COURSE DETAIL

WRITING SYSTEMS
Country United Kingdom - England
Host Institution University of London, Queen Mary
Program(s) University of London, Queen Mary
UCEAP Course Level Upper Division
UCEAP Subject Area(s) Linguistics
UCEAP Course Number 137
UCEAP Course Suffix
UCEAP Official Title WRITING SYSTEMS
UCEAP Transcript Title WRITING SYSTEMS
UCEAP Quarter Units 6.00
UCEAP Semester Units 4.00

Course Description

This course explores the history, form, and function of writing systems from around the world: Ancient Egyptian hieroglyphs, Chinese pictograms, Ancient Greek and modern Japanese syllabaries, the vowelless alphabets of Hebrew/Arabic, the "fusional" alphabets of Sanskrit/Hindi, the "separational" alphabets of Modern Europe. Students also look at various attempts to create "perfect" writing systems, such as that of Korea and the IPA and its rivals. Through the course, students gain an understanding of the phonological/morphological demands that languages place on their writing systems and how this leads to innovation and development. The course also examines sociological aspects of different systems (particularly in relation to the spread of systems and the role of writing in language preservation/endangerment) and what writing reveals about the organization of the mind/brain.

Language(s) of Instruction
English

Host Institution Course Number
LIN501

Host Institution Course Title
WRITING SYSTEMS

Host Institution Course Details
http://www.qmul.ac.uk/modules/

Host Institution Campus

Host Institution Faculty
School of Languages, Linguistics, and Film

Host Institution Degree

Host Institution Department

Course Last Reviewed

2024-2025

Print