

**Division of Humanities  
Final Course Syllabus**

**Course Code:** HUMA 3030  
**Course Title:** Language, Communication and Culture  
**Course Offered in:** Spring 2020  
**Course Instructor:** Dr. Dechao Li

**Course Description:** This course introduces basic concepts in linguistics such as phonetics, phonology, morphology, syntax and semantics... concepts that help students to have a basic knowledge to describe and analyze the structure of a language. Moreover, it also 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 or social factor affects the use of language will be examined in order to highlight the uniqueness of human language.

**Intended Learning Outcomes (ILOs):**

<b>1</b>	<b>Provide a general picture of the forms of language and a basic knowledge of IPA usage. Describe the differences between language and other forms of communication systems</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>Analyze the correspondence between form and meaning/function. Articulate the role played by culture in the process of communication</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>Apply what is learnt to analyze the role played by culture in the process of communication. Improve the competence in interpersonal and group communication.</b>

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**Topics:**

1. Basic concepts of language: phonetics, phonology, morphology, syntax and semantics.
2. pragmatics, cooperative principles: maxims which are expected to be observed by the speakers, including the maxims of quality, quantity, manner and relation; politeness principles: principles which are expected to be observed by the speakers, including, the maxims of tact, generosity, approbation, modesty, agreement and sympathy.
3. social linguistics, sociolinguistic variation, social-class dialects, standard and non-standard languages.
4. Speech acts theory: interaction between the speakers and the hearers.
5. Linguistic variations: gender differentiation in language, linguistic variables, social variables, language variation and change
6. Language contact: bilingualism and multilingualism and linguistic borrowing.

**Assessments:**

Class participation:	5%
Quiz(2):	25%
Assignments(2):	25%
final exam:	45%

**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