

Thursday 3:00PM-5:50PM
G009A, CYT Bldg 鄭裕彤樓 G009A 教室

Instructor: SUN Jingtao 孫景濤

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Office Hours: Mon and Thu 12:00PM-13:30PM

Course site in CANVAS: <https://canvas.ust.hk/>, where course materials are arranged and placed in accordance with the following three categories:

- A. Syllabus and Announcements (#01-#10)
- B. Lecture Notes (#11-#30)
- C. Study materials (#31-#99)

Course Description:

This systematic and rigorous course to the Chinese writing system covers its origin, nature, classification and development. Students will learn a newly-developed framework, i.e., the three-principle theory of Chinese scripts, by which thousands of characters coming from archeological materials such as jiǎgǔwén (oracle bone inscriptions), jīnwén (bronze inscriptions) and jiǎnbówénzi (bamboo and silk scripts) can be appropriately analyzed and classified. This course also offers a critical survey of important issues related to Chinese script in modern times, including simplification, Romanization (Latinization), acquisition, recognition, and adaptability to various Chinese dialects and other languages. Theories and research in general linguistics, sociolinguistics, heritage history and cognitive science will also be covered in order to address adequately issues related to Chinese characters.

Grading Policy: (1) Test (20%); (2) Presentation (10%); (3) Term paper (70%)

Weekly schedule:

Week	Date (Thu)	Topics
1	Sep. 7	A. Introduction; B. Nature of Chinese script
2	Sep. 14	Nature of Chinese script (con't)
3	Sep. 21	A. Classification of Chinese characters (<i>Shuowen Jiezi</i> 說文解字; Six principles theory of Chinese script 六書說; Three principles theory of Chinese script 三書說) B. Semantographs (表意字)
4	Sep. 26	Semantographs (表意字)
5	Oct 5	No Class (<i>The Day following the Chinese Mid-Autumn Festival</i>)
6	Oct. 12	A. Loanographs (jiàjièzì 假借字) B. Discussion on the three principles theory of Chinese script.
7	Oct. 19	Phonograms (形聲字)
8	Oct. 26	A. Phonograms (形聲字) B. Characters for Cantonese words (粵語字) C. A comparison of Chinese writing with other writing systems, --based on six principles theory of Chinese script (漢字與其他文字的比較 -- 在六書的基礎上)
9	Nov. 2	A. Test; B. Chinese ancient script: Oracle bone inscriptions (甲骨文) and Bronze inscriptions (金文) C. Historical and Cultural elements implied in Chinese script(漢字隱含的歷史文化成分)
10	Nov. 9	Simplification of Chinese characters (漢字簡化)
11	Nov. 16	Phonetization and Romanization of Chinese (characters) (漢字的注音與拼音化問題)
12	Nov. 23	Issues in cognition of Chinese characters (漢字認知問題)
13	Nov. 30	Why Chinese script basically remained unchanged over several thousands of years? (漢字千年不廢的原因)