

The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology
UG Course Syllabus

LANG1424 Chinese Writing in Cultural Contexts

3 Credits

Pre-/co-requisites: N/A

Exclusions: LANG1411, LANG1412, LANG1413, LANG1414, LANG1415, LANG1120-1127 (prior to 2022-23)

Note: Students who would like to enroll in Chinese courses should refer to the [Guidelines for Chinese Course Selection](#) in advance.

Name of Course Leader: Eddy Fung

Email address of Course Leader: lcefung@ust.hk

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

Course Description

This course targets all students who have a background in Chinese, and with an interest in the study of Chinese writing and cultural issues. It aims to cultivate students' logical expression skills in Chinese in the context of investigative study of culture. Students will learn how to describe cultural phenomena, summarize literature, and evaluate claims from a critical perspective. Students will also learn to construct arguments and support claims effectively in an academic style. The course integrates the three elements of communication skills, academic literacy, and culture with a focus on Chinese writing training. The emphasis is on using Chinese to examine and discuss various cultural issues such as language culture. Students can have a deeper understanding of selected cultural issues and be able to discuss relevant topics in Chinese writing.

Course outline

Week 1: Language, register and style

Week 2: Introduction to academic writing

Week 3: Understanding cultural issues

Week 4: Critical reading and analytical skills

Week 5: Summary and paraphrasing

Week 6: Descriptive and analytical writing skills

Week 7: Consultation

Week 8: Introduction to cultural critique

Week 9: Viewpoint, proof and argument

Week 10: Assessment – Peer evaluation

Week 11: Norms and criteria of academic writing

Week 12: Writing the conclusion

Week 13: Consultation

Methods of instruction: weekly classes – active learning through group discussion, collaborative activities, peer learning, reading, practice and feedback.

Intended Learning Outcomes (ILOs)

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

1. Select accurate and appropriate vocabulary, grammar, style, and format for an academic audience.
2. Articulate ideas clearly and fully and organize ideas coherently from sentence to text level.
3. Analyze information and evaluate claims from a critical perspective.
4. Construct logical arguments and support claims effectively.
5. Analyze cultural and social issues and explain how they relate to one's cultural awareness.

Assessment and Grading (mapping of course ILOs to assessment tasks)

Assessment	Description	Weighting	ILOs covered
Assessment 1: Descriptive and analytical writing	Submit a descriptive and analytical article (group work)	30%	ILO-1,ILO-2, ILO-3,ILO-4, ILO-5
Assessment 2: Peer evaluation	Evaluate the performance of peers in group work	5%	ILO-1, ILO-2, ILO-3
Assessment 3: Cultural critique	Submit a cultural critique on a chosen topic (individual work)	35%	ILO-1,ILO-2, ILO-3,ILO-4, ILO-5
Assessment 4: Student reflection	Submit a reflection on one's own learning	10%	ILO-4, ILO-5
Others	1. Comment on peer's work and provide suggestions for improvement 2. Blended learning 3. Student engagement	10% 5% 5%	ILO-1,ILO-2, ILO-3,ILO-4 ILO-1 N/A

Grading Rubrics

Detailed rubrics for each assignment will be provided on the Canvas course site. These rubrics clearly outline the criteria used for evaluation. Students can refer to these rubrics to understand how their work will be assessed.

Final Grade Descriptors

Grade s	Short Description	Elaboration on subject grading description
A	Excellent Performance	Demonstrates abilities to use sophisticated communication skills, flexible, rich, coherent, expressive written Chinese for various language tasks, which are based on a high level of critical thinking, context awareness, information analysis and synthesis. Displays significant achievement in self-reflection, collaborative learning, and problem-solving initiatives.
B	Good Performance	Demonstrates abilities to use written Chinese fluently in an accurate, clear, concise and coherent way for various language tasks, which are based on critical thinking, context awareness, information analysis and synthesis. Shows a strong sense of self-reflection, cooperative learning, and problem-solving initiatives.
C	Satisfactory Performance	Demonstrates abilities to use written Chinese adequately to complete tasks, which are based on some capacity for critical thinking, information analysis and synthesis. Shows persistence and effort to achieve broadly defined learning goals.
D	Marginal Pass	Shows a certain level of ability to use written Chinese to do simple communication. Has the potential to further develop Chinese language proficiency, awareness of communication, and/or learning motivation and attitude.
F	Fail	Demonstrates insufficient understanding of the course content and requirements. Shows very limited abilities in the Chinese language and/or lack of effort towards achieving learning goals.

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 for each assessment task. Any misdeclaration will be regarded as a violation of academic integrity. 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 scores for selected 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 given.

Resubmission Policy

Resubmissions are not accepted, except in exceptional circumstances.

Required Texts and Materials

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.