Mission Statement and Learning Objectives

The mission of the Department of Asian Studies is to help as many students as possible—both majors and non-majors—develop practical proficiency in Asian languages and, in the tradition of the liberal arts, acquire a meaningful understanding of important facets of one or more of the disciplines represented within Asian Studies (including anthropology, art history, economics, history, linguistics, literature, music, political science, religion, and sociology), so that they may realize their fullest intellectual and personal potential and be able to make useful contributions to society. The department offers three distinct major tracks: Asian Studies, Chinese, and Japanese.

Learning Objectives for the Chinese Major

Consisting of a core language curriculum and a variety of courses in the various disciplines represented in the department, the Chinese major track enables students to achieve proficiency in aural comprehension, speaking, reading, and writing in Mandarin Chinese, as well as to understand the cultural traditions and diversity of the Chinese-speaking regions in the world. Majors in Chinese are expected to function as responsible global citizens, able to use the Chinese language to interact and collaborate in their community and the globalized world, while remaining keenly aware and respectful of varying cultural beliefs, norms, and sensitivities.

Students who complete the requirements for a major in Chinese will be able to:

- Attain the Advanced level in speaking, listening and reading, and Intermediate-High level in writing based on the ACTFL proficiency guidelines.
- Understand the basic grammar and vocabulary of Classical Chinese.
- Master intercultural skills to competently navigate a wide range of social and cultural contexts.
- Critically read and analyze a variety of Chinese-language primary sources for academic and professional purposes.
- Acquire research, problem-solving, and critical thinking skills by engaging in cross-linguistic, cross-cultural, and comparative historical analysis.
- Engage critically with important aspects of the historical and cultural developments and trends in China’s diverse and complex past and present.
- Acquire the skills to enable them to continue their engagement with the target language and culture as lifelong learners and users of Chinese.

THE MAJOR

We offer courses in English in the field of Asian Studies as well as courses in Chinese and Japanese language, literature, and culture. Three distinct majors are offered: a major in Chinese; a major in Japanese; and an interdisciplinary Asian Studies major which allows students to choose from a wide range of courses in the anthropology, art, economics, history, languages, linguistics, literatures, music, politics, religion, and sociology of China, Taiwan, Japan, and other Asian countries. An increasing number of courses on South Asia are also offered (e.g., ASST 117, ASST 221, ASST 244, ASST 246T, ASST 248, ASST 252, ASST 256, ASST 391, ASST 415, ASST 424, ASST 431, ASST 488). Students interested in taking Korean or Hindi may take these languages through the Critical Language Program administered by the Center for Foreign Languages, Literatures, and Cultures. Students with questions about the Asian Studies majors or about Asian Studies course offerings should consult the chair. Please note: Courses with ASST prefix carry Division II credit unless otherwise noted and courses with CHIN and JAPN prefixes carry Division I credit unless otherwise noted.

All students wishing to major in the Department of Asian Studies are required to take and pass a total of eleven courses, as
One course that explicitly compares at least two countries in Asia, such as ASST 103, ASST 126, ASST 233, ASST 245, ASST 248, ASST 250, ASST 256, ASST 271, ASST 391, ASST 414, ASST 424, ASST 431, JAPN 258. Or students may take instead a course on a country that is different from their country of primary focus.

Four semesters of Chinese or Japanese language (including no more than two 100-level courses).

In addition to completing (1) and (2) above, all majors choose either an Area Studies track, leading to a major in Asian Studies; or a Language Studies track, leading to a major in Chinese or Japanese.

The requirements for Chinese are indicated below:

**Chinese Major**
- Four additional semesters of Chinese language (300-level or higher).
- One semester of Classical Chinese.
- One approved course in Chinese literature, linguistics, or culture.

**STUDY ABROAD**

Students intending to major in Asian Studies are encouraged to study in Asia during one or both semesters of their junior year. Williams faculty serve on the boards of several study abroad programs in China and Japan. Opportunities to study in India, Indonesia, Korea, Taiwan, Thailand, and other Asian countries are also available. Prospective Asian Studies majors who are planning to study abroad should discuss their plans with their advisor as far in advance as possible. Up to eight courses taken overseas may be counted toward graduation, and up to four courses taken off campus may be counted toward the major.

**FAQ**

Students MUST contact departments/programs BEFORE assuming study away credit will be granted toward the major or concentration.

**Can your department or program typically pre-approve courses for major/concentration credit?**

Yes. In some cases, provisional approval can be granted (students should be sure to contact the department for details). For programs that we are familiar with, we usually pre-approve credits.

**What criteria will typically be used/required to determine whether a student may receive major/concentration credit for a course taken while on study away?**

- Course title and description, complete syllabus including readings/assignments, and exams or other written work.

**Does your department/program place restrictions on the number of major/concentration credits that a student might earn through study away?**

Yes, maximum of four courses.

**Does your department/program place restrictions on the types of courses that can be awarded credit towards your major?**

Approved courses only.

**Are there specific major requirements that cannot be fulfilled while on study away?**

No.

**Are there specific major requirements in your department/program that students should be particularly aware of when weighing study away options? (Some examples might include a required course that is always taught in one semester, laboratory requirements.)**

Not in particular. Students are always strongly encouraged to consult with the department faculty ahead of time to plan on what courses to take during study-away and what courses to take up return.

**Give examples in which students thought or assumed that courses taken away would count toward the major or concentration and then learned they wouldn’t:**

There have been cases where students decided to take different courses after they arrived at the program and those courses did not meet our requirements.

**THE DEGREE WITH HONORS**

Students interested in writing an honors thesis in Chinese should submit a proposal to the department chair before they pre-register for senior courses in the spring of their junior year. The proposal should include a statement of the topic, a general description of the types of materials available for study and how the study will be carried out, and the name of the faculty member who will serve as advisor. Admission to the honors thesis program will normally be limited to students who have maintained at least a B+ average in their courses for the major.
Students admitted to the program should register for CHIN 493-W31-494. They will be expected to turn in the final draft of their thesis shortly after spring break and to discuss their results formally with their faculty graders. Their final grades in the three courses listed above and the award of Honors, Highest Honors, or no honors will be determined by the quality of the thesis and the student’s performance in the oral defense.

THE ASIAN STUDIES ENDOWMENT
The Linen summer grants for study abroad, the Linen visiting professorships, and several other programmatic activities in the department are supported by an endowment for Asian Studies established by family and friends in memory of James A. Linen III, Class of 1934, Trustee of the College from 1948 to 1953 and from 1963 to 1982.

CHIN 101 (F) Basic Chinese
An introduction to Mandarin, the language with the largest number of native speakers in the world, which is the national language of China and Taiwan, and one of the official languages of Singapore. Course objectives are for the student to develop simple, practical conversational skills and acquire basic proficiency in reading and writing at about the 200-character level. The relationship between language and culture and the sociolinguistically appropriate use of language will be stressed throughout. Both audio and video materials will be employed extensively.

Class Format: (for spoken classes) dialog performance, drills, communicative exercises; (for written classes) oral reading, questions and discussion in Chinese, translation and explanation in English

Requirements/Evaluation: evaluation is based on classroom performance, homework, quizzes, unit tests, and an oral and written final exam

Extra Info: students registered for CHIN 101-102 are required to attend and pass the sustaining program during the winter study period; credit granted only if both semesters (CHIN 101 and 102) are taken

Extra Info 2: not available for the fifth course option

Prerequisites: none

Enrollment Limit: none

Expected Class Size: 12

Distributions: (D1)

Fall 2018
LEC Section: 01 TR 9:55 am - 11:10 am Cornelius C. Kubler
CON Section: 02 MWF 9:00 am - 9:50 am Cornelius C. Kubler
CON Section: 03 MWF 10:00 am - 10:50 am Cornelius C. Kubler

CHIN 102 (S) Basic Chinese
An introduction to Mandarin, the language with the largest number of native speakers in the world, which is the national language of China and Taiwan, and one of the official languages of Singapore. Course objectives are for the student to develop simple, practical conversational skills and acquire basic proficiency in reading and writing in both the simplified and the traditional script at about the 500-character level. The relationship between language and culture and the sociolinguistically appropriate use of language will be stressed throughout. Both audio and video materials will be employed extensively.

Class Format: (for spoken classes) dialog performance, drills, communicative exercises; (for written classes) oral reading, questions and discussion in Chinese, translation and explanation in English

Requirements/Evaluation: evaluation is based on classroom performance, homework, quizzes, unit tests, and an oral and written final exam

Extra Info: students registered for CHIN 101-102 are required to attend and pass the sustaining program during the winter study period; credit granted only if both semesters (CHIN 101 and 102) are taken

Extra Info 2: not available for the fifth course option

Prerequisites: CHIN 101 or equivalent

Enrollment Limit: none

Expected Class Size: 12

Distributions: (D1)
CHIN 131 (S) Basic Cantonese

An introduction to Standard Cantonese, a major regional language of southern China which is spoken by over 70 million people in Hong Kong, Macao, Guangdong, and Guangxi as well as by many overseas Chinese in Southeast Asia, Hawaii, and North America. Due to the pervasive influence of Hong Kong as well as the economic transformation of Guangdong Province, the prestige of Cantonese within China has been rising steadily over the past few decades. Our focus in this course will be on developing basic listening and speaking skills, though some attention will also be paid to written Cantonese, including the special characters which have been used for centuries to write colloquial Cantonese and which have become even more widely used in Hong Kong since 1997. Since students will ordinarily possess prior proficiency in Mandarin, a closely related language, they should be able to attain in one semester approximately the same proficiency level that is attained in the first two semesters of Mandarin.

Class Format: dialog performance, drills, communicative exercises, oral reading, questions and discussion

Requirements/Evaluation: evaluation is based on classroom performance, homework, quizzes, unit tests, and an oral and written final exam

Extra Info: may not be taken on a pass/fail basis; not available for the fifth course option

Prerequisites: CHIN 202 or permission of instructor

Enrollment Limit: 12

Enrollment Preferences: Chinese and Asian Studies majors who have no prior background in Cantonese

Expected Class Size: 12

Distributions: (D1)

Not offered current academic year

CHIN 134 (S) Leaving the World Behind: The Literature of Reclusion (WI)

Crosslistings: ANTH134 / REL134 / COMP134 / CHIN134

Primary Crosslisting

Living in a time of political and social turmoil, Confucius told his followers: "When the realm has the Way, show yourself; when it lacks the way, hide." Reclusion here is a moral choice, justified by the ethical decline of the state. But it could also be a mortal necessity in a period in which government service was a distinctly hazardous pursuit. In other contexts becoming a hermit could instead be figured as aesthetic stance meant to preserve one's artistic integrity against the dominant claims of society. This course looks at the literature of reclusion---living a life of seclusion from society---in a range of different cultures and periods, from ancient China to contemporary America. With sources that include poems, essays, novels, and films, we will investigate a set of issues surrounding radical seclusion. What different forms does reclusion take? Can one be a hermit without being completely separated from society? What is the relationship between hermits and the state---to what extent does one depend on the other? What are the philosophical and moral implications of eremitism? Is separating oneself from human society an inherently immoral act? What is the relationship between reclusion and technology in the contemporary world? What is the nature of solitude and can it be experienced in a group (for example, in contemporary "intentional communities")? While most of our work will focus on textual analysis, there will be an experiential component to the course as well. Each student will design and implement their own experiment in (short-term) eremitism.

Class Format: tutorial

Requirements/Evaluation: tutorial papers, responses, and a final project

Extra Info: may not be taken on a pass/fail basis; not available for the fifth course option

Prerequisites: none

Enrollment Limit: 10

Enrollment Preferences: first-year students, Chinese majors, Religion majors, Anthropology majors

Expected Class Size: 10

Distributions: (D1) (WI)
Distribution Notes: meets Division 1 requirement if registration is under CHIN or COMP; meets Division 2 requirement if registration is under ANTH or REL WI. Students will write a 5- to 7-page paper every other week for a total of five papers. On weeks in which they are not writing, they will critique their partner's paper. The final project will be a self-designed experiment in reclusion.

Spring 2019
TUT Section: T1  TBA  Christopher M. B. Nugent

CHIN 140 (F) Introduction to Traditional Chinese Literature

Crosslistings: CHIN140 / COMP140

Primary Crosslisting

With a written record stretching over 3000 years, China's literary cultures are some of the richest and most varied in human history. Their influence continues to be felt not only in modern China, but also throughout much of the world. This course examines the origins and development of the different literatures of China from their earliest stages up until the end of the imperial system in 1911. We will read texts ranging from the Analects of Confucius to the medieval poetry of the Tang dynasty, from Buddhist sutras to plays about prostitutes and singing girls. An invulnerable monkey god may make an appearance to sow chaos as well. He's difficult to pin down. Some important themes will include: the role of the individual versus that of the community, responses to catastrophe and disorder, the fantastic, the articulation of the self through literature, and ways of dealing with historical and literary legacies. All readings are in English translation.

Class Format: lecture

Requirements/Evaluation: five short writing assignments (2 pages each), one paper (6-7 pages), and a final exam

Prerequisites: none

Enrollment Limit: none

Enrollment Preferences: none

Expected Class Size: 15

Distributions: (D1)

Not offered current academic year

CHIN 152 (S) Introduction to Taiwanese/Southern Min Language and Culture

This course, which includes a required, fully-funded two-week field trip to Taipei, Quemoy (Jinmen), and Xiamen over Spring Break, constitutes an introduction to Taiwanese, the majority language of Taiwan, which is essentially the same as the native language of Xiamen, China and environs. Different varieties of this language, which is also known as Amoy, Hokkien, Fukienese, and Southern Min are spoken by about 50 million people in Taiwan, southern Fujian, the Philippines, Indonesia, Malaysia, and Singapore. Suppressed in Taiwan by the Japanese from 1895-1945 and by the KMT Chinese government from 1945 through the 1970s, Taiwanese--in both its spoken and written forms--has been experiencing a fascinating revival in recent decades. The most divergent of all the major Chinese "dialects," this language is of special linguistic interest because it has preserved a number of features of Old Chinese. Our focus will be on developing basic listening and speaking skills, though we will also study some of the special characters used to write Taiwanese. The relationship between language and culture and the sociolinguistically appropriate use of language will be stressed throughout. Since students in the course will ordinarily possess prior proficiency in Mandarin, a related language, we should be able to cover in one semester about as much as is covered in the first two semesters of Mandarin. Classes will include dialog performance, drills, communicative exercises, and oral reading and discussion of written Taiwanese. Required Spring Break field trip to Taiwan and China, funded by the Global Initiatives Fund.

Class Format: seminar

Requirements/Evaluation: classroom performance, homework, quizzes, tests, a journal and term paper based on the field trip, and an oral and written final exam; Spring Break field trip to Taiwan and China, funded by the Global Initiatives Fund

Extra Info: may not be taken on a pass/fail basis; not available for the fifth course option

Prerequisites: CHIN 301 or permission of the instructor

Enrollment Limit: 8

Enrollment Preferences: if course is over-enrolled, students will be selected based on a statement of rationale and goals for wishing to participate, with CHIN and ASST majors receiving priority

Expected Class Size: 8
CHIN 201 (F) Intermediate Chinese

These two courses are designed to consolidate the foundations built in Basic Chinese and continue developing students' skills in aural comprehension, speaking, reading, and writing. Upon completion of the courses, students should be able to speak Chinese with fluency on everyday topics, reach a literacy level of 1000 characters (approximately 1200 common words written in both traditional and simplified characters), read materials written in simple standard written Chinese, and produce both orally and in writing short compositions on everyday topics. Conducted in Mandarin.

Class Format: drill/discussion/reading
Requirements/Evaluation: evaluation will be based on classroom performance, homework, daily quizzes, regular written and oral unit tests, and a final exam
Extra Info: not available for the fifth course option
Prerequisites: CHIN 102 or permission of instructor
Enrollment Limit: none
Expected Class Size: 12
Distributions: (D1)

CHIN 202 (S) Intermediate Chinese

These two courses are designed to consolidate the foundations built in Basic Chinese and continue developing students' skills in aural comprehension, speaking, reading, and writing. Upon completion of the courses, students should be able to speak Chinese with fluency on everyday topics, reach a literacy level of 1000 characters (approximately 1200 common words written in both traditional and simplified characters), read materials written in simple standard written Chinese, and produce both orally and in writing short compositions on everyday topics. Conducted in Mandarin.

Class Format: drill/discussion/reading
Requirements/Evaluation: evaluation will be based on classroom performance, homework, daily quizzes, regular written and oral unit tests, and a final exam
Extra Info: may not be taken on a pass/fail basis; not available for the fifth course option
Prerequisites: CHIN 201 or permission of instructor
Enrollment Limit: none
Expected Class Size: 12
Distributions: (D1)

CHIN 214 (F) Foundations of China

Crosslistings: ANTH212 / CHIN214 / REL218 / HIST214 / GBST212

Primary Crosslisting
This course examines the foundational period of Chinese civilization, from the earliest evidence of human activity in the geographical region we now call China, through the end of the Han dynasty in the early third-century CE. This is the period that saw the creation and spread of the Chinese script
From the "wows" that the first short films invoked at a Shanghai teahouse in 1896 to the $527 million (or 3.4 billion RMB) grossed at the box-office by a 3D fantasy in 2016, Chinese films have struck a responsive chord among domestic and foreign audiences. In this survey course, we will explore the evolving relationships between Chinese films and five "significant others" that are central to film and film-making. Roughly following a chronological order, this course will examine 1) the effect of new technological developments (such as photography, sound, color, special FX) on film; 2) the tension between film and traditional modes of public entertainment (such as operas and shadow plays); 3) film's social role to affirm and contest gender, national, and class identities; 4) the need to garner differing sources of financial support (state funding, cultural entrepreneurs, and transnational capital); and 5) the circulation of Chinese films in the global market. Class materials include various genre films (melodrama, horror, martial arts, comedy, etc.), directors' notes, contemporary reviews, and scholarship in China and media studies. All materials and discussions are in English.

Class Format: lecture

Requirements/Evaluation: attendance and participation, short response papers (1-2 pages each), one final project

Extra Info: may not be taken on a pass/fail basis

Prerequisites: none

Enrollment Limit: 20

Enrollment Preferences: current or prospective Chinese, Japanese, Asian Studies, and Comparative Literature majors

Expected Class Size: 15

Distributions: (D1)

Attributes: FMST Core Courses

Not offered current academic year

CHIN 227 (S) Made in China or Making "China"?: Twentieth-Century Chinese Performative Culture

Crosslistings: THEA227 / CHIN227 / COMP227

Primary Crosslisting

This course explores the ways in which twentieth-century Chinese performative culture fashioned our contemporary understanding of "China." Starting with Chinese hybrid theatres staged in the US, Japan, and semicolonial Shanghai in the early 1900s and ending with the 2008 Beijing Olympic Opening Ceremonies, this course examines performative works drawn from the breadth of an expanded 20th century; including film, spoken drama, intercultural reproductions of Peking and Kun Operas, revolutionary and avant-garde theatre, Chinese Rock concerts, and global mass mediated performances. Emphasis will be placed on how performances (encompassing the performance onstage and the performance-making backstage) placed "China" on the global stage; and shaped racial, gender, and national identities among play-makers and audiences. We will also explore how Chinese operas were reinscribed as "traditional culture" and a "national essence" in the early 20th century; and how agents of Chinese performance, as makers of imaginary worlds, serve as both assets and threats to real-life arbiters of power. The class will be structured around the themes of "Inventing Tradition on the World Stage," "Acting the Right Part," and "Performing the Nation." Students will learn to engage performances as cultural texts embedded in national and global histories. By gaining knowledge about major playwrights, directors, artists, networks, and ideas, students will also become fluent in the landscape of performance culture in China. All class materials and discussions are in English.

Class Format: lecture/discussion

Requirements/Evaluation: regular in-class participation, three short papers (3-5 pages), and one final project

Prerequisites: none

Enrollment Limit: 20

Enrollment Preferences: students who major or plan to major in Chinese and/or Asian Studies

Expected Class Size: 15

Distributions: (D1)

Not offered current academic year

CHIN 237 (F) Present Past: The Politics of Memory in Contemporary Chinese Literatures and Films (WI)

Crosslistings: CHIN237 / COMP297

Primary Crosslisting
What happens when memories, already slippery, are further massaged by literary and cinematic narrative strategies? How is the historical "past" remembered, forgotten, and subverted in a literary "presence"? This tutorial explores the politics of memory in contemporary literatures and films from the People's Republic of China (post-socialist era, 1978), Taiwan (post-martial law, 1987), and Hong Kong (postcolonial era, 1997). We will look at how literary and cinematic works in each of these "post" societies represent state-sponsored narratives of remembrance, dissidents' collective amnesia, and at the popular level, a playful yet cynical flirtation with politics. With close- and distant- readings of textualized and visualized memories, we will examine themes of nation and locality, public and private, amnesia and nostalgia, and home and diaspora in the PRC, Taiwan, and Hong Kong from the late 1980s until to today. Course readings include "root-seeking", "new realist", "avant-garde" and "hooligan" novels, examples from the Taiwanese small theater movement, and the transnational cinemas made by the fifth, sixth, and second new wave filmmakers from these three "post" societies.

Class Format: tutorial

Requirements/Evaluation: attendance and participation, five short papers, five short critiques of a partner's paper, one final project

Extra Info: may not be taken on a pass/fail basis

Prerequisites: none

Enrollment Limit: 10

Enrollment Preferences: current or prospective Chinese, Asian Studies, and Comparative Literature majors

Expected Class Size: 10

Distributions: (D1) (WI)

Attributes: FMST Core Courses;

Not offered current academic year

CHIN 252 (F) Bridging Theory and Practice: Learning and Teaching Chinese as a Second Language

This course introduces students to the principles of second language acquisition (SLA), a field of study that investigates how people learn a foreign language and provides a basis for understanding research related to foreign language learning and teaching. Theoretical issues to be covered include what it means to know a language, how one becomes proficient in a foreign language, factors that affect the learning process, and the role of one's native language. We will also examine what SLA research has discovered about teaching grammar, pronunciation, vocabulary, and writing. The goal is to explore ways in which SLA theories can be applied to facilitate acquisition of Chinese in terms of learning strategies and curriculum design. This course will be useful to both students who want to improve their own learning of Chinese and those who plan to teach or conduct research on Chinese.

All readings in English with some examples in Chinese.

Class Format: lecture/discussion

Requirements/Evaluation: evaluation will be based on class participation, several oral presentations and short papers, and a final research project

Prerequisites: CHIN 101 or permission of instructor

Enrollment Limit: 19

Expected Class Size: 12

Distributions: (D1)

Attributes: EXPE Experiential Education Courses; Linguistics

Not offered current academic year

CHIN 253 (F) "Disease" in Modern Chinese Literature and Culture

Crosslistings: WGSS255 / CHIN253 / COMP254

Primary Crosslisting

From early modern anxieties about China's status as the "sick man of Asia" to contemporary concerns regarding the prospect of transnational pandemics, "diseases" and their related stories have played a critical role in making and contesting individual psychologies and Chinese modernity in the 20th and 21st centuries. Actual diseases, from tuberculosis to AIDS, constitute not only social realities that trouble political and popular minds in their own right; but further provide powerful metaphors for exploring issues of human rights, national identity, and transnational circulation. This course examines how Chinese literature in the 20th and 21st centuries writes and visualizes "disease"--a universal human experience that is nevertheless heavily bounded by culture and history. Specifically, we examine the cultural and social meaning of "disease"; the relationship between diseases on the one hand, and the politics of body, gender, and class on the other; we ask how infectious (sexual) disease, and mental illness are defined, represented, and understood in both male and female writers' analytical essays and fictional writings in the 20th century; we examine how
metaphorical "diseases," such as infectious cannibalism and fin-de-siècle "virus," are imagined and interpreted by key culture figures ranging from the founding father of modern literature (Lu Xun), to the winner of the 2012 Nobel Prize in Literature (Mo Yan), to the "Second New Wave" film director of Taiwanese Cinema (Tsai Ming-liang); and we explore how Freud's psychoanalysis and post-Freudian psychotherapy are "practiced" in literature circulated in both print and internet cultures. Throughout the course, we will focus on the interplay between literature canons (fictions, essays, and dramas) and popular media and genres: blockbuster cinemas and art house films, popular novels, photographs and posters, etc.

**Class Format:** lecture/discussion

**Requirements/Evaluation:** regular in-class presentation, three short papers (3-5 pages) and one final project

**Prerequisites:** none

**Enrollment Limit:** 20

**Enrollment Preferences:** none

**Expected Class Size:** 15

**Distributions:** (D1)

**Distribution Notes:** meets Division 2 requirement if registration is under WGSS; meets Division 1 requirement if registration is under COMP or CHIN

**Attributes:** PHLH Bioethics + Interpretations of Health

Not offered current academic year

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**CHIN 272 (S)  The History and Mythology of Chinese Scripts**

Crosslistings: COMP272 / CHIN272

**Primary Crosslisting**

Written scripts using what are most often called “Chinese characters” have an attested history of over 3000 years and have been used all over the world to represent a range of different languages. In this course we will examine the history and development of Chinese characters from their earliest extant examples on sacrificial animal bones to their often amusingly misguided use for contemporary tattoos. We will look at historical evidence and mythology, carefully constructed grammatological studies and wild orientalist imaginings. Some topics will include: comparisons between the development of Chinese characters and other written scripts, the relationship between Chinese characters and the languages of China, the use of Chinese characters to write non-Chinese languages, Chinese characters in art and calligraphy, theories of connections between Chinese characters and Chinese philosophy and literature, issues of education and literacy, and the future of Chinese characters in the digital age.

**Class Format:** lecture/discussion

**Requirements/Evaluation:** quizzes, short writing assignments, a midterm, and a final exam

**Prerequisites:** none

**Enrollment Limit:** none

**Enrollment Preferences:** none

**Expected Class Size:** 15

**Distributions:** (D1)

Not offered current academic year

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**CHIN 301 (F)  Upper-Intermediate Chinese**

The goal of this course is to continue developing students' overall language proficiency. However, special emphasis will be on strengthening students' reading and writing proficiency in standard written Chinese, the grammar and vocabulary of which differ considerably from colloquial Chinese introduced during the first two years of instruction. Conducted in Mandarin.

**Class Format:** drill/discussion/reading

**Requirements/Evaluation:** evaluation will be based on classroom performance, short essays, homework, quizzes, tests, and a final exam

**Extra Info:** may not be taken on a pass/fail basis; not available for the fifth course option

**Prerequisites:** CHIN 202 or permission of instructor

**Enrollment Limit:** none

**Expected Class Size:** 12

**Distributions:** (D1)
CHIN 302 (S) Upper-Intermediate Chinese

The goal of this course is to continue developing students' overall language proficiency. However, special emphasis will be on strengthening students' reading and writing proficiency in standard written Chinese, the grammar and vocabulary of which differ considerably from colloquial Chinese introduced during the first two years of instruction. Conducted in Mandarin.

Class Format: drill/discussion/reading

Requirements/Evaluation: evaluation will be based on classroom performance, short essays, homework, quizzes, tests, and a final exam

Extra Info: may not be taken on a pass/fail basis; not available for the fifth course option

Prerequisites: CHIN 301 or permission of instructor

Enrollment Limit: none

Expected Class Size: 12

Distributions: (D1)

CHIN 312 (S) Introduction to Classical Chinese

This course is an introduction to the grammar and basic vocabulary of Classical Chinese, the standard written language of China from around the seventh century BCE through the 1920s (and for many centuries an important written language in Japan, Korea, and Vietnam as well). Aspects of Classical Chinese continue to play a role in both written (e.g., in newspaper, academic, and legal writing) and in spoken (e.g., proverbs and aphorisms) modern Chinese. Our work in this course will be based on reading, translating, and discussing philosophical, political, literary, and historical anecdotes from the Spring and Autumn (770-481 BCE) through the Han (206 BCE-220 CE) periods, as they served as the foundation for the language. We will conduct discussions of grammatical and philological issues primarily in English and most of our translation work will be from Classical Chinese into English. We will, however, frequently discuss the points of intersection between Classical and Modern Chinese. Students are required to have completed CHIN 202 or the equivalent. Students who have extensive reading knowledge of Chinese characters through other languages (such as Japanese) may also take this course with the instructor's permission.

Class Format: seminar

Requirements/Evaluation: evaluation will be based on classroom performance, homework, quizzes, tests, and a final exam

Prerequisites: CHIN 202 or extensive reading knowledge of Chinese characters through other languages

Enrollment Limit: none

Expected Class Size: 12

Distributions: (D1)
**Requirements/Evaluation:** evaluation will be based on classroom performance, short essays every other week, homework, quizzes, tests, and a final exam

**Extra Info:** may not be taken on a pass/fail basis; not available for the fifth course option

**Prerequisites:** CHIN 302 or permission of instructor

**Enrollment Limit:** none

**Expected Class Size:** 12

**Distributions:** (D1)

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### Fall 2018

**LEC Section:** 01  MR 1:10 pm - 2:25 pm  Lu Kou

**CON Section:** 02  W 1:10 pm - 2:00 pm  Lu Kou

**CON Section:** 03  W 2:10 pm - 3:00 pm  Lu Kou

#### CHIN 402 (S) Advanced Chinese

This course is designed to enhance the Chinese language proficiency of students who are already at relatively advanced levels. A wide assortment of materials is used including (for speaking/comprehension) audiotapes, videotapes, and films featuring Chinese speakers from various segments of society; and (for reading) newspaper and magazine articles dealing with Chinese politics and economics as well as selections from modern Chinese literature. Conducted in Mandarin.

**Class Format:** two 75-minute classes plus a conversation session

**Requirements/Evaluation:** evaluation will be based on classroom performance, short essays every other week, homework, quizzes, tests, and a final exam

**Extra Info:** may not be taken on a pass/fail basis; not available for the fifth course option

**Prerequisites:** CHIN 401 or permission of instructor

**Enrollment Limit:** none

**Expected Class Size:** 12

**Distributions:** (D1)

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### Spring 2019

**LEC Section:** 01  MR 2:35 pm - 3:50 pm  Cecilia Chang

**CON Section:** 02  W 1:10 pm - 2:00 pm  Cecilia Chang

**CON Section:** 03  W 2:10 pm - 3:00 pm  Cecilia Chang

#### CHIN 413 (S) Intermediate Classical Chinese: Ideas of Authority in Classical Chinese Literature

This course builds on the foundation established in Introduction to Classical Chinese (CHIN 412) by examining longer and more complicated texts from the Warring States (403-221 BCE) and Han (206 BCE-220 CE) periods. While our focus will be on careful linguistic analysis and translation, we will also discuss these texts in terms of their philosophical ideas, rhetorical methods, and cultural and historical contexts. The works we will read include some of the foundational texts of Chinese philosophical and political thought, including the Confucian Analects, the Mencius, and the Zhuangzi. While this course is a continuation of Chinese 312, students with prior work in Classical Chinese (through study abroad, attending high school in a Chinese speaking region, etc.) are welcome as well.

**Class Format:** seminar

**Requirements/Evaluation:** evaluation will be based on classroom performance, homework, quizzes, tests, and a final exam

**Prerequisites:** CHIN 312 or prior coursework in Classical Chinese

**Enrollment Limit:** none

**Expected Class Size:** 10

**Distributions:** (D1)

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**Not offered current academic year**


CHIN 420 (S) Masterpieces in Modern Chinese Literature

"To modernize the Chinese people, it has to start from the modernization of the genre 'novel.'" Liang Qichao, the famous Chinese intellectual in the early twentieth century, envisioned a collapsing China to be salvaged by, first, its modernized literature. Indeed, throughout China's long century of struggle, exploration, and transformation, literature has been playing a crucial role in negotiating (the consequence of) modernity, fueling revolution, investigating human interiority, constructing national identity, and coping with trauma and diaspora. This course introduces students to the masterpieces in modern Chinese literature and their representations of critical events in twentieth-century Chinese history. We will read novels, poems, prose pieces, and plays, and pay close attention to the language and literary devices that the authors use for storytelling, characterization, and self-representation. The class is organized by themes, such as, for example, modernity, revolution, diaspora, root-seeking, trauma, science fiction and so on. Through class discussions, writing assignments, and oral presentation on the final project, this course will further develop students' language proficiency, especially reading ability and effective communication in a formal setting. This course also trains students to be a critical reader who will be able to not only analyze the key moments and literary masterworks of modern China but also reflect on the complexity of Chinese culture vis-à-vis its tradition and the global context. The class will meet in one large group meeting once a week and the second meeting will be in smaller groups. The course is conducted in Mandarin.

Class Format: lecture/discussion, the class will meet in one large group meeting once a week and the second meeting will be in smaller groups

Requirements/Evaluation: participation, presentations, quizzes, discussion questions posting, 3 writing assignments, final project

Extra Info: may not be taken on a pass/fail basis

Prerequisites: CHIN 402 or permission of instructor

Enrollment Limit: none

Enrollment Preferences: none

Expected Class Size: 12

Distributions: (D1)

Spring 2019

LEC Section: 01 TF 1:10 pm - 2:25 pm Lu Kou

CHIN 422 (S) Old Shanghai, New Shanghai (WI)

Crosslistings: ASST122 / CHIN422

Primary Crosslisting

Once nicknamed as "Paris of the East," Shanghai, now a megacity with a population of 25 million, is the industrial, commercial and financial center of contemporary China. Shanghai is often depicted as a metropolis that marked the beginning of China's modernity and urban culture. People from other regions in China see Shanghai as a city full of opportunities, but characterize its people as astute and shrewd, cocky and unwelcoming. Foreigners, however, find the city appealing and its people open-minded. Jews fleeing Nazi persecutions during WWII, found Shanghai to be a "paradise of ghetto" that provided the only haven of survival. For local people, there have always been two Shanghai: an old one and a new one. They are proud of the new Shanghai but constantly nostalgic about the old one. This tutorial examines the multifaceted city of Shanghai and its people from historical and cultural perspectives. We will look at the city's history (from the late nineteenth century to present day), its local language and culture, and everyday life of the people (including migrants and foreigners) living in it. The central ideas we will explore are "modernity" and "regional identity." We will investigate how these theoretical constructs play out in the making of the city of Shanghai and the formation of its unique local identity. Course readings include historical and cultural studies as well as documentaries in English about Shanghai, and primary sources in Chinese in a wide range of genres including fiction, essays, and films (English translation of the primary sources are available for students taking the course in English). The course is conducted in either Chinese or English. Students wishing to take the course in English should register under ASST 122T and students wishing to take the course in Chinese should register under CHIN 422T. Students will come away with a critical understanding about China's regional cultures and one of its most important metropolitan cities. Chinese language learners will be able to improve their reading and writing skills in Chinese through this course. The course has a required field trip to a Chinese restaurant on a Saturday or Sunday, depending on all students' schedules.

Class Format: tutorial

Requirements/Evaluation: each tutorial pair will meet with the instructor for one hour per week, during which time we will discuss a 5-page paper that one of the partners has submitted

Extra Info: may not be taken on a pass/fail basis; not available for the fifth course option
Prerequisites: none for students taking ASST 122T; CHIN 402 or permission of the instructor for students taking CHIN 422T

Enrollment Limit: 10

Enrollment Preferences: current or prospective Asian Studies, Chinese, or Japanese majors

Expected Class Size: 10

Department Notes: students wishing to take the course in English should register under ASST 122T and students wishing to take the course in Chinese should register under CHIN 422T

Materials/Lab Fee: $100

Distributions: (D1) (WI)

Distribution Notes: meets Division 1 requirement if registration is under ASST or CHIN

Not offered current academic year

CHIN 425 (F) Becoming Taiwan: Social, Cultural, and Economic Discourses of Modern Day Taiwan

A small island in East Asia and home to 23 million people, Taiwan is the largest economy that is not a member of the United Nations. From 1949, when the Nationalist Party (KMT) retreated to Taiwan after the Chinese Civil War, to becoming one of the Four Asian Tigers in the latter half of the 20th century, Taiwan has developed into a multifaceted society through an array of social/cultural/economic changes associated with industrialization, globalization and identity formation. In this course, we will examine some of the signal examples of these experiences that define the Taiwan society that it is today through literary works and films, as well as journalistic and academic articles. By way of group discussions and individual projects, students will acquire domain-specific vocabulary and develop abilities to analyze and discuss in Mandarin complex ideas related to the aforementioned issues. Using a semi-tutorial format and collaborating with a graduate program in Chinese pedagogy in Taiwan, this course is designed to provide opportunities for Williams students to engage in direct conversation with a language partner on course assignments and for the MA students in Taiwan to gain practical training in helping non-native speakers of Mandarin Chinese develop linguistic proficiency at the levels of Advanced Low to the Advanced Mid based on the ACTFL proficiency guidelines.

Class Format: seminar; semi-tutorial format; students will meet as a large group periodically for linguistic development and two to three people groups regularly for discussions

Requirements/Evaluation: quizzes, presentations, posting of discussion questions, two position papers (3-5 pages) and one final paper (5-7 pages)

Extra Info: may not be taken on a pass/fail basis; not available for the fifth course option

Prerequisites: CHIN 402 or permission of instructor

Enrollment Limit: 12

Enrollment Preferences: seniors and Chinese majors; email the instructor

Expected Class Size: 8

Distributions: (D1)

Fall 2018

SEM Section: 01 MR 2:35 pm - 3:50 pm Cecilia Chang

CHIN 431 (S) Introduction to Chinese Linguistics

Is Chinese--whose nouns "lack" number and whose verbs have no tense--a monosyllabic, "primitive" language? Are the Chinese characters a system of logical symbols or "ideographs," which indicate meaning directly without regard to sound? Could (and should) the characters be done away with and alphabetized? Are Cantonese, Hakka, and Taiwanese dialects or languages? And what is the relationship between Chinese, Japanese, Korean, and Vietnamese? These are some of the questions we will be taking up in this one-semester introduction to the scientific study of the Chinese language. Topics to be covered include: the phonological, syntactical, and lexical structure of Modern Standard Chinese; the Chinese writing system; the modern Chinese dialects; the history of the Chinese language; sociolinguistic aspects of Chinese; and language and politics in various Chinese-speaking societies. Readings in English and Chinese, with class discussion in Mandarin

Class Format: lecture/discussion

Requirements/Evaluation: evaluation will be based on classroom performance, homework, two short papers, and one longer paper

Extra Info: may not be taken on a pass/fail basis; not available for the fifth course option

Prerequisites: CHIN 302 or permission of instructor
Enrollment Limit: 20
Enrollment Preferences: current or prospective Chinese or Asian Studies majors
Expected Class Size: 12
Distributions: (D1)
Attributes: Linguistics
Not offered current academic year

CHIN 493 (F) Senior Thesis: Chinese
Chinese senior thesis.
Class Format: independent study
Extra Info: this is part of a full-year thesis (493-494)
Enrollment Limit: none
Distributions: (D1)

Fall 2018
HON Section: .01   TBA   George T. Crane

CHIN 494 (S) Senior Thesis: Chinese
Chinese senior thesis.
Class Format: independent study
Extra Info: this is part of a full-year thesis (493-494)
Distributions: (D1)

Spring 2019
HON Section: 01   TBA   George T. Crane

CHIN 497 (F) Independent Study: Chinese
For students who have completed Chinese 402 and Chinese 412 or equivalent. Interested students must contact the Coordinator of the Chinese Program one semester in advance and present a proposal to the Coordinator or the professor with whom they wish to study during pre-registration week.
Class Format: independent study
Distributions: (D1)

Fall 2018
IND Section: 01   TBA   George T. Crane

CHIN 498 (S) Independent Study: Chinese
For students who have completed Chinese 402 and Chinese 412 or equivalent. Interested students must contact the Coordinator of the Chinese Program one semester in advance and present a proposal to the Coordinator or the professor with whom they wish to study during pre-registration week.
Class Format: independent study
Distributions: (D1)

Spring 2019
IND Section: 01   TBA   George T. Crane