

Thursday 3:00PM-5:50PM
Rm1032, LSK Building 李兆基大樓

Instructor: SUN Jingtao 孫景濤

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Office Hours: Mon and Thu 11:30PM-13:00PM

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:

An advanced-level study of the Chinese writing system as a quintessential embodiment and carrier of Chinese culture, covering its origin, development, classification, and its orthographical and cultural characteristics. Students will learn a newly-developed framework, i.e., the three-principle theory of Chinese script, by which thousands of characters from the earliest oracle bone inscriptions to the modern form of the script 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 Sinitic and Sinosphere languages, taking into consideration research in general linguistics, sociolinguistics, heritage history, and cognitive science. Restricted to students in the MA program in International Language Education. [C]

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

Weekly schedule:

Week	Date (Thu)	Topics
1	Sep. 6	A. Introduction; B. Nature of Chinese script
2	Sep. 13	Nature of Chinese script (con't)
3	Sep. 20	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. 27	Semantographs (表意字)
5	Oct 4	No Class (<i>The Day following the Chinese Mid-Autumn Festival</i>)
6	Oct. 11	A. Loangraphs (jiajiezi 假借字) B. Discussion on the three principles theory of Chinese script.
7	Oct. 18	Phonograms (形聲字)
8	Oct. 25	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. 1	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. 8	Simplification of Chinese characters (漢字簡化)
11	Nov. 15	Phonetization and Romanization of Chinese (characters) (漢字的注音與拼音化問題)
12	Nov. 22	Issues in cognition of Chinese characters (漢字認知問題)
13	Nov. 29	Why Chinese script basically remained unchanged over several thousands of years? (漢字千年不廢的原因)