

The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology

UG Course Syllabus

Fall 2025

Exploration of Chinese Calligraphy

HUMA1156

[3 Credits]

Name: Birdy Chu (Email: hmshun@ust.hk)

Office Hours: Appointments by email

TA: Law Chun Yin (Email: hmlcyin@ust.hk)

Course Description

Chinese Calligraphy is one of the most unique traditional art form in Asia. This course will develop students' appreciation of various types of Chinese Calligraphy.

The course provides practical writing workshops which can encourage students' interest and experience the progress; deepen students' understanding basic calligraphic skill and generate visual creativity. It prepares students having better overviews of Chinese culture

Intended Learning Outcomes (ILOs)

Upon completion of this course, students are expected to be able to:

Understand a major Chinese art form

Apply knowledge and technical skills of brush work and styles of Chinese calligraphy

Analyze the development of calligraphy through Chinese art history and the influences in the society nowadays

Create Chinese calligraphy artwork in a few styles and varies sizes

Assessment and Grading

This course will be assessed using criterion-referencing and grades will not be assigned using a curve. Detailed rubrics for each assignment are provided below, outlining the criteria used for evaluation.

Assessments:

Assessment Task	Contribution to Overall Course grade (%)	Due date
Mid-Term 1	25%	Week 5
Mid-Term 2	25%	Week 10
Final Project 1	20%	Week 12
Final Project 2	20%	Week 12

* Assessment marks for individual assessed tasks will be released within two weeks after students' presentations.

Mapping of Course ILOs to Assessment Tasks

Assessed Task	Mapped ILOs	Explanation
Mid-term 1	[ILO1, ILO2]	The tasks assess students' ability to explore understand the medium & skills
Mid-term 2	[ILO1, ILO2, ILO4]	The tasks assess students' ability to explore understand the artwork in a few styles and varies sizes.
Final Projects 1+2	[ILO1, ILO3, ILO4]	After the previous projects, students should have better skills on manipulating varies medium and format of writing.

Grading Rubrics

[These rubrics clearly outline the criteria used for evaluation. Students can refer to these rubrics to understand how their work will be assessed.]

Criteria	Excellent	Good	Satisfactory	Pass	Fail
	>=85/100 A range	>=75/100 B range	>=60/100 C range	>=40/100 D	<40/100 Fail
Calligraphy works	Excellent quality in writing the required style, well balance spacing and format.	Good quality in writing the required style, fair balance spacing and format.	Demonstrates some basic quality of the required script, but not ideal in spacing.	Without much effort are found. A bit weak in overall structure.	Weak execution, lack of focus and spacing.
Writing project	Sufficient information on the research topics, excellent points on analyzing, relevant self reflections and nice interpretation on rebranding.	Evidences of regular research and solid findings of the research topics, standard level on rebranding.	Basic attempts on researching the topics, weak self reflections and fair interpretation on rebranding.	Weak research, lack of self reflections and bad interpretation on rebranding.	Inadequate research support and weak in overall progress.

Course AI Policy

The use of Generative AI in project is NOT permitted.

Communication and Feedback

Assessment marks for individual assessed tasks will be communicated via Canvas within two weeks of presentations. Feedback on assignments will include comments on strengths and areas for improvement. **Students who have further questions about the feedback including marks should consult the instructor within five working days after the feedback is received.**

Material list

1. Ball Point Pen
2. Exercise Book (Grid box)
3. Chinese Calligraphy Brush: (small size)
2. Paper: (Half raw paper 半生熟宣紙) around 2 feet long.
3. Ink: 墨汁 (Bottle)
4. Color container: 顏色盒 (With lid. No ink leak)
5. Plastic Seal Bag (Store everything in the bag; to ensure there are nothing leaks outside the bag)

Recommended shop

友生昌筆墨莊 Yau Sang Cheong

3-5 Saigon Street, Cheung Wah Commercial Building, 3-5/F, Yau Ma Tei

中南圖書文具有限公司 CN SQUARE

503 Nathan Road, Yau Ma Tei, Hong Kong

- *We learned through lectures, exercises, outdoor practice, demo, visits, project consultations, assignments critique and discussions.*

Academic Integrity

Students are expected to adhere to the university's academic integrity policy. Students are expected to uphold HKUST's Academic Honor Code and to maintain the highest standards of academic integrity. The University has zero tolerance of academic misconduct. Please refer to [Academic Integrity | HKUST – Academic Registry](#) for the University's definition of plagiarism and ways to avoid cheating and plagiarism.