

**LANG 7260 Dissertation (6,0,0)**

Dissertation option is subject to the final approval of the programme, depending on the student's academic results and the merits of his/her research proposal. The dissertation will be the standard type and the length of it will normally be set at about 15,000 words in English, or 20,000 characters in Chinese. Proposals of dissertation topics will be submitted to and approved by the Programme Management Committee which also sets up a schedule for the completion of the MA dissertation. During the writing of their dissertations, students will be required to meet with their supervisors for one contact hour per week.

**LANG 7390 Special Topic in Language Studies (3,3,0)**

Recent years have witnessed increasing momentum in the development of all fields in the study of language. This course intends to provide an open forum for the exchange of ideas which are relevant to the concerns of the MA in Language Studies programme. It is reserved as a slot for new and welcome input which may not have been considered in the current syllabuses of the programme and which, therefore, may go beyond the scope of materials already offered. Method of assessment and textbook/required reading are to be determined by the instructor, in consultation with the Programme Director.

**LANG 7401-2 Introduction to Study of Language I & II (3,3,0)**

This two-semester course introduces students to five core components in linguistics: morphology, syntax, phonetics, phonology, and semantics. It will provide students with a solid grounding in fundamental concepts and methodologies of these five linguistic areas, which will enable them to tackle linguistic problems systematically and help them understand that despite superficial diversity, human languages share fundamental similarities in terms of the universal principles that govern their possible structures. This aim will be approached and achieved through exploring language data. Methods of formal analysis will be applied to data drawn from a variety of languages, with a focus on the analysis and comparison of English and Chinese. Systematic properties generalized from the analysis will be discussed in relation to their application to language teaching and other fields.

**LANG 7510 Language in Society (3,3,0)**

This course aims to introduce learners to the way language is used in social interactions. It is also about defining a very broad field which includes recognizing how individuals use different language(s) in different situations, how language use varies in different towns or regions, how governments make decisions about what language is to be used in what particular situation and how language changes over time. We will look at what causes change in language. In particular, the course enables learners to identify and analyse questions of language use in Hong Kong in an up-to-date sociolinguistic framework. Learners will look to their own work contexts and living environments as starting points for their research.

**LANG 7530 Language Curriculum (3,3,0)**

The major aims of this course are to help students understand the principles and practices in methods, course design and assessment in language teaching; to examine and critically analyse these principles and practices at different levels of language education with special reference to the curriculum and context of Hong Kong; and to enable students to develop suitable methods, syllabuses, materials and assessment techniques for the contexts that are of immediate concern to them.

**LANG 7540 Language for Specific Purposes (3,3,0)**

This course aims to introduce students to the characteristics and variations of language use in professional settings. Students will enhance their intercultural awareness of professional language use in Hong Kong. They will be introduced to the principles, considerations and practice which underpin the teaching of Language for Specific Purposes (LSP) with reference to the Hong

Kong situation. Attention will also be paid to the use of computer concordancers in language analysis and material development.

**LANG 7550 English as a World Language (3,3,0)**

This course aims to help students to acquire a new perspective on English in its totality, not as the language of a few traditional English-speaking countries but as a *de facto* "world language" with several "old" and "new" varieties which exhibit their own linguistic features and functions, and to analyse the linguistic as well as social, political, cultural and educational issues arising from the emergence of English as a world language.

**LANG 7570 Language and Education (3,3,0)**

This course aims to examine the varied relationships between language and education. It helps to explore the role that education plays in learning language, particularly in learning a second language. It develops an understanding of the characteristics of language learning in natural and educational settings and discusses issues relating to education in language classrooms.

**LANG 7580 Language Development (3,3,0)**

This course aims to deal with both first and second language acquisition, with the emphasis being on the latter. Theories of first and second language acquisition are introduced with the aim of providing students with the tools to evaluate theories in light of research and their own experience. Specific problems and important patterns of first and second language acquisition processes are compared and discussed against the background of the introduced theories. Students will have practice analysing real language data. Emphasis will also be placed on the impact of individual differences in second language acquisition.

**LANG 7590 Advanced Topics in Discourse Studies (3,3,0)**

This course aims to introduce students to an in-depth study of a particular theoretical framework or issue in the area of discourse studies. The selected topic may vary from time to time, with a focus either on a theory/framework (for example, intercultural/cross-linguistic/interlanguage pragmatics, conversation analysis, gender and discourse) or on an issue (for example, business discourse, classroom discourse, mediated discourse). Regardless of the approach or issue selected, students will be encouraged to compare and criticize the alternative approaches to the study of discourse, to collect and analyse authentic discourse data against different frameworks, and to apply the theory/framework to facilitate effective interpersonal or intercultural communication whenever possible.

**LANG 7600 Comparative Studies of English and Chinese Grammar (3,3,0)**

In this course, students will be introduced to the descriptive differences between Chinese and English from a typological perspective. By using a contrastive approach, the course aims to heighten students' sensitivity to the specific grammatical properties of these two languages.

**LANG 7610 Discourse Analysis (3,3,0)**

This course aims to deal with language above sentence (text) and beyond sentence (meaning in context) as a social and interactive process. A range of techniques and approaches to the study of discourse will be introduced, including the essential concepts of pragmatics, genre analysis, text cohesion and generic structure, and functional analysis of clauses. The course will also examine applications of discourse analysis in cross-cultural (mainly Chinese and English) settings and in educational settings (i.e. teacher-student interaction in the classroom).

**LANG 7630 Pragmatics in Language Learning and Teaching (3,3,0)**

The aims of the course are to enable students to study and analyse how language users find socially appropriate language for the contexts they encounter and what the rules of language use are; to raise their pragmatic awareness; and to explore ways to learn and teach pragmatic competence in English language classrooms, with particular reference to the Hong Kong context.