

HUMA1020 Chinese Writing and Culture 漢字與文化  
**Mon 4:30pm-5:50pm; Zoom: 944 2195 1999, PW:666666**  
**Fri 12:00pm-1:20pm; Zoom: 960 5738 7315, PW:666666**

**Instructor:** Prof SUN Jingtao 孫景濤

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

- A. Syllabus, Assignment and Announcements
- B. Lecture Notes
- C. Reading Materials
- D. Supplementary Materials

**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 Chinese characters, and the script simplification and Romanization will be discussed. The course will be conducted through lectures combined with discussions of assigned readings/problems and take-home assignment. 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 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. 7) scrutinize unbiasedly and critically the drawbacks and advantages of the Chinese script with regard to

its simplification and Romanization.

### 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, 2013。又重印於臺北: 萬卷樓圖書公司, 1994。
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; (Lunar New Year's Day, 12<sup>th</sup> Feb. No class)
- Week 3. (The fourth day of Lunar New Year, 15<sup>th</sup> Feb. No class;) 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
- Week 8. Loangraphs 假借字; Midterm (March 26<sup>th</sup>)
- Week 9. Oracle bone inscriptions 甲骨文; (Good Friday, 2<sup>nd</sup> Apr. No class)
- Week 9. (The day following Ching Ming Festival, 5<sup>th</sup> Apr. No class;) Graphs created for Cantonese words (粵語字)
- Week 10. Simplification of Chinese characters (漢字簡化)
- Week 11. Phonetization and Romanization of Chinese (characters) (漢字的注音與拼音化問題)
- Week 12. Historical and Cultural elements implied in Chinese script (漢字隱含的歷史文化成分)
- Week 13. Review 複習

### Assessment of student learning:

- Assignment 5% (creating characters in accordance with the three-principles theory of Chinese script 三書說)
- Midterm 30% (short questions, multiple-choice, identifying ancient characters, classifying Chinese characters)
- Final exam 65% (short questions, multiple-choice, classifying Chinese characters, analyzing the historical and cultural components implied in Chinese writing system)