



MODULE DESCRIPTION

Module title	Code
Traditional Chinese Characters	

Teacher	Unit
Coordinating: Lin, Yu-Ling	Vilnius University Institute of Asian and Transcultural Studies Universiteto 5, LT-01513 Vilnius

Cycle of studies	Level of module	Type of module
First	1 / 1	Elective /Individual studies course

Mode of implementation	Period of instruction	Language of instruction
Auditorium	Autumn semester	English, Chinese

Requirements for students	
Prerequisites: Chinese language A2	Additional requirements (if any): none

Module volume in credits	Total student workload	Contact hours	Independent study hours
5	133	32	101

Aim of module: competences developed by the study programme		
This course provides a comprehensive exploration of traditional Chinese characters. It covers the origins and principles underlying the creation of Chinese characters, their historical evolution, and the cultural stories associated with them. Additionally, the course offers a systematic approach to recognizing and distinguishing between simplified and traditional characters, as well as practical instruction in learning and writing traditional Chinese characters.		
Learning outcomes of the module	Study methods	Assessment methods

Students will gain a foundational understanding of the origins and the principles behind the creation of traditional Chinese characters.	Paper and book reading							Student presentation, class worksheet	
Students will explore the historical evolution of Chinese characters, from the earliest forms such as Oracle Bone Script (甲骨文), used for divination during the Shang dynasty, to the standardized Regular Script (楷書), widely used in modern calligraphy and formal writing. This progression highlights how Chinese characters evolved to meet practical, cultural, and artistic needs over time.	Lectures, calligraphy viewing								
Students will develop the ability to systematically recognize and distinguish between traditional and simplified Chinese characters.	Lecture, Paper reading, class discussion							Test, student presentation	
Students will acquire practical skills in learning, reading, and writing traditional Chinese characters with accuracy and confidence.	Text reading, short paragraph writing							Student presentation, short essay	
Topics	Contact hours							Independent study time and assignments	
	Lectures	Consultations	Seminars	Training	Laboratory work	Practice	All contact work	Individual work	Assignments
1. Course introduction and overview	1		1				2	6	textbook p.1-5, character exploration
2. Origins of Chinese Characters	1		1				2	6	textbook p.6-10, class worksheet-2, character sketch and discussion post
3. Evolution of script styles	1		1				2	6	textbook p.11-15, character comparison
4. Structure of Chinese Characters	1		1				2	6	textbook p.16-20, radical identification, stroke order practice
5. Historical items and Chinese Characters	1		1				2	6	textbook p.21-25, story exploration

6. Cultural stories behind Characters (Part 1)	1		1				2	6	textbook p.26-30, creative writing
7. Cultural Stories behind Characters (Part 2)	1		1				2	6	textbook p.31-35, creative writing
8. Simplified vs. Traditional Characters (Part 1)	1		1				2	6	textbook p.36-40, comparison chart, quiz
9. Simplified vs. Traditional Characters (Part 2)	1		1				2	6	textbook p.41-45, translation practice work
10. Simplified vs. Traditional Characters (Part 3)	1		1				2	6	textbook p.46-50, Pattern analysis
11. Chinese Characters teaching method	1		1				2	7	textbook p.51-55, teaching planning homework
12. Simplified or Traditional Character?	1		1				2	7	textbook p.56-60, class discussion and debate preparation
13. Project presentation (Part 1)			2				2	7	textbook p.61-65, student presentation, peer feedback
14. Project presentation (Part 2)			2				2	7	textbook p.66-70, student presentation, peer feedback
15. Chinese Characters in Eastern Asia	1		1				2	6	textbook p.71-75, class worksheet-13, Character portfolio
16. Final Assessment and Reflection				2			2	7	textbook p.76-80, final exam, course reflection
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Assessment strategy	Weight %	Assessment time	Assessment criteria
End of term exam	40	January	The exam contains character recognition and writing, character evolution and comparison, character story-based applications, and translation between simplified and traditional Chinese characters.
Assessment of independent work during the semester	30	During semester (September-December)	Assessment of writing assignments (character practice, reading comprehension) and book reading reflection. Presented during the semester.
Student Presentation (oral presentation during the semester)	30	During semester (September-December)	Students will be presenting a short demonstration of how to teach Chinese characters in various teaching method, and also present it's thoughts of the difference between simplified and traditional characters.

Author	Year of publication	Title	Issue of a periodical or volume of a publication	Publishing place and house or a web link
Compulsory reading list				
Jianhsin Wu(ed.)	2016	The way of Chinese Characters, 2nd Edition	Vol. 1	Cheng& Tsui (Boston)
Additional reading list				
Zhang Sheng Xi 張勝昔	2016	The Theory and Practice of Simplified to Traditional Chinese Character Conversion 漢字簡轉繁的理論與實踐		Crane Publishing 文鶴出版社
Hsu Chin Hsiung 許進雄	2018	The Stories of Chinese Characters and Cultural Relics 漢字與文物的故事		The Commercial Press, Ltd. 台灣商務出版社
Li Hsueh E 李雪娥	2018	The Living Chinese Characters 有生命的漢字		Psychological Publishing Co., Ltd. 心理出版社
Hsu Hui 許暉	2022	The Story of Chinese Characters 漢字的故事		As if Publishing 如果出版社
Chin Wen Ching 金文京	2022	Classical Chinese and the East Asian World 漢文與東亞世界		Acropolis Publishing 衛城出版社