

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS 科目簡介

COURSES FOR TAUGHT POSTGRADUATE PROGRAMMES

DES501 Digital English Linguistics: Innovation and Development (3 credits)

This course will introduce students to the emergent interdisciplinary field of digital linguistics, with a focus on English language. Digital linguistics, at the intersection of traditional linguistics, information technology, and social sciences, offers cutting-edge methods to investigate digitised linguistic data. Students will be taught a variety of quantitative and qualitative research tools drawn from digital communication, multimodal studies, sociolinguistics, and social semiotics. They will be encouraged to think critically about the impact of digital technologies on human communication and social organisation, as well as the challenges they pose to linguistic research.

DES502 New Media, Discourse, and Society (3 credits)

The course will provide theories and methods for students to unravel and critically analyse the relationship between digital media, discourse and the society at large in this information age. It will introduce approaches from Critical Discourse Studies and digital literacies research for students to systematically and rigorously analyse how communicative practices on and through new media (e.g., interactive websites, social media) are interconnected with power networks and ideologies in the wider society. The teacher and the students will interactively discuss a wide range of topics around media discourse including identity work on social media, ideologies of online news, digital activism, online aggression and neoliberalism in digital communication.

DES503 Research Methods in Applied Linguistics (3 credits)

The course will introduce students to the common quantitative and qualitative research methods in applied linguistics. The quantitative section of the course will explain the use of surveys, questionnaires, experiments and basic statistics in applied linguistics research. The qualitative section will introduce action research design, interviews, observations and critical inquiry in applied language studies. Students will be trained through a variety of activities including lectures, in-class discussions and exercises, online learning activities and multiple assignments.

DES504 Corpus Linguistics: Fundamentals and Practice (3 credits)

This course provides a comprehensive understanding of corpus linguistics, a research approach that involves the systematic analysis of large collections of textual data (corpora). The course covers the fundamental concepts and techniques of corpus linguistics, including corpus creation, annotation, and analysis. Students gain practical skills in using specialized software tools for corpus-based research, such as concordancers and statistical analysis programmes. They learn how to extract linguistic patterns, study language variation, and explore discourse phenomena using corpus data. The course also explores applications of corpus linguistics in various fields, including language teaching, lexicography, and sociolinguistics. Through a combination of theoretical knowledge and hands-on practice, students develop the necessary skills to conduct independent corpus-based research projects.

DES601 Introduction to Digital Research Tools and Resources (3 credits)

At the time when computationally assisted research constitutes the norm, it is vital for MA students to become familiar with appropriate digital tools and research methods early on in their careers. In this course, students will acquire hands-on experience with properly using various types of digital platforms (databases, repositories, archives), they will learn how to

distinguish and engage on-line research sources, and how to integrate AI tools in the research process. As a whole, the course will introduce students to the evolving ecosystem of computational tools, digital resources, and AI-based research platforms.

DES602 Advances in Digital English Linguistics (3 credits)

Over the last two decades, digital media has exerted huge impacts on our daily lives and has even transformed our modes of communication. Combining linguistic, semiotics, and sociological perspectives, this course will focus on the interplay of the English language, technology, and social context. Students will be introduced to the features of the digital English language and its historical evolvement and will be trained to extract data from webpages using various web scraping tools. They will learn how to use a myriad of linguistic toolkits to analyse discursive representation, identity construction, interpersonal interactions, and social movements in cyberspace. Throughout the course, students will engage in hands-on exercises, collaborative projects, and critical discussion on various issues, such as ethical issues during data collection. By the end of this course, students will be equipped with the analytical skills to navigate their own research in digital English linguistics and beyond.

DES603 Data Visualisation for English Communication (3 credits)

Representing data visually is an essential skill not only in business but also in research. The course will introduce students to data visualisation tools in the digital humanities. Specifically, students will learn multiple tools (e.g., Tableau and Gephi) to present and share humanities data in a clear, well-organised, and elegant manner. During the course, students will cooperate with their teammates to experiment with the tools acquired and choose the appropriate methods to visualise their findings. Students will also be encouraged to discuss critically some of the challenges and controversies in digital humanities.

DES604 Digital Literary Stylistics and the Practice of Creativity (3 credits)

This course integrates digital tools with traditional stylistics to bridge the gap between textual analysis and creative practice. It takes a linguistic approach to literary “greats,” from Shakespeare to Kazuo Ishiguro, and introduces students to key concepts in both stylistics and the digital humanities. By the end of the course, students will have acquired practical knowledge of a variety of widely used digital tools for textual analysis and data presentation, as well as hands-on experience in different types of creative writing. Through theoretical discussion, practical application, and writing workshops, students will learn to identify the linguistic patterns that characterise “good” writing and to apply these insights in their own work.

DES605 Computer-Assisted English Language Learning (3 credits)

This course offers a comprehensive exploration of the role of technology in language learning and teaching. The course focuses on the integration of computer-assisted tools and resources to enhance English language instruction. Students will acquire a deep understanding of various computer-assisted language learning (CALL) approaches, methodologies, and theories. They will examine the design and development of CALL materials, including multimedia applications, interactive exercises, and online platforms. The course covers topics such as adaptive learning, gamification, and virtual reality in language education. Students also explore the evaluation and assessment of CALL tools and their impact on language learning outcomes. Through practical assignments and projects, students gain hands-on experience with different CALL technologies, enabling them to design and implement effective computer-assisted English language learning interventions.

DES606 Technologies of Writing: Multimodality and Meaning (3 credits)

Considering the proliferation of written texts mediated with digital technologies in contemporary society, this timely course invites students to reconsider writing: what is it? how does it differ from speech? Drawing on latest scholarship in history of writing, sociolinguistics, social semiotics and digital discourse, this course will guide students through a variety of topics, debates, and case studies regarding writing from a historical, comparative, and critical perspective. Students will be guided to examine various forms and types of materialised and mediated writing, such as calligraphy, conceptual art, shop signage, emoji-filled online posts (and books), and bullet comments, and reflect on the material, medial and semiotic differences (and interactions) between 'traditional' and digital forms of writing. Students will gain an enhanced ability to appreciate the historical and aesthetic dimensions of the multiple forms of writing that they encounter in everyday life, as well as hands-on training in analysing multimodal features of written texts.

DES607 Digital Perspectives on Spoken English (3 credits)

This course examines the use of various forms of technology in relation to the description and analysis of spoken English. Students will learn to analyse speech samples, using software to generate waveforms and pitch tracks. The course will apply concepts and analytical techniques to topics such as the teaching and learning of English pronunciation and English accent variation. Students will also familiarise themselves with, and take a critical perspective on, a range of online resources.

DES608 Research Practicum (3 credits)

The goal of this course is to help students prepare for independent research by taking part in faculty research projects. Under the close supervision of a faculty member, students will be asked to perform various research tasks, including literature reviews, data collection, quantitative and qualitative data analysis, and they will be asked to summarise research findings in both written and oral forms. Throughout the course, students will be meeting with faculty and will be receiving detailed feedback on their work. Students engaged in this course will therefore attain extensive hands-on experience with various aspects of the research process and gain the necessary skills to perform their own research.

DES609 Special Topics in Digital Linguistics (3 credits)

The subject matter of this course will vary from year to year, according to student demand and the availability and expertise of instructors. Special topics courses count as programme electives and give both students and instructors the opportunity to work on areas not regularly covered in the MA curriculum. Examples may include studies of metaphor usage in media discourse or of health communication.

DES610 Capstone Project: Solving Real-world Issues (6 credits)

The Capstone Project allows students to synthesise and build on the advanced knowledge and skills students have gained throughout the MA programme. Students will work with a faculty member of the English Department to design and complete their own digital communications project. This may take various forms, such as a scholarly thesis, a digital media (audio and/or visual) project, or a professional, industry-related project that caters specifically to their career goal. In addition to applying the linguistics and communication theories and methods they have learned in other units, students will also gain experience in data collection, literature review, and project planning