

# 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

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