

## The Hong Kong Polytechnic University

### Subject Description Form

*Please read the notes at the end of the table carefully before completing the form.*

<b>Subject Code</b>	CBS2C10P
<b>Subject Title</b>	An Exploration of Chinese Characters and Scripts
<b>Credit Value</b>	3
<b>Level</b>	2
<b>Pre-requisite / Co-requisite/ Exclusion</b>	None (Students from CBS are excluded from taking this subject)
<b>Objectives</b>	This subject aims to provide learners with an overview of the various aspects of Chinese characters and scripts which represent a unique writing system different from most existing languages, and which are often considered as hurdles in the learning of Chinese language for both L1 and L2 learners. Through understanding of their structure, patterns of component combination, variations and changes in forms, cultural manifestation, and their use in different settings, it is expected that students' knowledge in the Chinese language can be enhanced and they can make better judgments and more appropriate applications of such knowledge in solving real-life language problems. Students will also be challenged with questions such as the debate involved in simplification and Romanization of the Chinese characters, the difficulties of Chinese character mastery in Chinese L2 learning, the problems of Chinese scripts in adapting to the computer world etc. which would require their critical analysis of a number of issues from historical, educational, social and cultural perspectives.
<b>Intended Learning Outcomes</b>	Upon completion of the subject, students will be able to:  a. have an enhanced understanding of the Chinese script which will in turn enhance their understanding of the Chinese language and culture; b. acquire a historical perspective of the development of the Chinese script; c. go beyond the confines of the Chinese script sub-system of everyday use and be informed about other varieties of the Chinese script; d. position the Chinese script sub-system of everyday use in the grand system and grasp the relationship between the two; e. have a better grasp of the present state and the future of the Chinese script; f. apply the knowledge in solving real-life language problems.
<b>Subject Synopsis/ Indicative Syllabus</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Form symbols to characters</u> the origin and "characterization" of the Chinese characters, early form of Chinese characters;</li> <li>• <u>Strokes and components</u> Basic strokes and components, radicals, structure of Chinese characters and Chinese script system;</li> <li>• <u>Changes and proliferation</u> Essential landmarks in script changes, variant forms and dialectal varieties;</li> <li>• <u>Chinese characters in figures</u></li> </ul>

	<p>Statistical analysis of Chinese characters, use of statistical information in education and language studies;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Diversity and Standardization</u> Simplification and reform of Chinese scripts; Romanization of Chinese scripts;</li> <li>• <u>Physiological consideration</u> Stroke order, inscription, alignment;</li> <li>• <u>Practical vs. artistic</u> Characteristics and styles of Chinese calligraphy, variant forms in Chinese calligraphy;</li> <li>• <u>Culture epitomized</u> Chinese characters and “Chinese world view”, Chinese philology and exegesis.</li> <li>• <u>Tradition vs. modernization</u> Chinese Scripts in design, Chinese script in the digital world, codification and linguistic corpus.</li> </ul>																																														
<p><b>Teaching/Learning Methodology</b></p>	<p>Besides face-to-face lectures, discussions via Blackboard and web-based study materials will be used. Assignments are closely related to the analysis and use of Chinese characters and scripts and thus students are strongly encouraged to apply the concepts and methodologies they learn to solve practical real-world language problems.</p>																																														
<p><b>Assessment Methods in Alignment with Intended Learning Outcomes</b></p>	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th rowspan="2">Specific assessment methods/tasks</th> <th rowspan="2">% weighting</th> <th colspan="6">Intended subject learning outcomes to be assessed</th> </tr> <tr> <th>a</th> <th>b</th> <th>c</th> <th>d</th> <th>e</th> <th>f</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>(1) exercises &amp; small assignments</td> <td>40%</td> <td>✓</td> <td></td> <td>✓</td> <td></td> <td>✓</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>(2) project/essay</td> <td>60%</td> <td>✓</td> <td>✓</td> <td>✓</td> <td>✓</td> <td>✓</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Total</b></td> <td><b>100 %</b></td> <td colspan="6"></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>This subject aims to provide learners with an overview of the various aspects of Chinese characters and scripts which represent a unique writing system different from most existing languages. Topics covered vary from origin of Chinese characters, evolution of Chinese scripts, structure and variations of Chinese scripts, reform and standardization of the Chinese scripts, Chinese calligraphy, relationship between Chinese characters and Chinese culture, relationship between Chinese characters and IT, and Chinese scripts in design. It would be difficult to evaluate student’s learning outcome with once or two single assignment(s) in term of term papers. Therefore, a number of exercises and small assignments, each with different focus and covering specific topics, will be given to students to help them grasp the basic concepts and to develop their abilities in handling language issues in relation to Chinese characters and scripts. The following are few examples of the topics to be covered by the assignments: (1) Discussion on why and how the changes from Xiaozhuan (小篆) to Lishu (隸書) turned out to be a watershed in the evolution of Chinese characters; (2) What are the pros and cons of character simplification motion from cultural, social and educational perspectives? (3) Is Romanization the</p>	Specific assessment methods/tasks	% weighting	Intended subject learning outcomes to be assessed						a	b	c	d	e	f	(1) exercises & small assignments	40%	✓		✓		✓		(2) project/essay	60%	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓										<b>Total</b>	<b>100 %</b>						
Specific assessment methods/tasks	% weighting			Intended subject learning outcomes to be assessed																																											
		a	b	c	d	e	f																																								
(1) exercises & small assignments	40%	✓		✓		✓																																									
(2) project/essay	60%	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓																																									
<b>Total</b>	<b>100 %</b>																																														

	<p>future of Chinese character development? Give your reasons and arguments.</p> <p>Towards the end of the study period, students will be required to conduct a project on resolving a problem in the Chinese writing system or to produce an essay containing in-depth discussion of a phenomenon related to the Chinese writing system. This final piece of work would require students to make use of the knowledge learnt in this subject and to demonstrate that they have achieved the intended learning outcomes.</p>	
<b>Student Study Effort Expected</b>	Class contact:	
	▪ Lectures: 2 x 13	26 Hrs.
	▪ Tutorials: 1 x 13	13 Hrs.
	Other student study effort:	
	▪ assignments	40 Hrs.
	▪ reading	30 Hrs.
	Total student study effort	109 Hrs.
<b>Reading List and References</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. 王鳳陽（1992）《漢字學》。長春：吉林文史出版社。</li> <li>2. 竺家寧（1998）《中國的語言和文字》。臺北：臺灣書店。</li> <li>3. 裘錫圭（1988）《文字學概要》。北京：商務印書館。</li> <li>4. 李宇明（2004）《漢字規範》。武昌：華中師範大學出版社。</li> <li>5. 《中國語言文字網》<a href="http://www.china-langauge.gov.cn/">http://www.china-langauge.gov.cn/</a></li> <li>6. 《現代漢語》 <a href="http://www.yyxx.sdu.edu.cn/chinese/index.htm">http://www.yyxx.sdu.edu.cn/chinese/index.htm</a></li> <li>7. 《共通中文介面》 <a href="http://www.info.gov.hk/digital121/chi/structure/cli_main.html">http://www.info.gov.hk/digital121/chi/structure/cli_main.html</a></li> <li>8. 《異體字字典》<a href="http://140.111.1.40/">http://140.111.1.40/</a></li> </ol>	