THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG

FACULTY OF ARTS

Summer Institute in the Arts and Humanities 2024

An Introduction to Conference Interpreting

Date: 22 to 26 July

Time: 14:30 – 15:30

Mode of Teaching: Face-to-face

Instructor: Dr. CHEUNG King Man (張敬文博士)

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Course Objectives

This five-day course is designed for secondary students interested in furthering their studies in such disciplines as language, translation, and conference interpreting. As the medium of instruction will be English and Cantonese, students should be proficient in both languages.

The instructor will share with students the basic knowledge and skills of translation and conference interpreting, preparing students for admission to an undergraduate programme in a related discipline in Hong Kong. Participants will, upon completion of the course, understand that conference interpreters are multi-disciplinary professionals who will not be replaced by machines, but will perform more efficiently with the assistance of various IT tools. Apart from doing homework and class drills, students should actively participate in class discussions.

Learning Outcome

After completing the course, students will acquire the basic knowledge and skills for interpreting simple texts.

Course Structure (Tentative)

This course is divided into five parts:

Day 1 (22 July 2024): Introduction

- Introducing the School of Chinese and the BA Programme (Translation Major)
- Introducing the basic concepts of translation and interpretation
- Warm-up exercise

Day 2 (23 July 2024): Human Beings with Super Powers

- Introducing different modes of conference interpreting (sight translation, consecutive interpreting, simultaneous interpreting, and whispering)
- Public speaking: Learning from toastmasters (口若懸河)

Class drills and discussion

Day 3 (24 July 2024): Doing Something that Machines Cannot

- Active listening: Listening to what the speakers mean instead of what they say
- Note-taking skills: Transforming words into ideas (得意忘「字」)
- Class drills and discussion

Day 4 (25 July 2024): Becoming a Multi-tasker in the Information Age

- Switching between two languages quickly
- Split attention: Listening and thinking at the same time (一心二用)
- Class drills and discussion

Day 5 (26 July 2024): Doing Something Better with the Assistance of Machines

- Expanding memory capacity
- Upgrading our CPU: Handling a mass of facts with effortless grace (舉重若輕)
- Class drills and discussion

Assessment

20% Participation in class discussion

60% Class drills

20% Homework

Study Load

Lecture hours: $3 \times 5 = 15$ for each group

Self-study hours: 10