Department of Linguistics and Modern Languages
The Chinese University of Hong Kong

Course Code & Title:	HKSL1001 Hong Kong Sign Language Taster	
Language of Instruction: Hong Kong Sign Language and written Chinese and English		**Units: 1**

Course Description
This online course enables students to acquire some basics of Hong Kong Sign Language and the general principles for communicating with deaf people in a visual-gestural modality. With different video-recorded scenarios, students are systematically guided to acquire elementary signing skills for fulfilling basic communication needs in everyday situations. Emphasis will be placed on a range of simple, general-purpose expressions, which allow students to converse with local deaf people, as well as prepare themselves for learning the language further. 本網上科目幫助學生學習基本的香港手語知識，運用視覺動作的語言頻道跟聾人溝通。學生將透過不同的場景，有序地學習基本手語技巧，應付日常溝通所需。本科目重點教授一系列簡單、具普遍性的用語，培訓學生以手語跟本地聾人溝通的能力，並為日後繼續學習手語打好基礎。

Learning Outcomes
Upon completion of this course, students will develop Hong Kong Sign Language proficiency at Level Pre-A1, which represents a milestone halfway towards Level A1 in the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR). CEFR profiles a learner's language proficiency in a number of illustrative descriptors in six major levels (A1, A2, B1, B2, C1, C2). The descriptors cover signing competencies of sign language repertoire, diagrammatical accuracy, sociolinguistic appropriateness and cultural repertoire, sign text structure, setting and perspectives, language awareness and interpretation, presence and effect, processing speed, and signing fluency. Developing the competencies at Level Pre-A1, students are treated as novices to Hong Kong Sign Language who are yet to acquire a generative capacity and will rely upon a repertoire of signs and formulaic expressions to   - introduce themselves by fingerspelling their name and stating their hearing status;   - use some basic greetings;   - sign yes, no, thank you, sorry;   - ask and tell time, day of the week, and month; and   - make simple requests where pointing or other gestures serve to refer to objects and events.

Course Content

Theme	Speech acts	Linguistic competences	Sociolinguistic and pragmatic competences
Theme 1 Are you deaf?	• Introduce themselves by stating their hearing status and their role on the campus • Ask an interlocutor about their hearing status and their role in the campus	• Ask and answer simple yes-no questions • Construct simple sentences using a series of lexical signs • Use personal pronouns: I, you • Differentiate signs that only differ in the shape of the mouth • Understand simple negation using <no> and a shake of the head	• Provide the interlocutor with visual feedback (positive and negative) using facial or other non-manual expressions (e.g. head nod or shake) • Employ different strategies in order to establish eye contact necessary for communication: tapping a person on the shoulder or arm

Theme 2 What is your name?	• Greet and take leave • Introduce themselves with their English name • Ask an interlocutor for their name	• Ask and answer simple wh-questions • Understand an utterance as a question and respond accordingly • Learn to sign conventional greetings and leave-taking expressions • Spell names using fingerspelling • Produce clear and unambiguous handshapes	• Apologize for non-understanding and request information to be repeated • Greet a deaf person appropriately • Position themselves so that the signing is easily visible to the recipients • Maintain eye contact with interlocutors • Employ different strategies in order to establish the eye contact necessary for communication: waving
Theme 3 When is the signing lesson?	• Ask and answer about time and date for an event	• Produce the lexical signs for time, days of the week, and months • Understand productively expressed time indicators, when the time references are clearly indicated • Understand simple negation using <not>	• Distinguish between positive and negative attitudes through non-manual cues (e.g., eyebrows together vs high eyebrows) • Employ different strategies in order to establish the eye contact necessary for communication: turning off and on lighting
Theme 4 Can you please…	• Identify objects based on their location • Ask for and provide help in their immediate environment	• Understand simple and direct commands and respond accordingly • Understand how to articulate the location of objects for ease of identification • Understand a piece of signed text in one go that is short and slow in the pace of delivery	• Respond appropriately in conventional interactions, e.g. replying with formulaic expressions • Express emotions through depiction only (without the need for lexical signs)

Assessment Scheme		
Task nature	**Description**	**Weight**
Assignments (Production)	There are four assignments (10% each). In each assignment, students are required to upload a signed video and they will receive corrective feedback.	40 %
Quizzes (Comprehension)	There are four quizzes (10% each). Each quiz consists of ten multiple-choice questions.	40 %
Exam (Comprehension)	There is one final exam. The exam consists of ten multiple-choice questions.	20 %
	Total	**100 %**

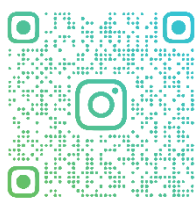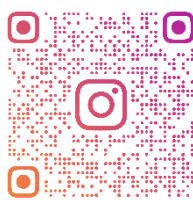| Grade Descriptors	
Pass	**Fail**
The student demonstrates the ability to: ● introduce themselves by fingerspelling their name and stating their hearing status; ● use some basic expressions for greetings; ● sign <yes>, <no>, <thank you>, <sorry>; ● ask and tell time, day of the week, and month; and ● make simple requests by using pointing or other gestures to support references.	The student fails to demonstrate the minimally adequate ability to: ● introduce themselves by fingerspelling their name and stating their hearing status; ● use some basic expressions for greetings; ● sign <yes>, <no>, <thank you>, <sorry>; ● ask and tell time, day of the week, and month; and ● make simple requests by using pointing or other gestures to support references.

Learning Resources

Course materials
- Hong Kong Sign Language Taster on CUHK Moodle @ KEEP
  https://moodle.cuhk.keep.edu.hk/course/view.php?id=13

IT resources
- 香港手語瀏覽器 Hong Kong Sign Language Browser
  http://www.cslds.org/hkslbrowser/
- 手語村手冊 Sign town Handbook:
  https://handbook.sign.town/zh-hk/feed?sl=HKSL
- 香港手語來自聾星 HKSL from Deaf Star
  https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCvpDm8qD1HKDGMoz6ntzg7Q/videos
- Asian SignBank
  http://cslds.org/asiansignbank/

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Recommended materials
- Tang, G. (Ed.). (2007). Hong Kong Sign Language: A trilingual dictionary with linguistic descriptions. Hong Kong: The Chinese University Press
- Sze, F., Lo, C., Lo, L., & Chu, K. (2013). Historical development of Hong Kong Sign Language. *Sign Language Studies*, *13*(2), 155–185.
- 陳意軒, 路駿怡, & 沈栢基. (2013). *我的聾人朋友*. 香港: 圓桌精英有限公司.

Schedule			
Sessions	**Theme**	**Learning activities**	**Assessment**
1A, 1B, 1C	Are you deaf?	i. Watch: Dialogue video ii. Watch: Dialogue video with language learning activities	Assignment 1, Quiz 1
2A, 2B, 2C	What is your name?	iii. Watch: Dialogue video with deaf culture learning activities	Assignment 2, Quiz 2
3A, 3B, 3C	When is the signing lesson?	iv. Exercise: Vocabulary matching v. Exercise: Vocabulary dictation vi. Exercise: Dialogue matching	Assignment 3, Quiz 3
4A, 4B, 4C	Can you please…	vii. Exercise: Dialogue completion viii. Recommended watching/reading	Assignment 4, Quiz 4
Revision		i. Watch: Dialogue video ii. Exercise: Revision guide	Final exam

Feedback for Evaluation

Our language programme highly values students' feedback and comments and is happy to use them for reflection on our teaching and improvement. Students are very welcome to provide comments and feedback on the course any time to the course coordinator of the Department of Linguistics and Modern Languages. An online course evaluation exercise will be conducted at the end of the course, and students' feedbacks will be used for future course planning and teaching.