

LC2996: BASIC CANTONESE FOR NON-CHINESE SPEAKERS 1

Effective Term

Semester A 2025/26

Part I Course Overview

Course Title

Basic Cantonese for Non-Chinese Speakers 1

Subject Code

LC - CFML CSL Language Centre

Course Number

2996

Academic Unit

CFML CSL Language Centre (LC)

College/School

College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences (CH)

Course Duration

One Semester

Credit Units

3

Level

B1, B2, B3, B4 - Bachelor's Degree

Medium of Instruction

Other Languages

Other Languages for Medium of Instruction

English / Chinese

Medium of Assessment

Other Languages

Other Languages for Medium of Assessment

English / Chinese

Prerequisites

Nil

Precursors

Nil

Equivalent Courses

CTL2996 Basic Cantonese I; &
CAH2996 Basic Cantonese for Non-Chinese Speakers I

Exclusive Courses

Nil

Part II Course Details**Abstract**

This basic course is designed for non-native speakers interested in learning beginning Cantonese. The course will enable students to apply their knowledge of Cantonese and Hong Kong culture to communication in daily life.

Course Intended Learning Outcomes (CILOs)

CILOs		Weighting (if DEC-A1 DEC-A2 DEC-A3 app.)			
1	Demonstrate to speak simple Cantonese (self-introduction, buying things, asking the ways and telling the time etc.)		x	x	x
2	Apply basic knowledge of Chinese to write some characters			x	
3	Demonstrate a good knowledge of Hong Kong culture and tradition			x	
4	Apply Cantonese in daily life and continue Cantonese study		x	x	x

A1: Attitude

Develop an attitude of discovery/innovation/creativity, as demonstrated by students possessing a strong sense of curiosity, asking questions actively, challenging assumptions or engaging in inquiry together with teachers.

A2: Ability

Develop the ability/skill needed to discover/innovate/create, as demonstrated by students possessing critical thinking skills to assess ideas, acquiring research skills, synthesizing knowledge across disciplines or applying academic knowledge to real-life problems.

A3: Accomplishments

Demonstrate accomplishment of discovery/innovation/creativity through producing /constructing creative works/new artefacts, effective solutions to real-life problems or new processes.

Learning and Teaching Activities (LTAs)

LTAs	Brief Description	CILO No.	Hours/week (if applicable)
1	Teaching basic Cantonese dialogues for students' daily needs and Hong Kong culture to help their easy stay here	1, 2, 3, 4	
2	Listening and speaking exercises on basic Cantonese sentences	1, 4	
3	Writing basic Chinese characters to facilitate the memorization of Cantonese	1, 3	

4		Group discussions, role plays and games related to various lecture topics	1, 2, 3, 4	
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Assessment Tasks / Activities (ATs)

ATs	CILO No.	Weighting (%)	Remarks ("- " for nil entry)	Allow Use of GenAI?	
1	Participation/In-class activities	1, 2, 3, 4	10	Refer to assessment task instructions to be provided by the course instructor for parameters of use	Yes
2	Spoken assessment: Students are required to practise speaking Cantonese in each class	1, 2, 3, 4	25	-	No
3	Written assessment: students are required to write a few Cantonese sentences or words in each class	1, 2, 3, 4	25	-	No
4	Oral and written tests: covers all the materials discussed in the semester	1, 2, 3, 4	40	-	No

Continuous Assessment (%)

100

Examination (%)

0

Assessment Rubrics (AR)**Assessment Task**

Participation/In-class activities

Criterion

Contributing to class activities; displaying collegiality and participation in pair work; being prepared for lessons and arriving on time.

Excellent (A+, A, A-)

The student participates extremely actively in discussions, activities, and asking questions; is highly responsive to the instructor' s questions; leads peers to participate and always comes to class prepared.

Good (B+, B, B-)

The student participates actively in discussions, activities, and asking questions; is responsive to the instructor' s questions; shows initiative to interact with peers and usually comes to class prepared.

Fair (C+, C, C-)

The student participates regularly in discussions, activities, and asking questions; offers answers mostly after being called upon; interacts with peers and occasionally comes to class prepared.

Marginal (D)

The student participates passively and shows almost no initiative to interact with peers and the instructor; barely responds when asked questions by the instructor; is absent from class frequently.

Failure (F)

The student participates extremely passively and shows no initiative to interact with peers and the instructor; always remains almost silent, ignores questions, activities, and discussions frequently; is absent from class very frequently.

Assessment Task

Spoken assessment

Criterion

Ability to speak some dialogues.

Excellent (A+, A, A-)

Excellent skills in speaking Cantonese

Good (B+, B, B-)

Good skills in speaking Cantonese

Fair (C+, C, C-)

Acceptable skills in speaking Cantonese

Marginal (D)

Marginal skills in speaking Cantonese

Failure (F)

Extremely limited skills in speaking Cantonese

Assessment Task

Written assessment

Criterion

1. Command of basic Chinese characters
2. Understanding of basic sentence structures and ways of expression in Cantonese
3. Competence in conducting basic dialogues with proper use of vocabulary and grammar

Excellent (A+, A, A-)

1. Excellent command of basic Chinese characters
2. Excellent understanding of basic sentence structures and ways of expression in Cantonese

Good (B+, B, B-)

1. Good command of Pinyin and basic Chinese characters
2. Good understanding of basic sentence structures and ways of expression in Cantonese

Fair (C+, C, C-)

1. Adequate command of Pinyin and basic Chinese characters

2. Adequate understanding of basic sentence structures and ways of expression in Cantonese

Marginal (D)

1. Marginal command of Pinyin and basic Chinese characters
2. Marginal understanding of basic sentence structures and ways of expression in Cantonese

Failure (F)

1. Extremely limited command of Pinyin and basic Chinese characters
 2. Extremely limited understanding of basic sentence structures and ways of expression in Cantonese
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Assessment Task

Oral and written tests

Criterion

Skills in speaking, reading and writing in basic Cantonese

Excellent (A+, A, A-)

1. Excellent competence in conducting basic dialogues with proper use of vocabulary and grammar
2. Excellent skills in speaking, reading and writing in basic Chinese

Good (B+, B, B-)

1. Good competence in conducting basic dialogues with proper use of vocabulary and grammar
2. Good skills in speaking, reading and writing in basic Chinese

Fair (C+, C, C-)

1. Fair competence in conducting basic dialogues with proper use of vocabulary and grammar
2. Acceptable skills in speaking, reading and writing in basic Chinese

Marginal (D)

1. Marginal competence in conducting basic dialogues with proper use of vocabulary and grammar
2. Marginal skills in speaking, reading and writing in basic Chinese

Failure (F)

1. Extremely limited competence in conducting basic dialogues with proper use of vocabulary and grammar
 2. Extremely limited skills in speaking, reading and writing in basic Chinese
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Part III Other Information

Keyword Syllabus

Cantonese phonology, High and low tones, entering tone, initials, finals, syllables, transcription system, sentential suffixes, measure words, verb aspects, modifying particles, comparatives, interrogatives, imperatives.

Reading List

Compulsory Readings

Title	
1	Nil

Additional Readings

	Title
1	Bruce, R., Cantonese (Sevenoaks, Kent: Teach Yourself Books/Hodder and Stoughton, c1970).
2	Chan, Kwok Kin & Crewe, William, Learn Chinese characters in Hong Kong (Hong Kong: Greenwood Press, 1992).
3	Chan, Kwok Kin & Hung, Betty, A Cantonese book: text and cassette tapes (Hong Kong: Greenwood Press, 1994).
4	Lee, Yin-Ping Cream; Kataoka, Shin. A Shortcut to Cantonese (Hong Kong: Greenwood Press, 2013)
5	Hung, Betty, Phrases in Cantonese (Hong Kong : Greenwood Press, 1996).
6	Lau, Sidney, Elementary Cantonese ([Hong Kong: Govt. Printer], 1979, c1972).
7	Lee, Phillip Yung Kin & Soady, Geraldine, You can speak Cantonese (Sydney: Crayford Enterprises, 1979).
8	Leung, Amy, No sweat Cantonese (Hong Kong: Asia 2000 Ltd., c2003).
9	Lo, Wood Wai & Tam, Fee Yin, Interesting Cantonese colloquial expressions (Hong Kong: Chinese University Press , c1996).
10	Lo Tam, Fee-yin (comp. & trans.), Cantonese colloquial expressions (Hong Kong: The Chinese University Press, c2007).
11	Ng, Susanna, Interesting Cantonese for beginner & intermediate (Hong Kong: Ming Man Publications, c2005).
12	So, Simon Siu-hing (comp. & trans.), A glossary of common Cantonese colloquial expressions (Hong Kong: The Chinese University Press, c2002).