

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

Course code: MILE5105
Course title: Cross Cultural Pragmatics
Course offered: Spring 2019
Course instructors: Dr. Hideki Nishimura (hmnishimur@ust.hk)

Course description

This course explores human language in relation to the communicative functions which it serves and the cultural contexts which it is used, with the special emphasis on the examination of how speech acts are realized in different ways from culture to culture, and how the differences in the ways of speaking associated with different languages can be explained and made sense of in terms of different values and cultural priorities.

Intended Learning Outcomes (ILOs)

At the end of the course, you will:

- gain a better understanding of the nature of human communication with special emphasis on intercultural communication
- realize the centrality of culture in the process of communication
- enhance awareness of language as a cultural phenomenon
- raise sensitivity towards the nuances of language use in relation to cultural complexities

Course schedule

Lesson	Topics
1	Pragmatics and cross cultural pragmatics: Where culture and language meets
2	Anthropological culture and discourse systems
3	Cooperative principle and implicature
4	Communicative intervention and speech acts
5	Indirect speech acts across languages and cultures
6	Politeness principles
7	Face and facework
8	Conversational routines 1: apologizing, requesting and refusing
9	Conversational routines 2: compliment and compliment response
10	Pragmatics in L2 context
11	Teachers pragmatics and learners pragmatics
12	Further issues in learning, teaching and pragmatics assessment
13	End-of-term in-class assessment

Assessments

There are three assessments for this course:

1. Class participation (10%)
2. Term paper (35%)
3. Pragmatics data analysis (20%)
4. Final assessment - scenario-based teaching demonstration (35%)

Sample course readings

Ishihara, N. & Cohen, A. D. (2010) *Teaching and Learning Pragmatics: Where language and culture meetings*. UK: Pearson Education Limited.

Wierzbicka, A. (2003). Cross-cultural Pragmatics. *The Semantics of Human Interaction*. 2nd Edition. Berlin & New York: Mouton de Gruyter.