

The Chinese University of Hong Kong  
Department of Linguistics and Modern Languages  
Second Term 2025-2026

Course Title: LING5502 Topics in Chinese Syntax and Semantics 漢語句法及語義專題

Description: This course aims to acquaint students with fundamental issues in the syntax and semantics of the Chinese language and the related theoretical implications. Through an investigation of a rich array of data, students will have the opportunity to appreciate the inner workings of the Chinese language concerning its structural and semantic properties, to enrich and broaden their understanding of linguistic theories and methodologies, to develop skills in analyzing Chinese phrases and sentences, and to defend their analysis systematically.

本課程旨在讓學生熟悉漢語結構與語義詮釋的基本問題及其理論意義。通過探察豐富的語料，學生可以認識句法及語義特徵的內部結構，加深對句法學及語義學理論和方法的瞭解，逐步掌握分析漢語短語及句子的技能，並有系統地對所作的分析進行辨析。

**Content & Weekly Schedule (subject to change):**

1/7/2026-4/15/2026, Wednesday, 10:30 am-1:15 pm, ELB\_LT3

Date	Lecture	Topic	Reading	Notes
1/7	Lecture 1	Course preliminaries Introduction	Chapter 1	Additional materials may be announced in class
1/14	Lecture 2	Argument Structure	Chapter 2	
1/21	Lecture 3	The Verb Phrase	Chapter 3	
1/28	Lecture 4	Passives	Chapter 4	
2/4	Lecture 5	The Ba Construction	Chapter 5	
2/11	Lecture 6	Topic and Relative Construction	Chapter 6	
2/18	* No class (Spring Festival) *			
2/25	Lecture 7	Questions	Chapter 7	
3/4	Lecture 8	Nominal Expressions	Chapter 8	
3/11	Lecture 9	Reflexives	Chapter 9	
3/18	Lecture 10	Universal quantification		Lecture notes to be distributed
3/25	Lecture 11	Dou quantification(1)		
4/1	Lecture 12	Dou quantification(2)		
4/8	Lecture 13	Donkey anaphora		
4/15	* course review *			

## Learning outcomes

The course aims to achieve the following goals:

- . to familiarize students with basic goals and assumptions in the study of Chinese syntax and semantics;
- . to train students to identify meaning components and structural patterns and make sensible generalizations;
- . to train students in the rudiments of linguistic analysis and argumentation in syntax and semantics and apply them to Chinese;
- . to familiarize students with major meaning and structural properties in Chinese and extend them to their native language(s) to bring into light the relevance of linguistic theories.

## Learning Activities

1. Lecture
2. Tutorial (Exercises, Questions and Answers, Discussions)
3. Regular written assignments
4. Final Examination

## Expected time and allocation of each of the learning activities during the course:

Lecture (hr) in class	Interactive tutorial (hr) in class	Discussion of case (hr) in/out class		Assignments (hr) out class	Others (Quiz, exam, readings) (hr) in/out class	
		3	15		6	60
24	10	M	O	M	M	M

M: Mandatory activity in the course

O: Optional activity

## Assessment scheme

Task Nature	Description	Weight
Attendance	Class performance	10%
Assignments	Two written assignments	50%
Final Examination	In-class final examination	40%

## Learning Resources for Students

### Core Reading

- Huang, James C.-T., Audrey Y.-H. Li and Yafei Li. (2009) *The Syntax of Chinese*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Pan, Haihua and Lei Zhang (2009) A Study of Mandarin Universal Quantification, ms. City University of Hong Kong

### Additional Reading

- Aarts, Bas. 2013. *English Syntax and Argumentation*. 4th Edition. Macmillan Press. London.
- Carnie, Andrew. (2007) *Syntax: A generative introduction*. The 2nd edition. Oxford: Wiley-Blackwell.
- Cook, Vivian & Newson, Mark. 2007. *Chomsky's Universal Grammar*. 3rd Edition. Blackwell.
- Culicover, Peter. 1997. *Principles and Parameters*. OUP.
- Fromkin, Victoria, et al. 2009. *An Introduction to Language*. 10th Edition. Wadsworth Cengage Learning.
- Fukui, Naoki. 2000. Phrase Structure. In Bark Blatin & Chris Collins (eds.), *The Handbook of Contemporary Syntactic Theory*. Blackwell.
- Haegeman, Lilian. 1994. *Introduction to Government and Binding Theory*. Blackwell.
- Huang, C.-T. James Huang and Audrey Y.-H. Li. (1996) *New Horizons in Chinese Linguistics*. Kluwer Academic Publishers
- Li, Charles N. and Sandra A. Thompson. (1981) *Mandarin Chinese: a functional reference grammar*. Berkeley: University of California Press.
- Li, Charles N. (ed.) (1976) *Subject and Topic*. New York: Academic Press.
- Ouhalla, Jamal. 1999. *Introducing Transformational Grammar*. Edward Arnold.
- Radford, Andrew. 1997. *Syntax*. CUP.
- Radford, Andrew. 2004. *English Syntax*. CUP.
- Radford, Andrew. 2009. *An Introduction to English Sentence Structure*. CUP
- Saeed, John I. (2009) *Semantics*. 3rd edition. Oxford: Wiley-Blackwell.
- 程工. 1999. 語言共性論. 上海外語教育出版社.
- 鄧思穎. 2010. 形式漢語句法學. 上海教育出版社.
- 何元建. 2011. 現代漢語生成語法. 北京大學出版社.
- 沈陽 馮勝利. 2008. (主編) 當代語言學理論與漢語研究. 商務印書館.
- 沈陽 何元建 顧陽. 2002. 生成語法理論與漢語語法研究. 黑龍江教育出版社.
- 徐傑. 2001. 普遍語法與漢語語法現象. 北京大學出版社.
- 徐烈炯. 1999. (主編). 共性與個性. 北京語言文化大學出版社.

### Lecture Notes

Additional materials adopted from relevant linguistic journals and books will be distributed in class.

## Feedback for Evaluation

Students are strongly encouraged to give timely feedback on the course directly to the course teacher and the teaching assistant. Questions and inquiries from students will be incorporated into the teaching and discussion.

## Teacher and TA's contact Details

Professor	Pan Haihua
Telephone	3943-7097
Office	G01, Leung Kau Kui Building
Email	panhaihua@cuhk.edu.hk
Office Hour	By appointment
Teaching Venue	ELB_LT3

Teaching Assistant	Feng Xilai
Telephone	3943-0672
Office	G28, Leung Kau Kui Building
Email	Celia.feng@cuhk.edu.hk
Office Hour	By appointment

## Academic Honesty and Plagiarism

Attention is drawn to University policy and regulations on honesty in academic work, and to the disciplinary guidelines and procedures applicable to breaches of such policy and regulations. Details may be found at <http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/policy/academichonesty/>. With each assignment, students will be required to submit a statement that they are aware of these policies, regulations, guidelines, and procedures.

## Departmental policy of student Attendance

The assessment of attendance would be account for 10% in total. Attendance is calculated from the 1<sup>st</sup> class for required courses and 3<sup>rd</sup> course for elective courses. If the student misses 3 classes, his/her attendance marks would be deducted 5%. If the student misses 4 classes, another 5% would be deducted.

	Required Courses		Elective Courses
Week 1	Start calculating attendance	Week 3	Start calculating attendance
Missing 1 & 2 classes	Allowance	Missing 1 & 2 classes	Allowance
Missing 3 classes	Deduct 5%	Missing 3 classes	Deduct 5%
Missing 4 classes	Deduct 5%	Missing 4 classes	Deduct 5%

Students could apply for leave for medical or other reasonable grounds with documented proof.

