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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Course Title</strong></th>
<th>Foundations of Sociolinguistics</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Course Code</strong></td>
<td>ENG3202</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Recommended Study Year</strong></td>
<td>3rd Year</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>No. of Credits/Term</strong></td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Mode of Tuition</strong></td>
<td>Lecture-tutorial mode</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Class Contact Hours</strong></td>
<td>2-hour lecture per week, 1-hour tutorial per week</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Category</strong></td>
<td>Required Course</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Prerequisite(s)</strong></td>
<td>Nil</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Co-requisite(s)</strong></td>
<td>Nil</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Exclusion(s)</strong></td>
<td>Nil</td>
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<td><strong>Exemption Requirement(s)</strong></td>
<td>Nil</td>
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### Brief Course Description

The course is aimed at giving students a basic understanding of how language is used in society from both a macro and micro perspective. It encompasses traditional sociolinguistic themes as well as those from social psychology, ethnography of communication, semiotics, pragmatics, and critical linguistics. It is believed that a varied approach can give students a more comprehensive understanding of how language is essentially both a process and product of society. Because of its social orientation, the subject also acts as a link between the more formal aspects of linguistics and the other applied areas of language studies. Apart from giving students a firm grounding in relevant theories, it also exposes them to issues arising from the use of language in contemporary society, using Hong Kong as an example.

### Aims

Students will be able to understand the relationship between language and society, to apply sociolinguistic concepts in analyzing sociolinguistic situations, and to analyze patterns of language use in society, especially in this age of computer-mediated communication.

### Learning Outcomes

1. To understand how language is used for communication in the social context;
2. To acquire theoretical frameworks for the analysis of language as a social artifact;
3. To identify and evaluate the patterns of language use in society, especially in Hong Kong;
4. To develop a critical understanding of the way language is used in society, including some of the issues relating to bilingualism, language education and language policy.
Indicative Contents

1. Approaches to sociolinguistics
2. Code choice, code-switching and code-mixing
3. Diglossia, bilingualism and trilingualism
4. Language attitudes
5. Language and identity
6. Language change and variation
7. Language and computer-mediated communication
8. Language and politeness
9. Language and gender
10. Language education and language policy

Teaching Method

The course is delivered mainly through lectures and tutorials. Students will be asked to prepare critical reading either individually or in small groups. They will be expected to take an active part in class discussions. They will also be required to carry out small-scale research projects to gain experience of sociolinguistic approaches to language study.

Measurement of Learning Outcomes

1. Students will observe, record and analyze their own language behaviour in a written assignment so that they will develop an understanding of how language is used for communication in specific social contexts. They will also apply sociolinguistic concepts in their analysis. (LO: 1, 2, 4);
2. Students will analyze linguistic data collected from primary sources in another written assignment. They will examine the patterns of language use in the bilingual community of Hong Kong, especially in computer-mediated communication. They will apply sociolinguistic concepts in their analysis. (LO: 1, 2, 4);
3. Students will be assigned a number of readings for tutorials. They will analyze sociolinguistic propositions and examine issues related to bilingualism, language education and language planning in class discussions. They will present their critical views in an oral presentation. (LO: 1, 2, 3, 4);
4. Students will demonstrate their understanding of sociolinguistic concepts, critical responses to propositions and analytical skills in the final examination. (LO: 1, 2, 3, 4).

Assessment

Continuous Assessment: 60% (two written assignments 20% each/40% and oral presentation 20%)
Final Examination: 40%
Required Readings


Recommended Readings


**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/](https://pla.ln.edu.hk/).