

Hong Kong Shue Yan University
Minor Programme

Department of English Language and Literature

Minor Programme Offered: Minor in Linguistics and Translation

(Available for Year 1 Entry: 2016 cohort onwards; Year 2 Entry: 2017 cohort onwards; Year 3 Entry: 2020 cohort onwards)

1) Students are required to complete a minimum of 15 credits with 2 compulsory courses and choosing 3 elective courses offered:

Course List			
<i>Course Code</i>	<i>Course Title</i>	<i>Credits</i>	<i>Pre-requisite(s)</i>
<i>Compulsory</i>			
ENG140	Introduction to Translation	3	NIL
ENG160	Introduction to Linguistics	3	NIL
<i>Choose 3 courses out of the following Electives</i>			
ENG213*	Commercial Translation	3	ENG140
ENG214*	Exploring English Grammar	3	ENG160
ENG240	Literary Translation	3	ENG140
ENG250 [#]	Sociolinguistics	3	ENG160
ENG270	Discourse Analysis	3	ENG160
ENG340 [#]	Interpreting I	3	ENG140
ENG364	Second Language Acquisition	3	ENG160
ENG387	Media Translation	3	ENG140

* Newly added courses from 2023/24AY

[#] Removal of courses from 2024/25AY

Remarks:

The course list is subject to change without prior notice.

DESCRIPTION OF COURSES (MINOR IN LINGUISTICS AND TRANSLATION)

Eng. 140 Introduction to Translation

1 Term; 3 Credits

This course lays the foundation for the translation programme and for all elective courses in the translation field offered by the English Department. It aims at equipping students with the necessary skills and techniques which they need to produce quality translations. Emphasis is placed on studying the similarities and differences between Chinese and English on lexical, syntactical and textual levels and their influences on translation. In this course, some mainstream translation theories that are of immediate importance to E/C and C/E translations will also be covered by relating to authentic examples taken from real-world settings. After studying this course, students are expected to understand and grasp the basic translation principles and master the correct procedures for analysing the source text and produce proper target text.

Eng. 160 Introduction to Linguistics

1 Term; 3 Credits

This course introduces the fundamental concepts of linguistics and the major areas of linguistics, including Phonetics, Phonology, Morphology, Syntax, Semantics and Pragmatics. It is also the aim of this course to introduce students to the techniques of linguistic analysis and to equip them with knowledge and skills for future linguistic research and studies.

Eng. 213 Commercial Translation
(Newly added course from 2023/24AY)

1 Term; 3 Credits

This course aims to train students in the practice of translation for business and commerce. Students will be introduced to the formats and linguistic features of commercial and financial texts, and to the basic concepts and principles relating to business and commercial translation in both English and Chinese. Through a variety of hands-on tasks, students will acquire and apply specific strategies and techniques to tackle translational problems in various types of business and commercial texts.

Eng. 214 Exploring English Grammar
(Newly added course from 2023/24AY)

1 Term; 3 Credits

Grammar is concerned with the study of how words are put together to make larger well-formed and meaningful units at three different levels: phrase, clause, and sentence. This course aims to provide an overview of the grammatical structure of English, introducing students to the linguistic concepts and terms that are relevant to describing and analysing the form and function of different grammatical structures in English. Students will also be introduced to native and learner corpora for examining and comparing the use of grammar structures in authentic texts. The course will enhance students' understanding of how grammar contributes to meaningful communication and encourage them to apply their grammatical knowledge and skills to evaluate and improve the quality of English texts.

Eng. 240 Literary Translation

1 Term; 3 Credits

This course studies the rhetorical features that characterize literary writing and their representations in translation. Four major types of literary writing (i.e., poetry, novels, plays, and essays) will be discussed in class with exemplification of literary texts and translated texts. Both theoretical ideas and practical translation techniques will be introduced to students of this course.

Eng. 250 Sociolinguistics
(To be removed from 2024/25AY)

1 Term; 3 Credits

This course introduces the major issues in Sociolinguistics and examines the relation between human, language and society. Issues to be introduced and discussed in the course include: regional, social and situational language variation, language change, language and culture, language attitudes and identity, language and gender, the social functions of language and language in contact.

Eng. 270 Discourse Analysis

1 Term; 3 Credits

Discourse analysis is concerned with the examination of language in use. It encompasses a diversity of approaches with which to describe and explain the structure and function of texts, and how they communicate meaning in different social and situational contexts. This course aims to introduce students to some of the fundamental concepts and methods for describing and analysing written, spoken and visual discourse. Authentic examples of texts will be drawn from a variety of genres for illustration (e.g. conversations, speeches, academic writing, newspaper articles, Internet communication, advertisements). Students will be encouraged to collect and analyse their own data for their assignments.

Eng. 340 Interpreting I
(To be removed from 2024/25AY)

1 Term; 3 Credits

This course aims to enlighten students on the acquisition of interpreting skills (E to C and C to E) through intensive practice drills in the language laboratory, with emphasis mainly on listening comprehension (phonetic identification), transcription, note-taking, short-term memory (linked thinking), sight translation and vocabulary/glossary builder (pertaining to a variety of subject matters, e.g. law, finance and health); and with interpretation problems identified and explained, and possible solutions suggested. The acquisition of skills is also complemented by the learning of basic principles of interpretation as put forward by scholars and veteran interpreters. Upon completion of the course, students are expected to have grasped the interpretation rules and principles, and attained the skills and knowledge for accomplishing an interpreting job.

Eng. 364 Second Language Acquisition

1 Term; 3 Credits

The course aims to introduce to students the theories and findings concerning the acquisition of English as a Second Language (ESL). It starts with first language acquisition research, because this is necessary to understand second language acquisition. The early sessions cover the revolution that occurred in second language acquisition some twenty to thirty years ago (early developments of SLA). These are followed by a switch to examining individual learner differences purported to affect second language acquisition, such as language aptitude, motivation, learning strategies, learner beliefs, etc. Then the course explores contemporary accounts of acquisitional processes, but linked to the classroom (classroom-based SLA), so that the focus is on how second language acquisition research findings are relevant to pedagogic decision-making.

Eng. 387 Media Translation

1 Term; 3 Credits

The course aims to equip students with the principles and techniques of translating print and non-print media texts, including press releases, magazine articles, features, film scripts, advertisements and corporate promotional materials. The practical and research skills that are of immediate importance to the translation of media texts will also be introduced with translation examples taken from real-world settings. Upon completion of this course, students should be able to formulate and employ appropriate translation strategies to overcome language and cultural barriers of media texts and translate with confidence non-technical media texts from English to Chinese and vice versa.