**B.A. (Honours) in Contemporary English Studies**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Introduction to Language</th>
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<tr>
<td>Course Code</td>
<td>ENG2101 / ENG101</td>
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<tr>
<td>Recommended Study Year</td>
<td>2&lt;sup&gt;nd&lt;/sup&gt; Year for 4-year System</td>
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<td></td>
<td>1&lt;sup&gt;st&lt;/sup&gt; Year for 3-year System</td>
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<tr>
<td>No. of Credits/Term</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mode of Tuition</td>
<td>Lecture and Tutorial</td>
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<tr>
<td>Class Contact Hours</td>
<td>2 hours Lecture/week</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1 hour Tutorial/week</td>
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<tr>
<td>Category in Major Programme</td>
<td>Required Course</td>
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<tr>
<td>Prerequisite(s)</td>
<td>N/A</td>
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<td>Co-requisite(s)</td>
<td>N/A</td>
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<tr>
<td>Exclusion(s)</td>
<td>N/A</td>
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<td>Exemption Requirement(s)</td>
<td>N/A</td>
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**Brief Course Description**

This course introduces students to the study of language. It covers such basic questions as the nature of human language, the importance of language in society, the major perspectives for studying language, the acquisition and use of language, as well as language variation and language change. Students are not only given an exposure to the basic concepts and theories, they are encouraged to examine various kinds of language data as well as use their own experience and knowledge as learners and users of language in Hong Kong to deepen their understanding of language.

**Aims**

1. To raise consciousness about the importance of language in human society;
2. To encourage an open mind and inquisitive attitude towards language;
3. To get acquainted with a variety of perspectives in looking at language;
4. To foster appreciation of the richness and complexity of language and language use;
5. To encourage reflection on language use and language learning situations;
6. To introduce basic concepts in linguistics as a preparation for later courses.

**Learning Outcomes**

1. On completing the course, students are expected to
2. Have a heightened awareness of the functions and significance of language in society.
3. Appreciate the semiotic nature of human language
4. Develop a basic knowledge about the nature of language change and language variation from historical and geographical perspectives
5. Be acquainted with the study of language at the level of lexis, grammar, and discourse.
6. Have a basic understanding of language acquisition as part of human development
Indicative Content

1. Language and non-language; criteria for distinguishing; language and communication; functions of language;
2. Writing and speech; origins of language; history of writing; technological developments;
3. Levels of language: grammar (syntax and morphology), lexis, semantics, pragmatics, discourse, phonetics and phonology;
4. Language variety and change: historical, geographical, social; language families; language and dialect;
5. Language and the mind; competence and performance; learning and acquiring languages.

Learning Activities

Tutorials
Students will be quizzed on the topics learnt and will also be asked to conduct more extensive discussions in smaller groups during tutorials in order to raise pertinent questions and identify important issues as well as attempt to provide answers about the topics they are trying to learn. They will be given assignments in preparation of the tutorial discussions before they come to class. They may be asked to submit a group or individual write-up on the tutorial discussions as is appropriate.

Term Paper
Students will be asked to write a term paper based on either desk or field research or both. They can form teams of not more than 3 students in carrying out the research if warranted by the topic, but the term paper for submission should be an individual effort. Students should submit a paper proposal outlining the topic area, the research questions and an outline of content for formal approval.

Teaching Method

Teaching is conducted through lectures and workshops where students are exposed to different kinds of language data for discovering the various aspects of language, how language is used and develops.

Measurement of Learning Outcomes

The progress of learning will be measured through class discussions, exercises, presentations, a mid-term test, a term paper, and a final examination.

Assessment

Continuous Assessment (40%)
Quizzes & Tutorial Assignments (10%) (Learning Outcomes 1-5)
Oral Presentation (10%) on a topic of your choice (Any one of Learning Outcomes 1-5)
Term Paper (20%), which is a write-up of the oral presentation (Any one of Learning Outcomes 1-5)
Mid-term Test (10%) (Learning Outcomes 1-3)

Final Examination (50%)
(Learning Outcomes 1-5)

**Required Readings**


**Supplementary Readings**