Course Description
This course is intended for students who are complete beginners in written Chinese – no prior knowledge of the Chinese language is necessary (but learners of both spoken Mandarin and Cantonese are welcome). It is designed to introduce the origins and evolution of Chinese characters, with particular emphasis on the formation and the structure of Chinese characters such that students can decode the mysteries of the written form of Chinese.

Aims and Objectives
1. To provide students with a basic knowledge of Chinese characters.
2. To train students to write characters with precision and order.
3. To enable students to read and write around 220 basic Chinese characters and understand approximately 350 common words.
4. To develop students’ ability to use a Chinese dictionary.
5. To provide students with a better understanding of Chinese culture and people.

List of Topics to be covered in meetings
1. The Origins and Evolution of Chinese Characters
2. The Formation of Chinese Characters
3. Three Elements of a Chinese Character – Form, Sound and Meaning
4. Chinese Characters Structure Analysis – Sides and Components
5. Read and Write Chinese Characters
6. How to use a Chinese Dictionary

Teaching resources

(Please note the topics and teaching resources may vary and are provided here as a guide.)

Assessment
100% coursework

Learning outcomes:
On successful completion of the course, students should be able to:
1. Demonstrate a basic knowledge of the history and evolution of Chinese characters.
2. Demonstrate mastery of 220 basic Chinese characters and understand approximately 350 common words.
3. Demonstrate an ability to copy any Chinese characters precisely and learn them through consulting Chinese dictionaries.