B.A. (Honours) in Contemporary English Studies

Course Title   : Discourse Analysis
Course Code   : ENG3203
Recommended Study Year : 3rd Year
No. of Credits/Term   : 3
Mode of Tuition   : Lecture-tutorial mode
Class Contact Hours   : 2-hour lecture per week
                              1-hour tutorial per week
Category   : Required Course
Prerequisite(s)   : Nil
Co-requisite(s)   : Nil
Exclusion(s)   : Nil
Exemption Requirement(s): Nil

Brief Course Description

This course provides an introduction to the field of discourse analysis to demonstrate the range of tools and approaches to the study of various kinds of texts. In this course, we will explore different approaches to the study of discourse, developing tools for analyzing different kinds of texts and understanding the relationship between discourse contexts, functions, and meanings. Emphasis will be placed on data analysis in the course, which will give students the opportunity to apply concepts from the lectures to workshop discussions and assignments. Some units to be covered in the course include: cohesion and coherence, genres, narrative structure, pragmatics, conversation analysis, and multimodal discourse analysis.

Aims

This course aims to give an introduction to spoken and written discourse, showing how language operates in various contexts. Taking examples from conversation and other genres such as narratives, news and advertising, the course shows how discourse is structured, how it constructs relationships between speakers/writers and hearers/readers, and how it is used to represent and reproduce social realities. It investigates the lexical, grammatical and pragmatic means by which this is achieved, and encourages a critical perspective on discourse texts.

Learning Outcomes

By the end of this course, students will be able to:
1. Describe and compare different approaches to the study of discourse (LO1);
2. Identify structures, functions, and meanings within a variety of text genres (LO2);
3. Work collaboratively with peers to analyze texts and present their findings in both spoken and written forms (LO3);
4. Apply principles of discourse analysis to their own analyses of English texts (LO4).

Indicative Contents

- Discourse and Social Context
- Positioning and Point of View
- Intertextual Analysis
- Figurative Language
- The Construction of Identity
- Politeness, Power and Solidarity
- The Discourse of Prejudice

Teaching Method

The course will consist of a lecture in which the key concepts and skills are introduced (LO1, LO2) and a one-hour tutorial in which the students will apply the concepts and skills to analyze texts, including texts of their own choosing (LO2, LO3, LO4).

Measurement of Learning Outcomes

Short paper: Students will be asked to complete a written analysis based on the topic of their choosing and identify linguistic features as specified on the guidelines. This assessment will measure the extent to which students understand and can apply concepts for the purpose of the analysis and critique of texts. (LO1, LO2)

Presentation 1: Students will be asked to examine a particular topic and present their findings. This assessment will measure the extent to which students can demonstrate their knowledge and analytical abilities. (LO1, LO2)

Presentation 2: Students will be asked to examine a particular topic and present their findings. This assessment will measure the extent to which students can demonstrate their knowledge and analytical abilities. (LO3, LO4)

Final term paper: Students will be asked to establish a research topic. They will analyse the relevant discourses using the concepts and approaches learnt. This assessment will measure the extent to which students understand concepts and can critically engage with texts by demonstrating knowledge of their structure, functions, and meanings. (LO3, LO4).

Assessment

Continuous assessment: 100%
- Attendance (10%)
- Short paper (20%)
- Presentations (20% + 20%)
- Final term paper (30%)

Recommended/Supplementary Readings

The handouts will supply most of the materials that students need. If they wish to consult further texts (e.g., for their own interest or for their presentation), the following resources may help.

Baker, P., Gabrielatos, C., Khosravinik, M., Krzyżanowski, M., McEnery, T., & Wodak, R. (2008). A useful methodological synergy? Combining critical discourse analysis and corpus linguistics to examine discourses of refugees and asylum seekers in the UK press. *Discourse & society, 19*(3), 273-306.

Coulthard, M. (1997). *Introduction to Discourse Analysis,* London: Longman.

Charteris-Black, J. (2005). *Politicians and Rhetoric: The Persuasive Power of Metaphor*, London: Macmillian.

De Fina, A. E., Schiffrin, D. E., & Bamberg, M. E. (2006). *Discourse and identity*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Fairclough, N. (1995). *Critical Discourse Analysis: A Critical Study of Language,* London: Longman, 1995.

Fairclough, N. (2003). *Analysing Discourse: Textual Analysis for Social Research,* London: Routledge.

Koller, V., Kopf, S., & Miglbauer, M. (Eds.) (2019). *Discourses of Brexit*. London: Routledge.

Musolff, A., Breeze, R., Vilar-Lluch, S. & Kondo, K. (Eds.) (2022), *Pandemic and Crisis Discourse: Communicating COVID-19 and Public Health Strategy*. London: Bloomsbury.

Van Dijk, T. (1993). Principles of Critical Discourse Analysis. *Discourse & Society*, 4(2), 249-283.

Wodak, R and Meyer, M (eds) (2002). *Methods of Critical Discourse Analysis*. London: Sage.

Important Notes:
(1) Students are expected to spend a total of 9 hours (i.e. 3 hours of class contact and 6 hours of personal study) per week to achieve the course learning outcomes.
(2) Students shall be aware of the University regulations about dishonest practice in course work, tests and examinations, and the possible consequences as stipulated in the Regulations Governing University Examinations. In particular, plagiarism, being a kind of dishonest practice, is "the presentation of another person's work without proper acknowledgement of the source, including exact phrases, or summarised ideas, or even footnotes/citations, whether protected by copyright or not, as the student's own work". Students are required to strictly follow university regulations governing academic integrity and honesty.
(3) Students are required to submit writing assignment(s) using Turnitin.
(4) To enhance students' understanding of plagiarism, a mini-course "Online Tutorial on Plagiarism Awareness" is available on https://pla.ln.edu.hk/.