

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

### Advanced Putonghua for Non-Chinese Language Background Students

LANG 1413

3 credits

Pre-/co-requisites: N/A

Exclusions: LANG 1416, LANG 1421-1423; LANG 1117, LANG 1125-1127 (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 Instructor:** Dr Emma Rao

**Email of Instructor:** lcemmarao@ust.hk

**Office Hours:** Available by appointment

### Course Description

LANG 1413, a three-credit, one semester common core course, targets non-Chinese language background students with an intermediate level of Putonghua proficiency and language knowledge. After completing this course, students' listening and speaking skills will be further enhanced, and they will be able to handle a wide range of discourse with nearly full linguistic control and communicate effectively on complex topics relating to life, study and work.

### Intended Learning Outcomes (ILOs)

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

1. Understand complicated conversations or speeches involving formal and informal topics, and comprehend the intentions of the speaker correctly and the culture involved in the conversation or speech.
2. Use appropriate vocabulary and complex sentence structures to describe events and scenes in detail, engage in fluent discussions and simple negotiations, express personal opinions, and articulate thoughts precisely.
3. Demonstrate the ability to use varied modes of communication and expression.
4. Analyze the structure of language materials, accurately understand the content, extract the main arguments and information, guess the meaning of unfamiliar words, infer hidden meanings through the context, and understand the cultural factors involved.
5. Identify sources of relevant information, analyze and critically synthesize the information, and evaluate the quality of information and offer evidence-based arguments.
6. Demonstrate the ability to work collaboratively and effectively in teams.
7. Show an understanding of the importance of cross-cultural awareness.

## Course Assessments

Graded Assessment	Weighting	CILOs	Sub-Competencies	CAs
Oral assessment (individual)	15%	1, 2, 4, 7	CM01, CM02, CM03 PS02, SR03	SL, CO, SU
Mini forum (Small group)	25%	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7	CM01, CM02, CM03 PS02, PS03, SR02, SR03	SL, SU, IN
Mid-term test on listening, grammar & vocabulary	30%	1, 2, 4		N/A
Self-directed learning: Canvas quizzes	10%	1, 2, 4, 5, 7		NA
Self-reflection on discussion	10%	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7	PS02, PS03, SR02, SR03	EL
iPeer/ Peer evaluation	5%	6, 7		NA
Learning engagement	5%	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6		NA

## Course Contents

Week	Units	Topics
1	Module One: Topic-oriented learning	The popularity of studying abroad
2		The different ways of learning Chinese characters
3		Job hunting of young people
4		Lifestyles of Chinese people
5		Regional culture and identity
6		Interpersonal relationship in China
7-8	Revision and Mid-term Assessment	
9	Module Two: A Mini forum on current issues	Cyber violence and freedom of speech
10		Economic development and environmental protection
11		Technological progress and personal privacy
12		Chinese catchwords and gender equality
13	Final Assessment	

## Grading Rubrics

Detailed rubrics for assignments will be provided on the Canvas. Students can refer to the rubrics to find out how their work will be assessed.

## Final Grade Descriptors

Grade	Level	Description
A	Excellent performance	Listening <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fully able to understand short texts and news, clearly grasp relevant Chinese cultural elements, and thoroughly explain the speaker's intentions.</li> </ul>

		<p>Grammar and vocabulary</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Able to accurately and flexibly use a variety of sentence structures and rich, and appropriate vocabulary.</li> <li>• Contains very few errors in expression, showing clear and in-depth communication.</li> </ul> <p>Short speech</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Able to express insights on topics related to China from a profound, comprehensive and reliable materials; reasoning is exemplary, sufficient and logical.</li> </ul>
B	Good performance	<p>Listening</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Able to understand short texts and news, grasp most of the relevant Chinese cultural elements, and roughly explain all the speaker's intentions.</li> </ul> <p>Grammar and vocabulary</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Able to use complex sentence structures and accurate vocabulary.</li> <li>• Occasionally makes errors in expression but does not affect effective communication.</li> </ul> <p>Short speech</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Able to effectively express insights on topics related to China; content is detailed and uses effective and reliable materials; and reasoning is objective, sufficient and logical.</li> </ul>
C	Satisfactory performance	<p>Listening</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Able to understand the general ideas of short texts and news, partially grasp relevant Chinese cultural elements, and partially explain the speaker's intentions.</li> </ul> <p>Grammar and vocabulary</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Able to use a large number of simple sentences and a few complex sentence structures, with relatively accurate but limited vocabulary.</li> <li>• Often make errors in expression, which sometimes affect effective communication.</li> </ul> <p>Short speech</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Able to express general views on topics related to China; content lacks details, and materials are somewhat thin; reasoning supports the viewpoint but missing some logic.</li> </ul>
D	Marginal pass	<p>Listening</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Only able to understand a small amount of short texts and news, have a limited understanding of relevant Chinese cultural elements, and can get a small part of the speaker's intentions.</li> </ul> <p>Grammar and vocabulary</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Able to use a large number of simple sentences, rarely using complex sentence structures, with a relatively poor vocabulary.</li> <li>• Frequently make errors in expression, which to some extent affect communication.</li> </ul> <p>Short speech</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Able to express general views on topics related to China; content is vague, and materials are not coherent; reasoning is one-sided, not</li> </ul>

		objective, and lacks clarity.
F	Fail	<p>Listening</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Unable to understand short texts and news, rarely able to grasp relevant Chinese cultural elements, and cannot explain the speaker's intentions.</li> </ul> <p>Grammar and vocabulary</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Can only use limited simple sentence structures and limited vocabulary.</li> <li>• Make a large number of errors in expression, which greatly affect communication.</li> </ul> <p>Short speech</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Failed to express any views on topics related to China; content is hollow, materials are random, and analysis is lacking.</li> </ul>

## Required Texts and Materials

Course resources: Chih-p'ing Chou, Jincheng Liu and Xin Zou (2019) *Eyes on China*, An Intermediate-Advanced Reader of Modern Chinese, Princeton University Press. All course materials and additional resources are provided via Canvas.

## 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 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

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 ten working days after the feedback is received.

## Late submission Policy

To ensure fairness for students who submit assignments on time, a penalty for late submission.

## Resubmission Policy

Resubmissions are not accepted, except in very exceptional circumstances

### **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.