

The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology
UG Course Syllabus

Cantonese for Non-Chinese Language Background Students I

LANG1130

3 Credits (free elective)

Pre-/co-requisites: LANG 1130 is open to UST undergraduates of non-Chinese speaking background (including exchange students) and for complete beginners only.

No pre-requisites and co-requisites are required.

Name of Course Coordinator: Crystal Chan

Email of Course Coordinator: lccrystal@ust.hk

If you have any questions, your first point of contact should be your section instructor. Please find the email address on Canvas.

Office Hours of Course Coordinator: Available by appointment only.

Course Description

LANG 1130 is a credit-bearing Cantonese elective course for UST undergraduates of non-Chinese speaking background. It will equip students with the Cantonese proficiency and communication competence necessary for living and networking in Hong Kong, thus facilitating their smooth integration into the local community. The learning activities involve developing students' listening and speaking skills in an attempt to build learners' confidence and fluency in using Cantonese for daily communication. Students attend three hours of class and complete up to six hours of out-of-class work, per week.

Course Outline

Week	Course Topics
1 - 7	Greeting and getting to know each other
	Talking about self and others
	Asking for and giving personal information
	Telling the time and date
	Exchanging phone numbers and making phone calls
	Going places
	Basic knowledge of Cantonese Phonology Recognizing frequently used Chinese characters and phrases
8	Speaking Assessment (Individual Speech) & Review Quiz
9 - 12	Ordering food and drinks
	Talking about schedules and timetables
	Making appointments
	Talking about likes, dislikes, interests and hobbies
	Asking for prices and bargaining
	Basic knowledge of Cantonese Phonology Recognizing frequently used Chinese characters and phrases
13	Speaking Assessments (Role-play, Individual Speech & Dialogue with Instructor)

Intended Learning Outcomes (ILOs)

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

1. Perform basic communicative tasks in listening and speaking on the topics or conversations closely related to personal and school contexts for daily and social interactions
2. Understand and apply basic Cantonese grammar for effective oral communication
3. Use a range of Cantonese vocabulary and simple colloquial expressions appropriately
4. Demonstrate knowledge of the Cantonese phonological and tonal systems
5. Show interest in and appreciation of Cantonese culture, and develop cross-cultural awareness

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*
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Speaking Assessment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Individual Speech (1.5 min) • Review Quiz (listening comprehension) 	20% 20%	In class, approx. Week 7 - 8
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Speaking Assessments <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Group Role-play (~8 mins) ◦ Peer Evaluation ◦ Individual Speech (1.5 min) ◦ Dialogue with Instructor (1.5 min, individual) 	15% 5% 15% 15%	In class, approx. Week 13
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learning tasks and Engagement 	10%	spread through course

* Specific due dates are posted on Canvas.

Mapping of Course ILOs to Main Assessment Tasks

Assessed Task	Mapped ILOs	Explanation
Review Quiz & Speaking Assessment: Individual Speech	ILO1, ILO2, ILO3, ILO4	These tasks assess students' abilities to perform basic communicative tasks in listening and speaking on the topics or conversations closely related to personal and school contexts for daily and social interactions (ILO1), understand and apply basic Cantonese grammar for effective oral communication (ILO2), use a range of Cantonese vocabulary and simple colloquial expressions appropriately (ILO3), and demonstrate knowledge of the Cantonese phonological and tonal systems (ILO4).
Speaking Assessments: Group Role-play, Individual Speech & Dialogue with instructor	ILO1, ILO2, ILO3, ILO4, ILO5	These tasks assess students' abilities to perform basic communicative tasks in listening and speaking on the topics or conversations closely related to personal and school contexts for daily and social interactions (ILO1),

		understand and apply basic Cantonese grammar for effective oral communication (ILO2), use a range of Cantonese vocabulary and simple colloquial expressions appropriately (ILO3), demonstrate knowledge of the Cantonese phonological and tonal systems (ILO4), and show interest in and appreciation of Cantonese culture, and develop cross-cultural awareness (ILO5).
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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 s	Short Description	Elaboration on subject grading description
A	Excellent Performance	Demonstrates the ability to use a full range of topic-related vocabulary with precision and effectiveness, and to speak fluently with minimal repetition or self-correction while maintaining clear logical organization and coherence. Ideas are developed fully and appropriately, supported by the natural and accurate use of a wide range of topic-related grammatical structures with consistently high grammatical control. Pronunciation of Cantonese features, including initials, finals, and tones, is highly accurate and clear, making speech effortless to understand.
B	Good Performance	Demonstrates the ability to use a range of topic-related vocabulary with some flexibility, though with occasional errors, and to speak generally fluently with some repetition or self-correction while maintaining clear organization. Ideas are mostly developed appropriately, supported by a range of grammatical structures with some flexibility, despite some remaining inaccuracies. Pronunciation of Cantonese features, including initials, finals, and tones, is fairly accurate, with occasional mispronunciations. Overall, speech is generally understandable, though clarity may sometimes be reduced, and first-language influence has some effect on intelligibility.
C	Satisfactory Performance	Demonstrates the ability to use an adequate range of topic-related vocabulary with limited flexibility and frequent errors, and to speak with noticeable repetition, self-correction, and hesitation while attempting to convey meaning despite inappropriate choices. A limited range of mainly simple structures is used, with frequent errors in more complex forms that rarely impede comprehension. Pronunciation of Cantonese features, including initials, finals, and tones, shows limited accuracy, with frequent or systematic mispronunciations. Overall, speech remains understandable, though clarity is often reduced, and first-language influence noticeably affects intelligibility.
D	Marginal Pass	Demonstrates the ability to use a limited range of topic-related vocabulary with very frequent errors, and to speak slowly with frequent hesitation, repetition, and self-correction. Uses a restricted range of

		mostly simple structures, with frequent errors even in basic forms that may cause comprehension problems. Pronunciation of Cantonese features shows little accuracy, with frequent mispronunciations. Overall, only about half of the message is understandable, and first-language influence seriously affects intelligibility. Has the potential to further develop Cantonese 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 Cantonese 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 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 ten working days of submission. Feedback on assignments will include strengths and areas for improvement where relevant. 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

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