

LANG 1117C/P Advanced Chinese Communication

1. Course Information

This course seeks to advance the Putonghua speaking and Chinese writing abilities of local Hong Kong students who have attained a reasonably high standard in Chinese language on leaving secondary school. The course materials and learning tasks aim (i) to develop advanced speaking and writing skills for in-depth, sophisticated communication in Chinese; (ii) to nurture students' awareness of humanistic concerns and the art of living; and (iii) to cultivate high-level critical thinking skills for engaging in rigorous intellectual analysis of academic, humanistic and social issues, formulating coherent arguments in demanding situations such as participation in public forums, and writing literary and analytical essays for publication in the media.

The course uses a variety of reading materials, in-class activities, simulated contexts and team collaboration opportunities to help students build on their existing proficiency in Chinese, to achieve effectiveness in in-depth communication and to become effective writers through the development of high-level thinking skills. Students are expected to become discerning thinkers who are capable of writing and speaking logically and eloquently, taking advantage of a rich vocabulary and varied expressions.

Target Students:

The course is part of the Common Core curriculum of the undergraduate 4-year program targeting students who have attained Level 4 or above in Chinese Language in the Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education Examination (HKDSE).

The default Medium of Instruction (MoI) of LANG 1117 is Putonghua, though Cantonese will be adopted as the MoI in some sections if and when there is a demand. In such a case, the assigned course codes should be LANG 1117P for the Putonghua-taught stream and LANG 1117C for the Cantonese-taught stream. The two streams share the same course objectives, content, and assessment methods. Putonghua is used in the assessment tasks of both streams. Students should pay attention to the medium of instruction of the section and make a decision based on their ability and needs when they enroll in the course.

2. Pre-requisites: Level 4 or above in HKDSE Chinese

Exclusions: LANG 1113, LANG 1114 (prior to 2017-18), LANG 1115 (prior to 2017-18), LANG 1116 (prior to 2017-18), LANG 1118, LANG 1120, LANG 1121, LANG 1122, LANG 1123, LANG 1124, LANG 1125, LANG 1126, LANG 1127

3. Aims of the course: Course Intended Learning Outcomes (CILOs)

This course aims to develop and enhance students' communication abilities for academic, social, and professional purposes; encourage and enable students to strive for high levels of fluency and accuracy in speaking Putonghua; encourage and enable students to achieve high levels of clarity and accuracy in writing Chinese; and raise students' awareness of the linguistic demands of working in Chinese-speaking communities. The goal-oriented tasks will lead students to enhance their ability to solve problems through various approaches:

- Synthesize various learning materials and integrate high-level language skills to achieve effective communication.
- Discuss different themes in-depth and spontaneously using enhanced Putonghua vocabulary and varied expressions.
- Adopt appropriate genres and writing skills for the effective expression of sophisticated ideas.
- Employ a systematic approach to prepare a conference paper grounded in logic and evidence via critical thinking skills development.
- Collaborate effectively with members to accomplish a mission while exploring team potential and developing leadership skills.

Course Intended Learning Outcomes (CILOs) and sub-competencies

Upon completion of this course, students are expected to be able to do the following:

Broad Competencies	Sub-Competencies	CILOs
Communication	Language accuracy and form (CM01)	1. Assimilate information through listening and reading and subsequently present views and arguments in spoken and written form. 2. Speak Putonghua fluently and accurately and interact effectively with others in a range of communicative tasks.
	Language meaning (CM02)	
	Language use (CM03)	
	Mode of communication (CM04)	
Personal Development	Lifelong learning (PD02)	3. Become aware of the rhetorical demands of various genres and demonstrate the ability to write summaries, commentaries, and reports in accurate Standard Written Chinese. 4. Engage in group activities with sensitivity shown to language appropriateness, group dynamics, and teamwork.
Problem Solving	Application of critical thinking (PS02)	
	Evaluation of information and sources (PS03)	
Social Responsibility	Collaboration (SR02)	
	Cultural awareness (SR03)	

4. Course assessment

Course assessments: The mode of continuous assessment is adopted with student performance graded as A+, A, A-, B+, B, B-, C+, C, C-, D, F. Students achieving a pass or above will gain three credits.

Assessment	Task	Weighting	CILO	Sub-competencies
One	Oral presentation (Putonghua): A presentation on the key ideas of the recommended essay on a chosen theme	20%	1, 2	CM01 CM02 CM03 CM04 PS03 SR03
	Writing: A recommendation essay (prose) on a chosen theme	20%	1, 3	CM01 CM02 CM03 CM04 PS03 SR03
Two	Oral presentation (Putonghua): A presentation on the background and preliminary research direction of an academic essay	20%	1, 2, 4	CM01 CM02 CM03 CM04 PS02 PS03 SR02 SR03
	Writing: An academic essay	30%	1, 3, 4	CM01 CM02 CM03 CM04 PS02 PS03 SR03
	Peer evaluation: On iPeer for group discussion and teamwork	10%	1, 2, 4	SR02

5. Course Content

Week	Topics
1-2	University life and humanistic concerns: students share expectations of university life and reading experiences
3-7	Thematic reading and writing: students discuss and reflect on books/articles that they have read and the impact made
8-13	Taking part in a forum: students select specific social topics on higher education, family and gender, etc., read up on them and present their findings in spoken and written form