

**Division of Humanities
Tentative Course Syllabus**

Course Code: HUMA 1060
Course Title: Introduction to Mandarin Chinese Grammar [C][PU]
Course Offered in: Fall 2023
Course Instructor: Professor Zhang Min

Course Description: The course introduces students to basic concepts in Mandarin Chinese grammar and fundamental techniques of grammatical analysis. Differences between Chinese and English as well as between Mandarin and Cantonese will also be highlighted. Topics include word structure and sentence structure of Mandarin Chinese, and characteristics of Chinese grammar, etc.

Course Intended Learning Outcomes (ILOs):

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

1	summarize how grammar works using the fundamental concepts of morphology and syntax
2	categorize morphemes, words, phrases and sentences in Mandarin Chinese according to their grammatical behaviors
3	identify the major similarities and differences in grammar between Chinese and English, and (particularly for local students) between Mandarin and Cantonese
4	apply the concepts and analytical techniques to uncover rules and regularities from written Chinese data collected online or retrieved from large corpora
5	analyze the syntactic and semantic structure of a Chinese sentence

Course Outline:

Part I: Introduction

1. What is grammar
2. Linguistic signs
3. Properties of grammatical structure
4. Only God can make a tree
5. The autonomy of grammar

Part II: Word Structure of Mandarin Chinese

1. Grammatical Units
2. Wordhood
3. Chinese compounds
4. Derivational morphology of Chinese

Part III: Sentence Structure of Mandarin Chinese

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1. Introducing syntax
2. Grammatical categories
3. How to draw a tree
4. Semantic structure
5. Tense and aspect
6. How to disambiguate an ambiguous sentence
7. Transformation
8. Valence of verbs and ambiguity index
9. Complex sentences

Part IV: Characteristics of Mandarin Chinese Grammar

1. Major differences between Chinese and English
2. Major differences between Mandarin and Cantonese
3. Grammar and language use

Planned Assessment Tasks:

Attendance:	10%
Assignments:	25%
In-class quizzes:	25%
Final Exam:	40%

Readings:

1. 朱德熙，1982. 《語法講義》。北京：商務印書館。
2. 北京大學中文系現代漢語教研室，1993. 《現代漢語》。北京：商務印書館。
3. Chao, Y. R. 1968. A Grammar of Spoken Chinese. Berkeley: University of California Press.