

**The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology**  
**UG Course Syllabus**

Elementary Putonghua for Non-Chinese Language Background Students

LANG1411

3 Credits

Pre-/co-requisites: N/A

Exclusions: LANG 1113, LANG 1117-1118, LANG 1120 -1127 (prior to 2022-23)

LANG 1412-1413, LANG 1415-1416, LANG 1421-1424

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

**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

LANG1411 is a three-credit, one semester core course offered to non-Chinese language background students who have learned Chinese for less than 50 tuition hours. Students attend three hours of class and complete up to six hours of out-of-class work, per week. The course is offered in Fall and Spring semesters. It aims to equip the students with listening and speaking skills for communicating in Putonghua for daily and social purposes through a range of learning activities. After successfully completing the course, students will have developed basic pronunciation ability in Putonghua, and fundamental listening and speaking skills necessary for daily communication. The course is taught in Putonghua supplemented with English.

Key topics:

Week	Course Topics
1	• Chinese introduction and Greetings
2	• Self-Introduction
3	• Family
4	• Times and Dates
5	• Hobbies
6	• Visiting Friends
7	• Assessment one
8	• Making appointments and Studying Chinese
9	• Shopping and Transportation
10	• Weather
11	• Dining
12	• Review
12-13	• Assessment two

Methods of instruction: interactive tutorials support active learning through group discussion, collaborative activities, peer learning, input, practice and feedback.

### Intended Learning Outcomes (ILOs)

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

1. Understand simple Chinese sentences and everyday conversations.
2. Participate in simple conversations closely related to personal and school contexts for daily and social interactions.
3. Pronounce words clearly and accurately.
4. Use simple Chinese words and expressions in daily communication.
5. Master basic Chinese grammar and demonstrate this in everyday conversations.
6. Understand some elements of Chinese culture.
7. Apply learning strategies including goal setting, evaluating learning strategies and resources, self-reflection to become an effective learner.

## Assessment and Grading

This course will be assessed using criterion-referencing and grades will not be assigned using a curve.

## Assessments

Assessment Task	Contribution to Overall Course grade (%)	Due date
A1: In-class test I 1. Pronunciation 2. Listening comprehension	25%	In class, Week7
A2: Presentation I	15%	In class, Week 7
A3: In-class test II 1. Pronunciation 2. Listening comprehension	25%	In class, Week 12-13
A4: Presentation II	15%	In class, Week 13
Reflection Task	10%	Week 13
Course assignments	10%	Whole semester

\* Assessment marks for individual assessed tasks will be released within two weeks of the due date.

## Mapping of Course ILOs to Main Assessment Tasks

Assessed Task	Mapped ILOs	Explanation
A1: In-class test I 1. Pronunciation 2. Listening comprehension	ILO-1, ILO-3, ILO-6	This task assesses students' abilities to understand simple Chinese sentences and everyday conversations (ILO1), pronounce Chinese words they learned clearly and accurately (ILO3), understand some elements of Chinese culture (ILO6).
A2: Presentation I	ILO-2, ILO-3, ILO-4, ILO-5, ILO-6	This task assesses students' abilities to present the content closely related to personal and school contexts for daily and social interactions (ILO2), pronounce words clearly and accurately (ILO3), use simple Chinese words and expressions (ILO4), master basic Chinese grammar and demonstrate this (ILO5), understand some elements of Chinese culture. (ILO6)
A3: In-class test II 1. Pronunciation 2. Listening comprehension	ILO-1, ILO-3	This task assesses students' abilities to understand simple Chinese sentences and everyday conversations (ILO1), pronounce Chinese words they learned clearly and accurately (ILO3).

A4: Presentation II	ILO-1, ILO-2, ILO-3, ILO-4, ILO-5	This task assesses students' abilities to understand simple Chinese sentences and everyday conversations (ILO1), present the content closely related to personal and school contexts for daily and social interactions (ILO2), pronounce words clearly and accurately (ILO3), use simple Chinese words and expressions (ILO4), master basic Chinese grammar and demonstrate this (ILO5).
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## 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

Grades	Short Description	Elaboration on subject grading description
A	Excellent Performance	Understand simple Chinese sentences and everyday conversations; use a full range of topic-related vocabulary with precision to deliver topics; produce consistently accurate and appropriately structures without grammatical or syntactical mistakes; pronounce a full range of Pinyin features including the initials, finals and tones with complete accuracy and clarity is effortless to understand; speak fluently with almost no repetition or self-correction.
B	Good Performance	Understand most of the simple Chinese sentences and everyday conversations; use a wide range of topic-related vocabulary flexibly with some precision and occasional minor errors; produce a majority of error-free structures with only very occasional inappropriate or basic/non-systematic errors; pronounce a wide range of Pinyin features including the initials, finals and tones with most accuracy and clarity, no conspicuous mispronunciation; speak fluently with only occasional repetition or self-correction.
C	Satisfactory Performance	Understand some of the simple Chinese sentences and everyday conversations; use a range of topic-related vocabulary with some flexibility and with a few errors; produce error-free sentences frequently, though some grammatical mistakes persist; pronounce a range of Pinyin features including the initials, finals and tones with fair accuracy and clarity, but with occasional mispronunciations and occasional lapses; speak generally fluently with some repetition.
D	Marginal Pass	Understand limited simple Chinese sentences and everyday conversations; use an adequate range of topic-related vocabulary at length with limited flexibility and quite frequent errors; make frequent mistakes with more complex structures, though these rarely cause comprehension problems; pronounce a less range of Pinyin features including the initials, finals and tones with less accuracy and clarity, with many or systematic mispronunciations, and with many lapses; speak with more or frequent repetition, self-correction or hesitation for words and structures but attempt to make meaning clear in spite of inappropriate choices.

F	Fail	Unable to understand simple Chinese sentences and everyday conversations; use a limited range of topic- related vocabulary with very frequent errors; make very frequent errors even with simple structures and may cause some comprehension problems; pronounce a limited range of Pinyin features including the initials, finals and tones with little accuracy and clarity, with frequent and uncontrolled mispronunciations and lapses; speak slowly with many hesitations for words and structures and with many repetitions and self-correction.
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## **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 Integrated Chinese (Vol.1&2) 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

### **Attendance Policy**

Students are expected to attend 80% of all classes, and if fail to meet the attendance requirement, final letter grade will be reduced (e.g., from B+ to B)