

Master of Arts in International Language Education (MAILE)
School of Humanities and Social Science
Course syllabus

Course code: MALE5202
 Course title: Teaching Second Language Vocabulary
 Course offered: Fall 2018
 Course instructors: Dr. Amy Chi (lcamychi@ust.hk)

Course description

This course examines the factors involved in developing second language (L2) learners' acquisition of English vocabulary. It covers three main areas: (a) words and the description of the vocabulary content of an English curriculum; (b) the representation of L2 vocabulary in the mental lexicon and related acquisition issues; and (c) approaches to teaching L2 vocabulary.

Intended Learning Outcomes (ILOs)

Upon completion of the course, students should be able to:

- describe the internal structure of English words and the main lexical relations
- understand how second language vocabulary is acquired
- identify factors that contribute to successful vocabulary acquisition
- evaluate the merits of different approaches to teaching L2 vocabulary

Course schedule:

Week 1	September 7 th	The scope and challenges of vocabulary studies
Week 2	September 14 th	The word as a linguistic unit and its structure
Week 3	September 21 st	Lexical relations – Theory
Week 4	September 28 th	Lexical relations – Practice
Week 5	October 5 th	Multi-word units and formulaic language Quiz
Week 6	October 12 th	The mental lexicon
Week 7	October 19 th	Second language vocabulary acquisition – Theory
Week 8	October 26 th	Second language vocabulary acquisition – Practice
Week 9	November 2 nd	Lexical reference – Theory
Week 10	November 9 th	Lexical reference – Practice
Week 11	November 16 th	Defining a vocabulary curriculum Research Paper due
Week 12	November 24 th (Saturday)	Vocabulary testing
Week 13	November 30 th	Seminar

Assessments

Research paper (2,500 words): 40% (individual)
 Lexical analysis task: 20% (individual)
 Seminar: 40% (group)

Sample course readings

Chi, M.L.A. (2010). Applying formal vocabulary to academic writing: Is the task achievable? *Reflections on English Language Teaching (RELT) – Special Issue on Teacher as Researcher*, 9(2), 171-190.
 Coady, J. & Huckin, T. (Eds.). (1997). *Second Language Vocabulary Acquisition*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
 Nattinger, J. & DeCarrico, J.S. (1992). *Lexical phrases and language teaching*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
 Read, J. (2000). *Assessing Vocabulary*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.