

**City University of Hong Kong
Course Syllabus**

**offered by Department of English
with effect from Semester A 2019/2020**

Part I Course Overview

Course Title: English in Society

Course Code: EN3595

Course Duration: 1 Semester

Credit Units: 3

Level: B3

Arts and Humanities

Proposed Area: Study of Societies, Social and Business Organisations

(for GE courses only)

Science and Technology

Medium of Instruction: English

Medium of Assessment: English

Prerequisites: Nil
(Course Code and Title)

Precursors: Nil
(Course Code and Title)

Equivalent Courses: EN2719 English in Society
(Course Code and Title)

Exclusive Courses: Nil
(Course Code and Title)

Part II Course Details

1. Abstract

(A 150-word description about the course)

This course aims to introduce students to a systematic description of the use of the English language in society and to the skills needed to apply their knowledge to the analysis of authentic language data from a sociolinguistic perspective. Under the guidance of the instructors, students will discover the patterns of English language use in real-life situations and present their findings in innovative ways.

2. Course Intended Learning Outcomes (CILOs)

(CILOs state what the student is expected to be able to do at the end of the course according to a given standard of performance.)

| No. | CILOs | Weighting* (if applicable) | Discovery-enriched curriculum related learning outcomes (please tick where appropriate) | | |
|-----|--|-------------------------------|---|----|----|
| | | | A1 | A2 | A3 |
| 1. | Discover the sociolinguistic aspects of English Language use in society; | | √ | | |
| 2. | Identify sociolinguistic processes of dialect variation, diachronic change, and code-switching in the English Language; | | √ | | |
| 3. | Compare different varieties of world Englishes; | | √ | | |
| 4. | Compare and contrast theories and methods in sociolinguistics; | | | √ | |
| 5. | Critically apply the knowledge learnt in the course to analyse authentic language data in everyday life; | | | √ | |
| 6. | Critically apply the knowledge learnt in the course to reflect on the ways in which English Language is used in mediated actions and is combined meaningfully with other modes of communication; | | | √ | |
| 7. | Critically apply the knowledge learnt in the course to reflect on the ways in which English Language use relates to identities (gendered, sexual, class, national, etc.) | | | √ | |
| | | 100% | | | |

* If weighting is assigned to CILOs, they should add up to 100%.

A1: Attitude

Develop an attitude of discovery/innovation/creativity, as demonstrated by students possessing a strong sense of curiosity, asking questions actively, challenging assumptions or engaging in inquiry together with teachers.

A2: Ability

Develop the ability/skill needed to discover/innovate/create, as demonstrated by students possessing critical thinking skills to assess ideas, acquiring research skills, synthesizing knowledge across disciplines or applying academic knowledge to self-life problems.

A3: Accomplishments

Demonstrate accomplishment of discovery/innovation/creativity through producing /constructing creative works/new artefacts, effective solutions to real-life problems or new processes.

3. Teaching and Learning Activities (TLAs)

(TLAs designed to facilitate students' achievement of the CILOs.)

| TLA | Brief Description | CILO No. | | | | | | | Hours/week (if applicable) |
|-----|---|----------|---|---|---|---|---|---|----------------------------|
| | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | |
| 1. | <p>Interactive Lecturing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ <i>Students will explore the different systems of English Language use in society;</i> ❖ <i>Students will, by responding to questions and doing research, develop their abilities to reflect on the different aspects of English Language use in society.</i> | √ | | | | | | | 3 hours/week |
| 2. | <p>In-class activities and discussions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ <i>Students will reflect on the issues related to processes of dialect variation, diachronic change, and code-switching in the English Language;</i> ❖ <i>Students will, by responding to questions and doing research, generate the similarities and differences between different Englishes.</i> | | √ | √ | | | | | 3 hours/week |
| 3. | <p>Language Analysis</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ <i>Students will be given authentic language data to experiment with the ways in which their knowledge of language use can be applied to perform analysis, descriptions and explanations;</i> ❖ <i>Students will, by responding to questions and doing research, develop their abilities to evaluate identity</i> | | | | √ | √ | √ | √ | 3 hours/week |

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| | <i>performances through discourse analysis.</i> | | | | | | | | |
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4. Assessment Tasks/Activities (ATs)

(ATs are designed to assess how well the students achieve the CILOs.)

| Assessment Tasks/Activities | CILO No. | | | | | | | Weighting* | Remarks |
|---|----------|---|---|---|---|---|---|------------|--|
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | | |
| Continuous Assessment: <u>55</u> % | | | | | | | | | |
| 1. Class Participation | √ | √ | √ | √ | | | | 10% | Individual: Based on how frequently, actively, and constructively students participate. In-class activities, discussions and presentations measure students' ability to apply newly learned principles to real contexts and situations. |
| 2. Final Project (Paper) | √ | | | | √ | √ | √ | 25% | Group work: Students will have the opportunity to apply their knowledge to critically analyze and evaluate authentic language data. Students will apply analytical methods in their analysis. Students will also have the opportunity to identify and reflect on language and media and language and identity. |
| 3. Final Project In-Class Presentation | √ | | | | √ | √ | √ | 20% | Group work: Students will demonstrate their ability to apply their knowledge and analytical tools and report their findings in a succinct, organized, and professional manner in an oral presentation. |
| 4. End-of-Course Examination | √ | √ | √ | √ | √ | √ | √ | 45% | Individual: End-of-course examination will be designed to test students' facility with theoretical concepts and analytical skills from |

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| | | | | | | | | | | lectures and readings. It will also test students' application of knowledge. |
| Examination: <u>45</u> % (duration: 2 hours , if applicable) | | | | | | | | | | |
| * The weightings should add up to 100%. | | | | | | | | | | |
| 100% | | | | | | | | | | |

5. Assessment Rubrics

(Grading of student achievements is based on student performance in assessment tasks/activities with the following rubrics.)

| Assessment Task | Criterion | Excellent (A+, A, A-) | Good (B+, B, B-) | Fair (C+, C, C-) | Marginal (D) | Failure (F) |
|---------------------------------|---|---|---|--|---|---|
| 1. Class Participation | Attendance and active class participation | An excellent record of attendance and participation. Attended all classes punctually, always participated actively and constructively in class and group activities. | Satisfactory attendance and punctuality. Generally participated actively and constructively in class and group activities. | Satisfactory attendance and punctuality. Frequently participated actively and constructively in class and group activities. | Attendance and punctuality not fully satisfactory and/or participation in class and group activities was inconsistent. | Attendance and punctuality were unsatisfactory. Did not meaningfully engage with class and group activities. |
| 2. Final Project (Paper) | Written paper on a topic that presents data collected and analyzed using a sociolinguistic perspective. | Able to analyze and present a sociolinguistic issue very clearly and insightfully, applying the theoretical framework, accurately giving evidence from data collected, accounting for successes and difficulties in communication, making excellent suggestions for | Able to analyze and present a sociolinguistic issue clearly, applying the theoretical framework fairly accurately giving evidence from data collected, accounting for successes and difficulties in communication, making good suggestions for improving the interaction and synthesizing | There may be some inaccuracies in understanding the sociolinguistic issue under investigation. Sufficient evidence may not be provided. The paper may lack focus or be poorly argued. There may be problems with the organization or grammar of the paper. The paper may | There are serious flaws and/or inaccuracies in understanding the sociolinguistic issue under investigation. Sufficient evidence is not provided. The paper lacks focus or is poorly argued. There are serious problems with the organization or grammar of the paper. The paper is incomplete or incomprehensible | Unable to apply the theories in an accurate way, present a coherent analysis and/or communicate in written English to an acceptable standard. |

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| | | improving the interaction and synthesizing points into a coherent argument expressed in clear and accurate English and within the word limit. | points into a relatively coherent argument expressed in clear and mostly accurate English and within the word limit. | exceed the word limit. | due to a large number of language inaccuracies. | |
| 3. Final Project In-Class Presentation | Organization/Delivery/Grammar/Effectiveness/Timing of presentation | The presentation provides a very clear and insightful analysis. It draws effectively upon evidence from various types of data collected, accounting for successes and difficulties in communication, and synthesizing findings into a coherent argument. The presentation is very well organized, delivered in clear and accurate, fluent | The presentation provides a clear analysis. It draws upon evidence from various types of data collected, accounting for successes and difficulties in communication, and synthesizing findings into an argument. The presentation is well organized, delivered in largely accurate, fluent and idiomatic English, and within the time limit. | The presentation provides an adequate analysis. It draws upon some evidence from data collected, accounting for successes and difficulties in communication, and synthesizing findings into a coherent argument. The presentation is adequately organized and comprehensible, but the standard of the spoken English may need improvement. It may exceed the time limit. | The presentation provides a poor analysis. It exhibits insufficient evidence from data collected, and may lack an explanation for successes and difficulties in communication, or a coherent argument. The presentation is incomplete or partially incomprehensible due to poor organization or the standard of the spoken English. | The presentation does not identify an issue relevant to the course. The presentation is incomplete or largely incomprehensible due to poor organization or significant problems in the standard of the spoken English. |

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| | | and idiomatic English, and within the time limit. | | | | |
| 4. End-of-Course Examination | End-of-course examination will be marked according to the accuracy of the answers. Correct answers will be awarded full marks of the respective questions, half-correct answers will be awarded half of the marks devoted to the respective questions, and wrong or irrelevant answers will be awarded zero. | | | | | |

Part III Other Information (more details can be provided separately in the teaching plan)

1. Keyword Syllabus

(An indication of the key topics of the course.)

sociolinguistics, language variation and change, world Englishes, code-switching, speech community
discourse analysis, politeness, language and ideology, language and identity, language and gender

2. Reading List

2.1 Compulsory Readings

(Compulsory readings can include books, book chapters, or journal/magazine articles. There are also collections of e-books, e-journals available from the CityU Library.)

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| 1. | Holmes, J. (2012) <i>An Introduction to Sociolinguistics</i> . 4 th Edition. Harlow: Pearson Longman. |
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2.2 Additional Readings

(Additional references for students to learn to expand their knowledge about the subject.)

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| 1. | Bauer, L. (2003) <i>An Introduction to International Varieties of English</i> . Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press. |
| 2. | Bhatia, V.K., Flowerdew, J. and Jones, R. (eds.) (2008) <i>Advances in Discourse Studies</i> . London: Routledge. |
| 3. | Cameron, D. (2001) <i>Working With Spoken Discourse</i> . London: Sage. |
| 4. | Cutting, J. (2002) <i>Pragmatics and Discourse</i> . London: Routledge. |
| 5. | Coulthard, M. (2007) <i>An Introduction to Discourse Analysis</i> . 2 nd Edition: Harlow: Pearson Longman. |
| 6. | Gee, J.P. (1999) <i>An Introduction to Discourse Analysis: Theory and Method</i> . London: Routledge. |
| 7. | Jaworski, A. and Coupland, N. (1999) <i>The Discourse Reader</i> . London: Routledge. |
| 8. | Jenkins, J. (2009) <i>World Englishes: A resource book for students</i> . London: Routledge. |
| 9. | Jones, R. (2012) <i>Discourse Analysis: A resource book for students</i> . London: Routledge. |
| 10. | Machin, D. and Mayr, A. (2012) <i>How to Do Critical Discourse Analysis</i> . London: Sage. |
| 11. | Norris, S. and Jones, R. (eds.) (2005) <i>Discourse in Action: Introducing Mediated Discourse Analysis</i> . London: Routledge. |
| 12. | Paltridge, B. (2007) <i>Discourse Analysis: An Introduction</i> . London: Continuum. |
| 13. | Schiffrin, D. (1994) <i>Approaches to Discourse</i> . Cambridge, MA and Oxford, U.K.: Blackwell. |
| 14. | Sidnell, J. (2010) <i>Conversation Analysis: An introduction</i> . Oxford: John Wiley & Sons. |
| 15. | Stockwell, P. (2007) <i>Sociolinguistics: A resource book for students</i> . 2 nd Edition. London: Routledge. |
| 16. | Setter, J., Wong, C.P., and Chan, B.H.S. (2002) <i>Hong Kong English</i> . Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press. |