Course description, syllabus, and classroom regulations

1. Course description: In this course, we will study the interaction between language and contexts, i.e. how contexts affect linguistic meaning. We focus on language use in contexts and the meanings of utterances for communication. Three groups of topics will be covered in this semester: Common topics in pragmatics, pragmatics and discourse, pragmatics and its interfaces. In this semester, it will cover the following subtopics: language and language use (WK1-3), face theory & politeness (WK4-6), conversational implicature (WK7-9), speech act (WK10), and metaphor (WK15-17).

2. There are no textbooks required for this course. There will be a reading package or handout distributed in class.

3. Teaching approach: In each class meeting, the professor will introduce the topics. Students will make oral presentations of the selected reading and lead a discussion.

4. Research project: Students will design and conduct a small-scale pragmatic research project on their own. A design of this project should be proposed by the second half of the semester and the process discussed during the semester. A written report, i.e., a term paper, and oral presentation of this project is due at the end of the semester. More detail of this project will be announced along the semester.

5. Oral presentation of assigned reading: Students will prepare oral presentation of assigned reading. (Readings marked by * listed in the schedule). Each oral presentation is 30 minutes, including leading a discussion. Presenters will prepare a Power Point document to facilitate their presentations and upload the PPT to the moodle website by 4PM of the Monday prior to the presentation day. Your power points design must follow requirements stated in the ‘Guidelines for PPT present-Graduate Students.ppt’. On your presentation day, prepare hardcopies for every classmate. Set the layout of your PPT hardcopy for student as 列印/講義/純粹黑白/6 張投影影片 (i.e. 6 slides in each page). More than 6 slides in one pages is not reader-friendly at all.

6. Written summary of assigned reading: A Chinese summary of the assigned reading, at least 3,000 words, should be emailed to everyone, including May, by the above deadline. Those who find the summary useful for class discussion can make the hardcopy on their own. In preparing your Chinese summary, you must use and follow the template ‘Summary 中英文摘要格式-Template Word document.doc’.

7. Evaluation criteria of students’ performance:
25% for attendance;
25% for in-class participation;
25% for oral presentation and summary of assigned reading;
25% for the process of research project.