programme are open to all BA students and also to students in other faculties.

First Year Course

AFRI1001. Foundations in African studies (6 credits)

(This course is also offered to all years of non-BA students for inter-faculty broadening purposes.)

This course will present a basic outline of Africa’s geographic location, its political map, history, languages, peoples, cultures, musics, literatures, etc. It will deal with contemporary issues affecting Africa such as the demands of nation-building, economic challenges, social and political conflict, health issues, sports, etc, and end with a survey of Africa and its relations to the outside world.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

Second- and Third-year Courses

AFRI2001. Educational field trip to an African country (6 credits)

(This course is also offered to second and third year non-BA students for inter-faculty broadening purposes.)

In this course, students will be led by an experienced faculty member on a supervised two-week educational field trip to an African country, such as Ghana, Kenya, South Africa, Cameroon, and Mauritius. The rationale is to closely observe and study an aspect of Africa introduced in one of the courses on Africa Studies or in a related course. Leading up to the field trip, students must participate in three-weeks of intensive preparation in Hong Kong. After returning to Hong Kong, students will be