

**Course Code:** HUMA 1030  
**Course Title:** Structure of the Chinese Language  
**Course Offered in:** Fall 2024  
**Course Instructor:** Dr. Dechao Li

**Course Description:** This course introduces basic concepts in linguistics such as consonant, vowel, tone, syllable, morpheme... concepts which help students to describe and analyze the structure of the Chinese language. Moreover, the phonology, morphology and syntax of Mandarin and Cantonese will be illustrated in detail for the students to have a thorough picture of different aspects of the structure of Chinese language. Furthermore, similarities and differences among major Chinese dialects such as Mandarin, Yue, Min, Hakka, Wu, etc. will be introduced. And a very brief illustration of language evolution across different Chinese dialects in history will be given at the end of the course.

**Course Intended Learning Outcomes (ILOs):**

	Course ILOs
1	Use the basic concepts to describe and analyze the structure of Chinese dialects
2	Articulate the differences among major Chinese dialects
3	Articulate the complexity of the linguistic situation in China

**Course Outline:**

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|-----------|--|
| Part I:   | Introduction   |
| Part II:  | Chinese phonology                                      |
| 1.        | Speech sounds and tones                                |
| 2.        | Romanization systems                                   |
| 3.        | Syllable structure                                     |
| Part III: | Chinese morphology                                     |
| 1.        | Morpheme and word                                      |
| 2.        | Word-formation processes                               |
| Part IV:  | Chinese syntax   |
| 1.        | Word classes   |
| 2.        | Word order   |
| 3.        | Sentence structure                                     |
| Part V:   | Topics in language situation and dialects across China |
| 1.        | Linguistic neighbors of the Chinese language           |
| 2.        | Defining language and dialect                          |
| 3.        | Major Chinese dialects                                 |
| Part VI:  | Brief Evolution of different dialects                  |

**Planned Assessment Tasks:**

Attendance:	10%
Assignment:	10%
In-class quizzes(5 times):	35%
Final Exam:	45%

**Three samples of readings:**

Bauer S. Robert and Paul K. Benedict. 1997. *Modern Cantonese Phonology*. Berlin: Mouton de Gruyter.

Hu Yushu (ed.) 胡裕樹主編. *Xiandai Hanyu*現代漢語. Shanghai: Shanghai jiaoyu chubanshe.(Library 2-hour reserve)

Norman Jerry. 1988. *Chinese*. New York: Cambridge University Press.

Yuan Jiahua et al. 袁家驊等. 1989. *Hanyu fanyan gaiyao*漢語方言概要. Beijing: Wenzhi gaige chubanshe.