The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology
UG Course Syllabus

Pinyin for Non-Chinese Language Background Students
LANG 1101
1 credits
Pre-/co-requisites: N/A
LANG1113, LANG1117-1118, LANG1122 -1127 (prior to 2022-23), LANG1412-1416, LANG1421-1426, LANG1513-1515

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Office Hours: Available by appointment only

Course Description
This is a four-and-a-half-week course worth one credit, targeting students with non-Chinese language background. The course aims to enhance their ability to pronounce Chinese words correctly and increase their awareness of Pinyin spelling rules, tone sandhi, neutral tone, and as well as to help them identify the differences between easily confused tones, initials and finals. After completing this course, students will be able to use Pinyin as a tool to pronounce commonly used Chinese words and sentences in daily life.

Course outlines

Week	Module	Topics
2	Pinyin Learning	Pinyin System and Identify Tones
3		Distinguish Difficult Initials and Tone Sandhi
4		Distinguish Compound Finals and Nasal Finals
5		Pinyin Revision and Spelling Rules
6	Final Assessment	Pinyin Written Test and Oral Assessment

Intended Learning Outcomes (ILOs)
By the end of this course, students should be able to:

1.Demonstrate understanding of the Pinyin system

2.Distiguish between easily confused tones, initials, finals in Putonghua

3.Demonstrate understanding of neutral tone, tone sandhi and erhua in Putonghua

4.Demonstrate understanding of Pinyin spelling rules and regulations

5.Pronounce commonly used Chinese words and sentences for daily life accurately using the Pinyin system

Course Assessment

Assessment Task	Contribution to Overall Course grade (%)	Due date
Pinyin Written Test	50%	Approx. week 6*
Oral Assessment: Script Reading & Self-introduction	30%	Approx. week 6*
Self-directed learning: Canvas quizzes	10%	Spread through course
Self-reflection on Pinyin	10%	Approx. week 6*

*Specific due dates are posted on Canvas.

Mapping of Course ILOs to Assessment Tasks

Assessment tasks	Mapped ILOs	Explanation
Pinyin Written Test (In-class)	ILO-2, ILO-3, ILO-4	This task assesses students' various abilities, such as distinguishing between easily confused tones, initials and finals (ILO-2), demonstrating an understanding of neutral tone, tone sandhi (ILO-3), as well as understanding spelling rules and regulations (ILO-4).
Oral Assessment (In-class) Script Reading & Self-introduction	ILO-1, ILO-4, ILO-5	This task assesses students' ability to appropriately and accurately apply skills of Putonghua Pinyin system and spelling rules from the course in basic daily communication contexts (ILO1, ILO4 and ILO5).
Self-directed learning: Canvas quizzes & self-reflection	ILO-2, ILO-3, ILO-4	This task consolidates students' ability not only to practice Pinyin skills effectively (ILO2, ILO3 and ILO4) but also to developing their Putonghua phonetic awareness through online quizzes and self-reflection.

Grading Rubrics

This course uses **a Pass/Fail** grading system. For passing grade, students must demonstrate consistent engagement and satisfactory achievement of the course's Intended Learning Outcomes (ILOs) across all assessment components.

Final Grade Descriptors

Grade	Level	Description
P	Pass	• Demonstrates a clear understanding of basic Putonghua pronunciation and tones • Effectively communicates simple words and sentences for basic communication contexts with minimal errors • Participates actively in class activities and shows improvement throughout the course • Completes all assignments and assessments with satisfactory performance
F	Fail	• Struggles with basic pronunciation and frequently misuses tones • Has difficulty forming simple words and sentences or expressing ideas clearly in basic communication contexts • Show little to no participation in class activities • Fails to complete assignments or assessments adequately

Required Texts and Materials
Course resources: 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 five working days after the feedback is received.

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.

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