

HONG KONG BAPTIST UNIVERSITY

COURSE OUTLINE

1. **COURSE TITLE**

Literary and Linguistic Codes in Hong Kong Society

2. **COURSE CODE**

ENGL3316

3. **No. OF UNITS**

3 Units

4. **OFFERING DEPARTMENT**

Department of English Language and Literature

5. **PREREQUISITES**

Nil

6. **MEDIUM OF INSTRUCTION**

English

7. **AIMS & OBJECTIVES**

ENGL3316 looks at the use of codes in Hong Kong speech and writing from literary and linguistic perspectives. The course aims to give students of different backgrounds a wider perspective on how codes can vary and be transformed in different contexts, beyond a simple alternation between two languages. The idea of code here is understood more broadly, not restricted to linguistic signs (i.e. words), but also including systems of language that we use in different contexts, different genres, different modes of communication, and for different purposes. From a literary perspective, alternation of codes (i.e. to use different colours, shapes, images, comics, and other multimodal representations) constitutes a literary style and practice creating different effects across different texts and media. From a linguistic perspective, the alternation of codes is not only perceived as a phenomenon involving a switch from one language/variety of language to another, but also as a social and cultural phenomenon that serves a range of purposes in different contexts. This course will explore how a range of codes may be realized across different communicative settings, as well as interrogate the motivations and functions of code alternations. The course will equip students with the analytical tools and background knowledge that is necessary to understanding the idea of codes from literary and linguistic perspectives while also developing the critical skills to independently analyse related phenomena in different texts/contexts of Hong Kong society.

8. **COURSE CONTENT**

Topics to cover:

The idea of “code” across selected texts and contexts found in Hong Kong society

“Code-switching” as a linguistic and literary phenomenon

Codes and their alternations from a literary perspective

- Different codes in literary texts
- Cantonese elements found within Hong Kong poetry in English
- “Code-switching” as a literary strategy
- Effects of using different codes across different genres

Codes and their alternations from a linguistic perspective

- Examples of “code-switching” across different communicative contexts and settings (formal vs. informal; institutional vs. non-institutional contexts; etc.)
- Social and cultural motivations when using different codes
- The grammar of “code-switching”
- “Code-switching” as a sociolinguistic strategy for identity establishment

9. **COURSE INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES (CILOs)**

CILO	By the end of the course, students should be able to:
CILO 1	Demonstrate understanding of different codes in relation to Hong Kong society
CILO 2	Explain the motivations and functions of alternating codes from both literary and linguistic perspectives
CILO 3	Articulate the relationship between the use of different codes and their effects upon different Hong Kong texts and contexts
CILO 4	Evaluate the phenomenon of “code-switching” with specific reference to different settings and situations in Hong Kong society

10. **TEACHING & LEARNING ACTIVITIES (TLAs)**

CILO alignment	Type of TLA
CILO 1	Complete in-class and/or take-home assignments demonstrating the features of different codes in Hong Kong society
CILO 2	Complete in-class and/or take-home assignments effecting analysis of the motivations and functions when using different codes from both literary and linguistic perspectives
CILO 3	Participate in discussions on the relationship between “code-switching” and its effects upon different texts and contexts
CILO 4	Execute a presentation and/or design and deliver a term paper demonstrating the “code-switching” phenomenon with specific reference to an individually selected text

11. **ASSESSMENT METHODS (AMs)**

Type of Assessment Methods	Weighting	CILOs to be addressed	Description of Assessment Tasks
Individual assignment(s) (may include journals, reviews, reflections, among other possibilities)	15%	1, 2, 3, 4	
Group assignment(s) (may include critiques, reports, case studies, among other possibilities)	35%	1, 2, 3, 4	
Presentation(s)	20%	1, 2, 3, 4	
Term paper on a chosen topic	30%	1, 2, 3, 4	

END