

**Division of Humanities**  
**Course Syllabus**

Course Code: HUMA 2050  
Course Title: Classical Chinese  
Course Offered in: Summer 2025  
Course Instructor: Dr. Dechao LI  
TA: Miss Christie LAM

**Course Description:** An introduction to the fundamental aspects of Classical Chinese grammar and a linguistic study of Classical Chinese texts selected from the classics in the pre-Qin era and the Han period, including *Shijing* (Book of Songs), *Zuozhuan* (Zuo's Commentaries), *Lunyu* (Analects), *Laozi* (Dao De Jing), *Mengzi* (Mencius), *Liji* (Book of Rites). This course also teaches students how to translate classical Chinese into modern Chinese and how to improve Chinese communication and writing skills. This is a Chinese communication course.

**Intended Learning Outcomes (ILOs):**

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

1	Have basic knowledge and understanding of the function words and syntax of Classical Chinese
2	Understand the fundamental differences in structural device and lexical/morphological mechanisms between ancient and modern Chinese language
3	Apply the basic principles of Classical Chinese in translating Classical Chinese texts into modern Chinese
4	Improve their reading and writing ability and oral communication skill in modern Chinese
5	Understand and appreciate better the works of the Chinese classics, especially in terms of their literary innovation, philosophical value, and cultural significance

**Course Outline:**

1	Introduction
2	Texts selected from <i>Zuozhuan</i> (Zuo's Commentaries 左傳)
3	Texts selected from <i>Zuozhuan</i> (Zuo's Commentaries 左傳)
4	Structure and development of Chinese script;
5	The phonographs(形聲字) of Chinese script; Texts selected from <i>Zuozhuan</i> (Zuo's Commentaries 左傳)

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6	Diachronic similarities and differences of word meaning; Texts selected from <i>Daxue</i> (The Great Learning 大學)
7	Texts selected from <i>Lunyu</i> (Analects 論語)
8	Word order; texts selected from <i>Zuozhuan</i> (Zuo's Commentaries 左傳)
9	Passive construction; Texts selected from <i>Laozi</i> (Dao De Jing 老子)
10	How to appreciate Tang Poems and Song Ci,
11	Texts selected from <i>Shijing</i> (Book of Songs 詩經); Texts selected from <i>Mengzi</i> (Mencius 孟子)

**Planned Assessment Tasks:**

Final exam: 65%

Attendance: 15%

Group Project: 20%

**Readings:**

郭錫良、唐作藩、何九盈、蔣紹愚、田瑞娟編著《古代漢語》，上、下冊，北京：商務印書館，1999。

王力主編（編者：吉常宏、祝敏徹、馬漢麟、郭錫良、許嘉璐、趙克勤、劉益之、蕭璋）《古代漢語》（校訂重排本），北京：中華書局，1999。

《古漢語常用字字典》，北京：商務印書館，1993。

《古文觀止》，（清）吳楚材、吳調侯，湖南：岳麓書社，1982。

裘錫圭，《文字學概要(修訂本)》，北京：商務印書館，2013。

Pulleyblank, Edwin G., *Outline of Classical Chinese*, Vancouver: UBC Press. 1995.