

## **CHIN9521**

### **The Fundamentals of Chinese Characters**

**6 credits - total learning hours: 120 (including 60 contact hours)**

**Session B: July 17 – August 4, 2017**

**10:00 to 12:00 & 13:00 to 15:00, Mon-Fri**

#### **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). Chinese characters will be introduced with particular emphasis on the formation and the structure such that students can acquire the skills of decoding the mysteries of them and composing any characters without difficulty. The origins and evolution of Chinese characters will also be introduced in order to cultivate a deeper understanding on the characters and Chinese culture.

#### **Aims and Objectives**

1. To enable students to read and write around 220 basic Chinese characters and understand approximately 350 compound words.
2. To nurture a sense of appreciation for the form of Chinese words through practicing Chinese calligraphy.
3. To foster skills in relation to the formation of Chinese characters that enable students to decode unfamiliar words they come across in their daily life.
4. To provide students with a better understanding of Chinese history and culture.
5. To provide students with an authentic communicative experience of using written Chinese.

#### **List of Topics to be covered in meetings**

This course is designed to familiarize learners with the distinctive features of Chinese characters as a means to introduce them to the unique characteristics of Chinese language and culture. Here are the major topics that will be taught in the course:

1. The Origins and Evolution of Chinese Characters
2. The Formation of Chinese Characters
3. Chinese Characters Structure Analysis – Sides and Components
4. Read and Write Chinese Characters
5. Self-learning methods

#### **Teaching resources**

Chow, Bun-Ching (2015) *Decoding Chinese Characters: An introduction to reading and writing*, Greenwood Press (HK)

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

#### **Assessment:** 100% coursework

Assessment methods	Weighting (%)
1. Writing homework	10
2. Dictations & quizzes	30
3. Mid-term written test	20
4. Final writing test	20
5. Presentation (I & II)	20

#### **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.