

The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology
UG Course Syllabus

Korean Language and Culture for Beginners 1

LANG1230

3 credits

Pre-/co-requisites: N/A

Name of Course Coordinators: June OH

Email of Course Coordinators: lcjune@ust.hk

Office Hours of Course Coordinators: Available by appointment only.

Course Description

LANG1230 is a free elective course open to all UG students with no prior knowledge of the Korean language. The course introduces fundamental language skills and contemporary Korean culture through practical communication in real-life contexts, developing students' listening, speaking, reading and writing abilities. You will build up an essential vocabulary and grasp the basic grammar necessary to reach a level of proficiency roughly equivalent to CEFR (Common European Framework of Reference for Language) A1.1.

You will learn to read and write *Hangeul* (the Korean writing system), introduce yourselves, ask and answer simple questions, and handle everyday situations in shops, restaurants, and on campus. The course uses up-to-date K-pop songs, drama clips, variety show segments and social media content to engage students and demonstrate authentic language use. Through these materials and experiential tasks outside of class, you will gain insight into key cultural norms, including social hierarchy and appropriate speech styles. Devices such as tablets are required in class exclusively for instructional purposes, to access handouts and complete the assigned activities.

Key topics

- Unit 1: Korean language and Hangeul
- Unit 2: Introductions
- Unit 3: Daily life
- Unit 4: Objects and places
- Unit 5: Daily schedule
- Unit 6: Shopping and food

Methods of instruction

This course utilizes a flipped classroom approach, incorporating pre-class materials and interactive tutorials to support active learning through group discussions, collaborative activities, and peer learning. Weekly (or near-weekly) ungraded worksheets will be provided to help students track their progress. Students are strongly encouraged to submit these completed worksheets by the deadline to receive timely feedback.

Intended Learning Outcomes (ILOs)

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

1. Accurately pronounce the Korean alphabet (Hangeul) by understanding its underlying principles and applying its sound system correctly.

2. Read, write, and type Hangeul to understand and produce simple written messages for everyday communication.
3. Use basic expressions to manage daily interactions, including greetings and essential social exchanges.
4. Ask and respond to simple questions for everyday situations such as shopping and travelling.
5. Describe daily routines and personal characteristics of oneself and others using appropriate present tense structures.
6. Distinguish between different spoken language styles and apply them appropriately based on social hierarchy, social context, and cultural norms in Korea.

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*
Pop-quizzes (in-class)	12%	Four times throughout the semester
Writing assessment (forum discussion & in-class writing)	18%	Approx. Week 4, 7, and 10*
Learning portfolio (file submission)	20%	Approx. Week 12*
Review Quiz (in-class)	50%	Week 13

*Specific due dates are posted on Canvas. Assessment marks for individual assessed tasks will be released within ten working days of the due date.

Mapping of Course ILOs to Assessment Tasks

Assessed Task	Mapped ILOs	Explanation
Pop-quizzes • 3% each	ILO1, ILO2, ILO3, ILO4, ILO5, ILO6	Four unannounced pop-quizzes will be set to assess whether students have thoroughly mastered the material covered in class so far.
Writing assessment • Forum discussion (6%) • 2x in-class writing (6%)	ILO2, ILO3, ILO4, ILO6	• One forum discussion task will be posted throughout the semester to reinforce the material covered in class. Specific guidelines will be given by the instructor. (ILO2, 3, 4, 6) • During two in-class translation assessments on paper, students will translate the given English sentences into Korean in about 10 minutes. The template Korean sentences will be given one week beforehand. (ILO2)
Learning portfolio • Two videos (2 x 6%) • One written reflection (8%)	ILO1, ILO3, ILO4, ILO5, ILO6	• Two videos: Students will record two, 2-3 min short videos using Korean in real-life contexts: a vlog of them introducing their campus life to Korean students (Week 8), and a video of them having a

		conversation about Korean food. (ILO1, 3, 4, 5, 6). One reflection: Students will transcribe a short segment from a K-pop song, film, or drama that they can understand based on the course content, and write a brief 250–300-word reflection explaining the linguistic or cultural features observed. Alternatively, students may participate in an event organised by the Korean Cultural Center in Hong Kong and write a reflection on the language or cultural experience. (ILO 1, 3, 6)
Review Quiz - Listening 14% - Reading 8% - Vocabulary 12% - Writing 6% - Oral 10%	ILO1, ILO2, ILO3, ILO4, ILO5, ILO6	- Paper-based assessment: students will be tested overall vocabulary, listening comprehension, grammar, and reading comprehension skill. - Oral assessment (6-8 mins): Students in pairs to select a situation anonymously among two or three options for an impromptu conversation. Students team will then create and perform a dialogue that fits the given conditions. They then switch roles and perform the same conversation with switched role one more time.

Grading Rubrics

Detailed rubrics for each assignment are provided on Canvas. 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	Demonstrates exceptional achievement across all learning outcomes and fulfils all specified assessment criteria. Shows complete understanding and effective use of familiar everyday expressions and basic phrases to meet concrete needs. Confidently asks and answers questions about personal details and interacts competently in areas of immediate need or on familiar topics.
B	Good Performance	Demonstrates strong achievement in all learning outcomes. Understands and generally uses familiar everyday expressions and basic phrases appropriately to fulfil concrete needs. Asks and answers questions about personal details effectively and interact suitably in areas of immediate need or on familiar topics.
C	Satisfactory Performance	Achieves satisfactory performance in most learning outcomes. Partially understands and uses familiar

		everyday expressions and basic phrases to meet concrete needs. Shows basic ability to ask and answer questions about personal details and interacts with limited appropriateness in areas of immediate need or on familiar topics.
D	Marginal Pass	Meets minimal standards in a limited number of learning outcomes. Demonstrates difficulty in understanding and using familiar everyday expressions and basic phrases. Has limited ability to ask and answer questions about personal details and interacts poorly in areas of immediate need or on familiar topics.
F	Fail	Fails to meet the required standards for several learning outcomes and/or does not satisfy the assessment criteria. Unable to understand or use familiar everyday expressions and basic phrases to meet concrete needs. Cannot effectively ask or answer questions about personal details and/or is unable to interact appropriately in areas of immediate need or on familiar topics.

Course AI Policy

We encourage students to make use of all the tools available that can help them to learn and enhance their ability to communicate effectively in Korean. We also expect students to uphold the highest standards of academic integrity. There is no penalty for using or not using GenAI. However, GenAI and other tools cannot be used as a substitute for a student's own work. The use of GenAI or other tools should be limited to supplementary assistance, such as exploring vocabulary, grammar rules, or cultural insights, and not as a means of generating responses or completing tasks on behalf of the student.

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 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

- *New Ewha Korean 새이화한국어 1-1* (Student Book)
- Supplementary handouts on 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.