

HUMA1020 Chinese Writing and Culture 漢字與文化
Monday 4:30pm-5:50pm & Friday 12:00pm-1:20pm Rm 4619 (Lift 31-32)

Instructor: SUN Jingtao 孫景濤

Office: 3353 (Lift 3); Tel. 2358-7795; E-mail: <hmjtsun@ust.hk>

Office hours: Mon. & Fri. 2:30pm-4:00pm

Teaching Assistant: KAT Wing Sze 吉穎絲

Office: Rm3001; Email: wskat@connect.ust.hk

Office hour: Mon. 2:00pm-3:00pm or by appointment

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

A. Syllabus and Announcements (#001-#010)

B. Lecture outline with some examples (#011-#020)

C. Lecture Notes (#021-#050)

D. Reading Materials (#051-#100)

E. Supplementary Materials (#101-#120)

F. Assignments (#121-#130)

Objective and description:

This introductory course to the Chinese writing system covers the origin, classification and development. Also covered briefly are the cultural and historical implications of the script.

The course will be conducted through lectures combined with discussions of assigned readings/problems, take-home assignment and team work on research project. This course has a CANVAS website in which students can access the instructor's lecture notes and other study materials.

Intended Learning Outcomes:

On completion of this course, students will: 1) get a systematic understanding of how the Chinese writing originated and developed; 2) clearly understand how phonetic and semantic components function in forming Chinese characters; 3) be able to analyze Chinese characters and to classify them into different categories in accordance with the newly-developed theory – the three-principles theory of Chinese script; 4) identify the historical and cultural components implied in the Chinese writing system. 5) be able to identify about 200 Chinese characters in archaeological texts such as the Oracle bone inscriptions 甲骨文 and bronze inscriptions 金文, and about 100 characters created for dialectal words including those in Cantonese. 6) be able to apply the three-principles theory of Chinese script in creating their own characters.

(See over)

Readings:

1. Qiu Xigui. *Chinese Writing*, translated by Gilbert Louis Mattos, Jerry Norman, Early China Special Monograph Series, No. 4. Berkeley: Publications, Institute of East Asian Studies, University of California, Berkeley, 2000. This book is the English translation of the Chinese book: 裘錫圭. 《文字學概要》，北京：商務印書館，1988 (available in University Bookstore)。又重印於臺北：萬卷樓圖書公司，1994。(All the relevant chapters of these books are available in the Library and can be borrowed for a one-day loan.)
2. Other reading materials including supplementary materials are available in the CANVAS course website.

Course schedule:

- Week 1. Introduction 課程介紹; The development of writing 文字的發展
- Week 2. The development of writing 文字的發展
- Week 3. Nature, origin and development of Chinese Script 漢字的性質、形成、發展
- Week 4. Classification of Chinese characters 漢字基本類型的劃分
- Week 5. Semantographs 表意字
- Week 6. Semantographs 表意字
- Week 7. Phonograms 形聲字; Assignment 1; Midterm (March. 23)
- Week 8. Phonograms 形聲字
- Week 9. Loangraphs 假借字; Assignment 2
- Week 10. Oracle bone inscriptions 甲骨文
- Week 11. Bronze inscriptions 金文; Graphs created for Cantonese words 粵語字; Exercise of creating characters 造字練習
- Week 12. Characters tell stories 漢字故事
- Week 13. Characters tell stories 漢字故事; Review 複習

Assessment of student learning:

Participation 5%

Assignment 10% (a. creating characters in accordance with the three-principles theory of Chinese script 三書說 (4%); b. investigating the cultural component implied in Chinese writing (4%); quiz (2%))

Midterm 30% (short questions, multiple-choice, identifying ancient characters, classifying Chinese characters)

Final exam 55% (short questions, multiple-choice, classifying Chinese characters, analyzing the historical and cultural components implied in Chinese writing system)