

**Division of Humanities
Tentative Course Syllabus**

Course Code: HUMA 3030
Course Title: Language, Communication and Culture
Course Offered in: Spring 2019
Course Instructor: Dr. Hideki Nishimura

Course Description: This course explores human language in relation to the communicative functions which it serves and the cultural context in which it is used. Issues such as how human language is distinct from other communication systems, how language is used to convey different meanings and how culture affects the use of language will be examined in order to highlight the uniqueness of human language.

Intended Learning Outcomes (ILOs):

1	Describe the differences between language and other forms of communication systems
2	Articulate the central role played by culture in the process of communication
3	Apply what is learnt to analyze the central role played by culture in the process of communication

Weekly Topics:

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1. Basic concepts: language, society, dialect, accent, idiolect, mutual intelligibility, linguistic variety, sociolinguistic variation, social-class dialects, formal and informal speech, standard and non-standard languages
2. Different types of communication systems (including the non-verbal ones such as bee dance, primate communication – any communication systems that do not make use of words)
3. Different functions of language: informative, expressive, directive, performative, phatic, etc)
4. Speech Acts Theory: interaction between the speakers and the hearers. It includes locutionary acts (performance of an utterance), illocutionary acts (intended meanings of an utterance) and perlocutionary acts (effects of an utterance)
5. Cooperative principles: maxims which are expected to be observed by the speakers, including the maxims of quality, quantity, manner and relation.
6. Politeness principles: principles which are expected to be observed by the speakers, including, the maxims of tact, generosity, approbation, modesty, agreement and sympathy.
7. Linguistic variations: gender differentiation in language
8. Linguistic variations: linguistic variables, social variables, language variation and change
9. Language contact: bilingualism and multilingualism
10. Language contact: diglossia, code-switching, code-mixing
11. Language contact: linguistic borrowing

Assessments:

Class participation:	10%
Assignments:	40%
Mid-term/final exams:	50%

Readings:

Huang, Yan. 2007. *Pragmatics*. Hong Kong: Oxford University Press.

Clyne, Michael G. 1994. *Inter-Cultural Communication at Work: Cultural Values in Discourse*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press

Grice, Paul. 1989. *Studies in the Way of Words*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press