# The University of Hong Kong Faculty of Education

# Master of Arts in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (MA(TESOL))

## Outline of the six Core Courses and Project by Independent Study:

### Course 1: MAES7001 English Language Teaching Methodology (6 credits)

This course is concerned with developments in English Language teaching methodology and focuses on a variety of approaches to the learning, teaching and assessment of the four macro skills, reading, writing, listening and speaking internationally. Topics covered include: principles underlying the communicative approach and implications for the teaching and learning of reading, writing, listening and speaking; approaches to the teaching and learning of grammar and lexis; the teaching of phonology and implications for the classroom; evaluation, selection and adaptation of course materials and authentic materials for language teaching purposes; and task design for communicative practice.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

#### Course 2: MAES7002 Grammar and Pedagogy (6 credits)

This course aims to enhance candidates' knowledge about aspects of the language system, with grammar and lexis, and the relationship between the two, focused on in particular. It aims to promote understanding of the importance of such knowledge about lexico-grammar in pedagogical decision-making, and their development of teacher language awareness (TLA). The course explores TLA-related issues in the context of the teaching and learning of grammar and lexis at the classroom level. It considers the importance of critical evaluation of grammar treatment in course books and teaching materials, as well as in candidates' own classroom practice. The course also engages candidates in critically reflecting on their own TLA and its impact on their teaching and learning practices.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

#### Course 3: MAES7003 Second Language Acquisition (6 credits)

This course introduces candidates to the various issues in second language acquisition and engages them to understand and review these issues from a range of perspectives including the psycholinguistic, sociocultural and critical aspects. Both theoretical and pedagogical issues will be addressed. Candidates will also be introduced to current debates in the field, in particular the influence of first language and culture, the relationship between language and cognition, and the role of input, instruction, interaction, motivation and learning strategies in second language development. The course will also briefly address the broader socio-political context of second language learning and language policy development, including such controversial questions as the 'native' speaker issue, use of the mother tongue in second language learning, and medium of instruction.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

#### Course 4: MAES7004 Sociolinguistics and English Language Education (6 credits)

This course provides opportunities for candidates to explore the relationships between language, culture, education and society. It addresses a variety of topics such as nationalism and popular culture, style and identity, gender and ethnicity, critical language awareness, language policy, in particular, choice of a language as medium of instruction, as well as language and power and different varieties of English together with the selection of appropriate models in specific contexts. Discussions will be conducted to draw implications for English language teaching professionals in a

wide range of TESOL contexts. These discussions prepare the candidates to help their students accept and access, as classroom resources, a variety of communication repertoires. Assessment: 100% coursework.

### Course 5: MAES7005 Teaching Spoken Communication (6 credits)

This course aims to introduce course participants to aspects of the English sound system most relevant to the teaching of English (& specifically English pronunciation) as a second or foreign language. It includes a systematic analysis of both segmental and supra-segmental features as well as wider issues within phonology and a consideration of their practical application to the learning of English as a second or foreign language.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

#### Course 6: MAES7006 Methods of Research and Enquiry in TESOL (6 credits)

This course examines different approaches to conducting research in teaching English as a second language, including experimental, naturalistic, critical and action research. Students will be introduced to the various stages of the research process from the development and justification of research questions and the formulation of an appropriate research design, including methods of data-gathering and data analysis, to the final stage of writing up. Assessment: 100% coursework.

#### Project for TESOL: MAES7200 Project by Independent Study (12 credits)

Candidates are provided with an opportunity to build on or extend interests developed in TESOL by undertaking an individual project normally of 6,000 words by independent study. Examples of possible projects are a small-scale research project, an extended literature review of an issue or topic of significance in TESOL, a relevant professional development activity, a case study of learning or teaching, or any other project which is intellectually demanding and requires reading of the research and professional literature.

Assessment: 100% coursework.