

The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology
UG Course Syllabus

Chinese Communication in Global Context

LANG1423

3 Credits

Pre-/co-requisites: N/A

Exclusions: LANG1411, LANG1412, LANG1413, LANG1414, LANG1415, LANG1120-1127 (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 Course Leader: YU Wai Ying

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Office Hours: Available by appointment only. Students should contact their section instructor directly with any questions.

Course Description

LANG1423 is a three-credit, one semester Chinese communication common core. This course is for students who have a background in Chinese. Its main goals are to train and improve students' Chinese writing and communication skills in Putonghua. It also focuses on developing students' critical thinking skills, cross-cultural interaction, team work and self-learning capabilities.

The course adopts a context-based teaching approach, aimed at raising students' concerns about social issues. Through various learning activities, we intend to cultivate students' critical thinking and audience awareness, raise their concerns about social affairs, help them express their opinions on social affairs and topics with reason.

Course outlines:

Module	Week	Course Topics
One: Communication Patterns in the 21 st Century	1	Language, context and communication
	2	Human vs. Machine communication
Two: Youth-Friendly City	3	Recommended approaches and techniques
	4	Multimodal Usage and Practices
	5	Advance presentation skills
	6	Recommend a “Youth-Friendly City”
	7	Constructive feedback
Three: Gen Z and the Shifting 21st Century	8	Divergent thinking, convergent thinking, directed thinking and reverse thinking
	9	Structure of speech
	10	Skills of public speaking
	11	Delivering a special presentation
	12	Structure of commentary
	13	Writing a commentary

Methods of instruction: interactive tutorials support active learning through group discussion, collaborative activities, peer learning, input, practice and feedback.

Intended Learning Outcomes (ILOs)

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

- 1 Develop critical thinking.
- 2 Accurately identify key ideas and implied meanings while effectively gathering information from different materials.
- 3 Use standard Chinese to write different types of articles.
- 4 Communicate confidently and fluently in Putonghua, adapt their speaking to different contexts.
- 5 Collaborate effectively with team members for participation in class activities.
- 6 Develop an international outlook by exploring global talent policies and youth perspectives.

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
A1 Youth-Friendly City Exhibition (A) Students give a public speech to recommend a “Youth- Friendly City”. (3–3.5 mins, and no more than 5 pages PPT) (B) Students write a reflective essay based on peer feedback. (500-1000 Chinese characters)	25% 10%	17:00, Friday of Week 6 Week 8
A2 Gen Z and the Shifting 21st Century Forum (A) Students organize a 25-minute thematic forum presentation by group. (B) Students write a commentary based on any statement or insight from a classmate in Assessment 2A. (1000-1300 Chinese characters)	25% 30%	Week 11 17:00, 30 th Nov 2026
Peer Evaluation	5%	17:00, Friday of Week 13
Engagement	5%	Whole semester

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

Mapping of Course ILOs to Main Assessment Tasks

Assessed Task	Mapped ILOs	Explanation
A1: (A) Public speaking	ILO2, ILO4	This task assesses students' ability to evaluate information (ILO2) and orally explain their favourite city in Putonghua (ILO4).
(B) Reflective essay	ILO1, ILO3	This task assesses students' critical thinking skills (ILO1) and their ability to use standard Chinese to present their ideas clearly and systematically (ILO3).
A2: (A) Thematic forum presentation	ILO1, ILO4, ILO5, ILO6	This task assesses students' collaborative skills (ILO5) and Putonghua speaking skills (ILO4). During the panel, each student must share his views on the topic (ILO6) and respond to others' questions (ILO1).
(B) Commentary writing	ILO1, ILO2, ILO3	This task assesses students' ability to comprehend a speech (ILO2) and respond to others' views (ILO1) in Standard Chinese (ILO3).

Grading Rubrics

Detailed rubrics for each assignment will be provided on the Canvas course 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

Grades	Short Description	Elaboration on subject grading description
A	Excellent Performance	Demonstrates abilities to use sophisticated Putonghua and non-verbal communication skills, flexible, rich, coherent, expressive written Chinese, and apply engaging multimodal approaches to create discourses for various language tasks, which are based on a high level of creative thinking, critical thinking, global context awareness, information analysis and synthesis. Displays significant achievement in self-reflection, cooperative learning, and problem-solving initiatives.
B	Good Performance	Demonstrates abilities to use fluent Putonghua, appropriate non-verbal communication, accurate, clear, concise, coherent written Chinese, and apply some multimodal elements to produce discourses for various language tasks, which are based on critical thinking, global context awareness, information analysis and synthesis. Shows a strong sense of self-reflection, cooperative learning, and problem-solving initiatives.

C	Satisfactory Performance	Demonstrates abilities to use Putonghua, some non-verbal communication, and adequate written Chinese to complete discourses, which are based on some capacity for critical thinking, information analysis and synthesis. Shows persistence and effort to achieve broadly defined learning goals.
D	Marginal Pass	Shows a certain level of ability to use Putonghua and written Chinese to do simple communication. Has the potential to further develop Chinese language 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 Chinese language 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 two weeks of submission. 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 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.