

Course Syllabus

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The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (Guangzhou)

UG Course Syllabus

[Course Title] Music of China-L01

[Course Code] UCUG2500

[No. of Credits] 3 credits

[Any pre-/co-requisites] N.A.

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Office Hours: Tuesday 9:00-17:30, Office E2-608

Off-hour Appointment should be made through the Instructor-Student Appointment Making System (<https://klms.hkust-gz.edu.cn/>)

Teaching Assistant: TBC

Course Description

Welcome to "Music of China," a vibrant journey through the rich tapestry of Chinese musical tradition and innovation. This course is designed for undergraduate students who wish to explore the depth and breadth of China's musical heritage, from its ancient roots to contemporary expressions. As we delve into the historical, cultural, and social contexts that have shaped Chinese music, students will gain a comprehensive understanding of its development, characteristics, and global impact.

Throughout the semester, we will cover a wide range of topics including traditional Chinese instruments such as the guqin, pipa, erhu, and dizi; the significance of music in folk and religious rituals; the role of xiqu in Chinese culture; the impact of the geographical differences and social behavior on folk songs; and the rise of contemporary music genres in China and overseas. Through lectures, listening sessions, hands-on workshops, and concert performances, students will experience the beauty and diversity of Chinese music firsthand.

Intended Learning Outcomes (ILOs)

By the end of this course, students should be able to:

1. Knowledge Acquisition: Recognize and define/identify major Chinese musical terms, genres, and styles
2. Artistic Sensibility: Intelligently explain and write about the historical development, distinct features, performance contexts, and sociocultural issues pertaining to some, if not all, of the Chinese music genres and styles studied in class
3. Aesthetic Appreciation: Appreciate some, if not all, of the Chinese music genres and styles studied in class
4. Cultural Understanding: Describe and analyze the significance of music within Chinese culture

Course Weekly Topics and ILOs

Wk	Date	Topic	Guest Speakers	ILOs
1	29/1	Course orientation		ILO1,ILO2,ILO3
2	5/2	Chinese Music Aesthetics		ILO1,ILO2,ILO3,ILO4
3	26/2	Folk Song -- Overview		ILO1,ILO2,ILO3,ILO4
4	5/3	Folk Song -- Workshop		ILO1,ILO2,ILO3,ILO4
5	12/3	Instrumental Music -- Solo		ILO1,ILO2,ILO3,ILO4
6	19/3	Instrumental Music -- Ensemble		ILO1,ILO2,ILO3,ILO4
7	TBD	Concert trip	TBD	ILO1,ILO2,ILO3,ILO4
8	1/4	Lecture-Recital 1: Wed. The Art of Chinese Vocal	Prof. Mei SHENG	ILO1,ILO2,ILO3,ILO4

Music

9	9/4	Narrative Singing -- Overview		ILO1,ILO2,ILO3,ILO4
10	16/4	Narrative Singing -- Workshop		ILO2,ILO3,ILO4
11	23/4	Lecture-Recital 2: Chinese Opera -- Beijing Opera	Mr. Chao JI, Mr. Hao WANG	ILO1,ILO2,ILO3,ILO4
12	30/4	Chinese Opera -- Kunqu; Quiz	Mr. Chao JI	ILO1,ILO2,ILO3,ILO4
13	7/5	Project Presentation		ILO1,ILO2,ILO3,ILO4

*The short bios of each guest presenter will be provided on Canvas a week before the class meeting.

Assessment and Grading

Assessment will be based on a combination of class participation, quiz, concert review, and a final project presentation that demonstrates the student's understanding and appreciation of Chinese music.

Assessments:

[List specific assessed tasks, exams, quizzes, their weightage, and due dates; perhaps, add a summary table as below, to precede the details for each assessment.]

Assessment Task	Contribution to Overall Course grade (%)	Due date
Participation	30%	7/5/2026
Quiz	20%	30/4/2026
Concert review	20%	8/4/2026

Final Project

30%

7/5/2026

* Assessment marks for individual assessed tasks will be released within two weeks of the due date.

Mapping of Course ILOs to Assessment Tasks

Assessed Task	Mapped ILOs	Explanation
Quiz	ILO1, ILO2, ILO3,ILO4	This task assesses students' ability to apply musical concepts (ILO 1), develop their artistic sensibilities (ILO 2) and aesthetics (ILO 3), and critically analyze their role in society (ILO 4).
Concert Review	ILO1, ILO2, ILO3,ILO4	This task assesses students' ability to understand and musical genres (ILO 1), develop their artistic sensibilities (ILO 2) and aesthetics (ILO 3), and critically analyze their role in society (ILO 4)
Final Project	ILO1, ILO2, ILO3,ILO4	This task assesses students' ability to apply musical concepts (ILO 1), develop their artistic sensibilities (ILO 2) and aesthetics (ILO 3), critically analyze their role in society (ILO 4).

Grading Rubrics

[Detailed rubrics for each assignment will be provided. These rubrics clearly outline the criteria used for evaluation. Students can refer to these rubrics to understand how their work will be assessed.]

Final Grade Descriptors:

Grades	Short Description	Elaboration on subject grading description
A	Excellent Performance	Demonstrates a comprehensive grasp of subject matter, expertise in both musical sensibility and cultural understanding, and significant creativity in thinking. Exhibits a high capacity for scholarship and collaboration, going beyond core requirements to achieve learning goals.
B	Good Performance	Shows good knowledge and understanding of the main subject matter, competence in both musical sensibility and cultural understanding, and the ability to analyze and evaluate issues. Displays high motivation to learn and the ability to work effectively with others.
C	Satisfactory Performance	Possesses adequate knowledge of core subject matter, competence in both musical sensibility and cultural understanding, and some capacity for analysis and critical thinking. Shows persistence and effort to achieve broadly defined learning goals.
D	Marginal Pass	Has threshold knowledge of core subject matter, potential to achieve both musical sensibility and cultural understanding, and the ability to make basic judgments. Benefits from the course and has the potential to develop in the discipline.
F	Fail	Demonstrates insufficient understanding of the subject matter and lacks the necessary musical sensibility and cultural understanding. Shows limited ability to think critically or analytically and exhibits minimal effort towards achieving learning goals. Does not meet the threshold requirements for attendance, workshop practice or written essays.

Course AI Policy

In our commitment to fostering innovation and academic excellence, students are encouraged to leverage AI tools to enhance their learning and research capabilities, provided that all uses are transparently cited and align with principles of academic integrity. It is imperative that students understand and articulate the distinction between AI-assisted work and their original contributions, ensuring that the use of AI tools enriches their educational experience without compromising the integrity of their academic achievements.

Declaration: I did/I did not knowingly use generative AI tools in this assignment task. Acknowledgment (If you did use any generative AI tools, please complete the following acknowledgment) • In this assignment, I followed the University's guidelines for students on academic integrity. No content generated by generative AI tools has been presented as my own work. I take responsibility for the work submitted. • Process: In my assignment preparation, I acknowledge the use of (generative AI tools and link to webpages of the tools) to (how they were used - e.g. to generate ideas, to paraphrase elements of texts, lines of argument, to find pieces of evidence, to create conceptual maps, to help illustrate key concepts, etc.) for (why they were used - e.g. to help you get the writing started, to stimulate thinking, to clarify language and accuracy, to translate text, etc). • Record: I have kept a record of my use of AI tools, including the specific tool(s) used, the prompts submitted, and responses generated. I understand that my teachers may ask me to provide this information.

Communication and Feedback

Assessment marks for individual assessed tasks will be communicated via Canvas within two weeks of submission. Feedback on assignments will include [specific details, e.g., strengths, areas for improvement]. Students who have further questions about the feedback including marks should consult the instructor within five working days after the feedback is received.

Resubmission Policy

Students may resubmit assignments if they do not meet the required standards on the first submission. Resubmissions must be completed within 7 days of receiving feedback, unless otherwise specified by the instructor. The resubmitted work should address all the feedback provided to improve the assignment. The highest grade that can be achieved on a resubmitted assignment is a "B" (or 80%). Only one resubmission per assignment is allowed.

Required Texts and Materials

There are no required textbooks or readings for this class. Recommended readings will be provided for each topic one week before the class meeting.

Academic Integrity







Students are expected to adhere to the university's academic integrity policy. Students are expected to uphold HKUST(GZ)'s Academic Honor Code and to maintain the highest standards of academic integrity. The University has zero tolerance of academic misconduct. Please refer to Regulations for Academic Integrity and Student Conduct for the University's definition of plagiarism and ways to avoid cheating and plagiarism.

Additional Resources

Book:

Guo, Shuhui (2019). *Sounding China: A Companion to Chinese Traditional Music*. Shanghai Publish House.

Course Summary:

Date	Details	Due
Wed Mar 4, 2026	 1 Folk Song Workshop (https://hkust-gz.instructure.com/courses/2938/assignments/21772)	due by 11:59pm
Fri Apr 17, 2026	 2 Narrative Singing Workshop (https://hkust-gz.instructure.com/courses/2938/assignments/22703)	due by 11:59pm
Sat Apr 18, 2026	 Concert Review (https://hkust-gz.instructure.com/courses/2938/assignments/22702)	due by 11:59pm
Thu Apr 30, 2026	 3 Chinese Opera Workshop (https://hkust-gz.instructure.com/courses/2938/assignments/22704)	due by 11:59pm
	 Quiz (https://hkust-gz.instructure.com/courses/2938/assignments/23050)	due by 11:59pm
Fri May 8, 2026	 Final Project (https://hkust-gz.instructure.com/courses/2938/assignments/23052)	due by 11:59pm