

The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology
UG Course Syllabus

LANG 1102 Chinese Characters for Non-Chinese Language Background Students I
1 Credits

Pre-/co-requisites: N/A

Exclusions: LANG 1113, LANG 1117-1118, LANG 1121 -1127 (prior to 2022-23)

LANG 1412-1416, LANG 1421-1426, LANG 1513 - 1515

Name of Course Coordinators: ZHOU Tong, Mandy

Email of Course Coordinators: lczhoutong@ust.hk

Office Hours: Available by appointment only. Students should contact their section instructor directly with any questions.

Course Description

This **1-credit** course introduces foundational Chinese characters to students with no prior background in the language and fewer than 50 hours of prior study. Learners will engage with everyday topics to develop practical character knowledge for daily and social use. By the end of the course, successful students will be able to read simple passages for key information and write basic sentences to describe their daily routines. It runs over 4 weeks and adopts a pass/fail grading system.

Key topics:

Week	Course Topics
1	• Chinese Character introduction and Self-Introduction
2	• Countries and Nationalities
3	• Family members and Occupations
4	• Describing Appearances
5	• In class Tests

Methods of instruction: Student-centered, interactive tutorials foster active learning through collaborative activities, peer interaction, guided practice, and feedback.

Intended Learning Outcomes (ILOs)

By the end of this course, students should be able to:

1. Recognize and write commonly used characters.
2. Understand specific information from introductory texts related to daily and social contexts.
3. Compose grammatically correct sentences in standard written Chinese.
4. Use simple sentences to introduce basic information closely related to personal life.
5. Appreciate Chinese culture and show awareness of cultural diversity.
6. Apply learning strategies including goal setting, evaluating learning strategies and resources, self-reflection to become an effective learner.

Assessment and Grading

This course adopts a **Pass/Fail grading** system to support a low-pressure and learner-centred environment. Students must complete all required tasks and demonstrate achievement of the course's Intended Learning Outcomes (ILOs) to pass.

Assessments

Assessment Task	Contribution to Overall Course grade (%)	Due date
In-class test I 1. Chinese Character Recognition 2. Reading Task	40%	In class, Week5
In-class test II 1. Written Test	20%	In class, Week 5
Learning Reflection	10%	Week 5
In-class Assignments	20%	All course
Course engagement and online Tasks	10%	All course

Mapping of Course ILOs to Main Assessment Tasks

Assessed Task	Mapped ILOs	Explanation
In-class test I 1. Chinese Character Recognition 2. Reading Task	ILO-1, ILO-2, ILO-3,	This task assesses students' abilities to recognize and write commonly used characters (ILO-1); understand specific information from introductory texts related to daily and social contexts (ILO-2); compose grammatically correct sentences in standard written Chinese (ILO-3).
In-class test II Written Test	ILO-3, ILO-4, ILO-5,	This task assesses students' abilities to compose grammatically correct sentences in standard written Chinese (ILO-3); use simple sentences to introduce basic information closely related to personal life (ILO-4); appreciate Chinese culture and show awareness of cultural diversity (ILO-5).

Grading Rubrics

This course uses a **Pass/Fail** grading system. To pass, students must demonstrate consistent engagement and satisfactory achievement of the course's Intended Learning Outcomes (ILOs) across all assessment components.

Grade Descriptors

Grades	Criteria
Pass	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Actively participate in class activities, including pair work and interactive tasks. Complete nearly all required homework, online tasks, and in-class quizzes. Submit a substantive reflective learning portfolio. Demonstrate basic proficiency in recognizing, reading, and writing Chinese characters in the final in-class assessments.
Fail	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Miss or fail to participate in key classroom activities or tasks. Fail to complete a significant portion of required homework, online tasks, and in-class quizzes. Show limited or no progress in Chinese character recognition, reading, or writing proficiency. Fail to attend or participate meaningfully in the final in-class assessment.

*In addition to the criteria above, students must achieve a minimum overall score of 50% to pass the course.

Course AI Policy

At HKUST we embrace innovation and technology including Generative AI. Our approach is to rely firmly on pedagogical principles, with an ethical commitment to ensure fairness.

If students use AI tools in the course assessments, they must adhere to the principles of academic integrity and make a declaration at the end of each oral or written assessment. The declaration should include: 1) Was any AI tool used in this assessment? 2) What tool was used and how was it used?

Any misdeclaration will be regarded as a violation of academic integrity and result in serious consequences. See the section Academic Integrity below for details.

To know more about how to use the GenAI tools appropriately in language courses, students are required to complete a Canvas learning module developed by the Center for Language Education. The module can be found on the course Canvas site. Students should ensure that they have completed it before they come to class.

Communication and Feedback

Assessment marks for individual assessed tasks will be communicated via Canvas within two weeks of submission. Feedback on assignments will include strengths and areas for improvement. Students who have further questions about the feedback including marks should consult the instructor within five working days after the feedback is received.

Resubmission Policy

Resubmissions are not accepted, except in exceptional circumstances.

Required Texts and Materials

This course will use Discover China (Vol.1) as textbook. Other course materials and additional resources are provided via Canvas.

Academic Integrity

Students are expected to adhere to the university's academic integrity policy. Students are expected to uphold HKUST's Academic Honor Code and to maintain the highest standards of academic integrity. The University has zero tolerance of academic misconduct. Please refer to [Academic Integrity | HKUST – Academic Registry](#) for the University's definition of plagiarism and ways to avoid cheating and plagiarism.

Plagiarism

In CLE assignments, students should not copy from others nor submit the same work for multiple courses. Source materials must be explicitly acknowledged.

Assignments with evidence of plagiarism may score a zero and be followed up with your department's Dean. To demonstrate academic integrity and avoid plagiarism, you are expected to:

- paraphrase, summarize, reference and synthesize ideas from sources
- refrain from copying expressions and ideas directly from any source (e.g. from another student, or from a video, or from an article, etc.) without proper acknowledgement