

The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology
UG Course Syllabus

LANG1133

Cantonese for Chinese Language Background Students I

- 3 Credits (free elective)
- Pre-/co-requisites: LANG 1133 is open to UST undergraduates of Chinese language background (including exchange students) and for complete beginners only. This course is restricted to students with Chinese language backgrounds but have no prior knowledge in the Cantonese dialect.
- No pre-requisites or co-requisites are required.

Name of Course Coordinator: Polung LI

Email of Course Coordinator: lcpolung@ust.hk

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

Course Description

LANG 1133 is a credit-bearing Cantonese elective designed for undergraduate students at UST who have a Chinese language background. The course aims to equip students with the communicative competence in Cantonese necessary for daily life and networking in Hong Kong, thereby facilitating their smooth integration into the local community. Learning activities focus on developing listening and speaking skills to build learners' confidence and fluency in using Cantonese for everyday communication. Students are expected to attend three hours of class and complete up to six hours of out-of-class work per week. The course is offered in both the Fall and Spring semesters.

Course Schedule and Topics

Weeks	Topics
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Course introduction and self-introduction
1-12	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Recognizing frequently used Chinese characters and phrases• Knowing the differences between Cantonese and Putonghua in lexical and syntactic choice
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Making friends
2-12	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Basic knowledge of Cantonese Phonology• Introduction to common Cantonese slang
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Campus life
4	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Time and date
5	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Festivals
6	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• University life
7	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Making telephone calls
8	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mid-Term Assessment
9	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ordering food and drinks
10	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Exploring Hong Kong
11	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dress and appearance
12	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Final Assessment
13	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Final Assessment

Intended Learning Outcomes (ILOs)

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

1. Describe the fundamental features of the Cantonese phonological and tonal systems.
2. Demonstrate an appreciation for Cantonese culture and display cross-cultural awareness.
3. Perform basic listening and speaking tasks related to personal and school life for daily social interaction.
4. Apply basic Cantonese grammatical structures for effective oral communication.
5. Distinguish key lexical and syntactic differences between Cantonese and Putonghua.
6. Identify, evaluate, integrate, and properly cite information from cultural sources to produce a research report.
7. Develop ideas with clarity and depth.
8. Organize ideas coherently, ensuring logical flow and focused development from the sentence to the text level.

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
A1a: In-class listening comprehension	15%	First lesson Week 8
A1b: In-class speech (2 minutes, individual)	20%	Second lesson Week 8
A2: Group research project report (2000-2500 Chinese words, topic – an aspect of Hong Kong culture)	15%	17:00 Friday Week 13
A3a: In-class speech (1 minute; individual)	15%	Second lesson Week 13
A3b: Dialogue with instructor (2 minutes; individual)	15%	
Group Project presentation--- In-class research project presentation	10%	Second Lesson Week 12 or First lesson Week 13
Peer Evaluation	5%	17:00 Friday of Week 13
Online contributions via Canvas discussions	5%	spread through course

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

Mapping of Course ILOs to Main Assessment Tasks

A1a: In-class listening comprehension

A1b: In-class speech (2 minutes, individual)

- ILO3, ILO4, ILO5
- These tasks are designed to assess students' abilities in three key areas: performing basic communicative tasks in listening and speaking relating to personal and school life (ILO3), applying basic Cantonese grammar for effective oral communication (ILO4), and distinguishing lexical and syntactic differences between Cantonese and Putonghua (ILO5).

A2: Group research project report (2000- 2500 Chinese words, topic – an aspect of Hong Kong culture)

- ILO2, ILO6, ILO7, ILO8
- This task assesses students' ability to (1) demonstrate appreciation for Cantonese culture and display cross-cultural awareness (ILO2); (2) synthesize and critique information from multiple sources (ILO6) to develop ideas with clarity and depth (ILO7); and (3) organize and communicate those ideas coherently in a cultural research report (ILO8).

A3a: In-class speech (1 minute, individual)

A3b: Dialogue with instructor (2 minutes, individual)

- ILO3, ILO4, ILO5
- These tasks assess students' abilities to (1) perform basic listening and speaking tasks relating to personal and school contexts for daily communication (ILO3); (2) apply basic Cantonese grammar for effective oral communication (ILO4); and (3) recognize lexical and syntactic differences between Cantonese and Putonghua (ILO5).

Grading Rubrics

Detailed rubrics for each assignment will be provided on the course Canvas 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	LEVEL	DESCRIPTOR
A	Excellent	Demonstrates sophisticated Cantonese and non-verbal communication skills, along with flexible, coherent, and expressive written Chinese. Skilfully applies engaging multimodal approaches to create discourse for diverse language tasks, underpinned by high-level creative and critical thinking, digital awareness, and information synthesis. Also shows significant achievement in self-reflection, cooperative learning, and proactive problem-solving.
B	Good	Demonstrates the ability to use fluent Cantonese with appropriate non-verbal communication, and produce accurate, clear, and coherent written Chinese, apply some multimodal elements to create discourse for diverse language tasks, underpinned by critical thinking, digital awareness, and information analysis, and exhibit strong evidence of self-reflection, cooperative learning, and proactive problem-solving.
C	Satisfactory	Uses foundational Cantonese and written Chinese to complete discourse tasks. Also applies emerging analytical skills and demonstrate consistent, steady effort toward their learning goals.
D	Marginal Pass	Demonstrates a basic ability to use Cantonese for simple communication. Possesses the potential for further developing their language proficiency, communicative awareness, and overall motivation for learning.
F	Fail	Demonstrates a limited grasp of the course content and requirements. Also shows a significant gap in Cantonese proficiency and/or insufficient engagement with the learning objectives.

Course AI Policy

Students are encouraged to leverage all available tools to enhance their Cantonese communication. Concurrently, they are expected to uphold the highest standards of academic integrity. While the use of generative AI (GenAI) or other tools is permitted and carries no penalty, it must not substitute for a student's original work. All assessed assignments and presentations must represent the student's own preparation and effort.

Communication and Feedback

Individual assessment marks will be posted on Canvas within two weeks of the submission deadline. Feedback will highlight both strengths and areas for improvement. Students are encouraged to review this feedback and may consult the instructor with any questions within five working days of receiving it.

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.

