DEPARTMENT of ASIAN LANGUAGES, LITERATURES, & CULTURES
CHINESE, JAPANESE, EAST ASIAN LANGUAGES & CULTURES

(Div I & II, see explanation below)

Chair: Professor Li Yu

Cecilia Chang, Frederick Latimer Wells Professor of Chinese; Masashi Harada, Assistant Professor of Japanese; Man He, Associate Professor of Chinese; Shinko Kagaya, Professor of Japanese; Cornelius C. Kubler, Stanfield Professor of Asian Studies; Christopher M. B. Nugent, Professor of Chinese; Kasumi Yamamoto, Frank M. Gagliardi Professor of Japanese; Li Yu, Professor of Chinese

Visitors: Xiaoming Hou, Visiting Assistant Professor of Chinese; Ju-Yin Wang, Visiting Lecturer in Chinese; Language Fellows: Jiayuan Li, Ai-Chen Wang; Teaching Associate: Yuk Man Ng

Department Mission Statement and Curricular Goal

The mission of the Department of Asian Languages, Literatures, and Cultures is to produce “global citizens” who will be able to make contributions in different sectors of society in a globalized and diverse world with multilingual abilities, intercultural communicative competence, and multicultural leadership skills. Graduates of our department will not only achieve proficiency in at least one Asian language but also become competent in intercultural communication. They will develop interpretive and analytical skills using both primary texts and secondary sources and become familiar with the textual and cultural traditions in Asia.

The department offers three distinct major tracks: Chinese, Japanese, and East Asian Languages & Cultures. Each major requires a minimum of ten courses. Up to four study-away credits can be counted toward a major.

Learning Objectives for the Chinese Major

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.
- Read and analyze basic texts written in Classical Chinese.
- Gain intercultural communicative skills to competently navigate a wide range of social and cultural contexts in Chinese-speaking environments.
- Critically read and analyze a variety of Chinese-language primary sources for academic and professional purposes.
- 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

In order to develop proficiency and intercultural communicative skills in the language, students are required to complete at least eight Mandarin Chinese language courses (CHIN 101, 102, 201, 202, 301, 302, 401, 402) and at least one course in Classical Chinese (CHIN 312). To gain a deeper understanding of Chinese cultural traditions, students should take at least one Chinese core elective in Chinese literary, linguistic, or cultural studies (taught either in English or in Chinese) with prefixes and primary cross-listings in CHIN.

Students placed out of lower-level language courses can take additional approved electives to replace the language course requirement. Electives include core language courses, core electives, and ASIA courses in the program of Asian Studies.

Learning Objectives for the Japanese Major

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

- Demonstrate linguistic competency/proficiency in comprehending, speaking, reading, and writing in Japanese at the ACTFL Intermediate High to Advanced levels.
- Critically read and analyze a variety of Japanese primary sources for academic and professional purposes.
- Critically engage with Japanese culture, past and present, recognizing its diversity and vibrancy.
- Navigate a wide range of social and cultural contexts by communicating effectively and appropriately with people of other cultures in their local and global communities.
• Continue their engagement with Japanese language and culture as lifelong learners and users of Japanese.

THE MAJOR

In order to develop proficiency and intercultural communicative skills in the language, students are required to complete at least eight Japanese language courses (JAPN 101, 102, 201, 202, 301, 302, 401, 402), at least one Japanese core elective in Japanese literary, linguistic, or cultural studies (taught either in English or in Japanese) with prefixes and primary cross-listings in JAPN, and one approved elective related to Japanese language and culture (including additional JAPN core electives, additional Asian language courses, or Japanese studies courses offered in art, comparative literature, history, music, political science, religion, etc.).

Students placed out of lower-level language courses can take additional approved electives to replace the language course requirement. Electives include core language courses, core electives, and ASIA courses in the program of Asian Studies.

Learning Objectives for the East Asian Languages and Cultures Major

Students who complete the requirements for a major in East Asian Languages and Cultures will be able to:

• Attain a minimum of Intermediate High level in speaking, listening and reading of either Chinese or Japanese, and Intermediate Low level in writing in the language based on the ACTFL proficiency guidelines.

• Acquire research, problem-solving, and critical thinking skills by engaging in linguistic or literary analysis in the field of Chinese studies or Japanese studies.

• Obtain basic intercultural communicative skills to navigate some social and cultural contexts in Chinese- or Japanese-speaking environments.

• Continue their engagement with an Asian language and culture as lifelong learners and users of the target language.

• Students who choose the dual-language option will attain the Advanced level in speaking, listening, and reading in either Chinese or Japanese, and the intermediate level in a second Asian language based on the ACTFL proficiency guidelines.

THE MAJOR

East Asian Languages and Cultures (EALC) major: In order to develop proficiency and intercultural communicative skills in the language, students are required to complete at least six language courses (or attain a minimum proficiency equivalent to the completion of 302) in one East Asian language offered by the department (currently Chinese Mandarin and Japanese). To gain a deeper understanding of the Chinese or Japanese cultural traditions and to develop research skills in the Chinese or Japanese fields, they should take at least two Chinese/Japanese core electives in literary, linguistic, or cultural studies in their primary focus of study with prefixes and primary cross-listings in CHIN/JAPN, and two approved electives related to Chinese/Japanese language and culture (including additional CHIN/JAPN core electives, additional Asian language courses, or Chinese/Japanese studies courses offered in art, comparative literature, history, music, political science, religion, etc.).

Students placed out of lower-level language courses can take additional approved electives to replace the language course requirement. Electives include core language courses, core electives, and ASIA courses in the program of Asian Studies.

This major offers students who are able to complete the 402 level in either Chinese or Japanese by the end of their sophomore year a dual-language option which will allow them to learn a second Asian language and reach the Intermediate level in speaking that language by the time of graduation. Please consult with the chair or language coordinator for more information about this option.

LANGUAGE PLACEMENT

Students who have studied or otherwise developed some familiarity with Chinese or Japanese language before coming to Williams and who wish to continue their language study at the college should complete a placement evaluation before pre-registering for a language course. More information about the Chinese placement evaluation can be found at https://chinese.williams.edu/faq/. Students who wish to take the Japanese placement test should contact the Japanese faculty.

THE DEGREE WITH HONORS

The department offers students the option of pursuing a degree with Honors in Chinese, Japanese, or East Asian Languages and Cultures through writing an honors thesis. Honors theses allow students a unique opportunity to undertake an examination of topics and texts with a greater depth than regular courses allow. The great majority of students who undertake the challenge of writing an honors thesis find it to be one of their most rewarding academic experiences at Williams.

Students interested in pursuing a degree with Honors should begin thinking about their thesis topic and materials as early as possible. This is particularly true for students who need to gather materials or conduct research abroad, as this will typically take place during their junior year or the summer between their junior and senior years. It is the responsibility of the student to approach faculty members to inquire about their willingness to serve as a thesis advisor. Ideally, students should have previously taken a course with that faculty member in an area related to the subject matter of the thesis. Faculty members will usually only advise a single thesis per year, and never more than two, with students who first approach the faculty
member about serving as advisor being given priority. It is recommended that students approach the faculty members with whom they are interested in working for their thesis by the end of the fall semester of their junior year.

Students must submit a proposal to the department chair and their intended advisor before they pre-register for senior year 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. If the department approves the thesis proposal, the student should enroll in CHIN 493-W31-494, or JAPN 493-W31-494, depending on their major track. Please note that admission to the honors thesis program will normally be limited to students with a consistent record of honors-level work, as indicated by at least a B+ average in their courses for the major.

Students will typically meet with their advisor once a week at a set time other than office hours. The advisor will present the student with a set of deadlines for different stages in the thesis, ranging from a bibliography to the final draft. While these deadlines will vary for different advisors and theses, two deadlines will apply to all theses, whether analytic or translation. 1) Students must submit a finished first chapter or substantial section of polished translation by the last day of the first semester reading period. If the student misses this deadline, he or she will not be allowed to continue the thesis. 2) The finished thesis is due to the advisor by 4:00 pm on the Monday two weeks after the last day of Spring Recess. The student should submit three copies of the thesis at this time. There will be no extensions.

The department will assign two readers, separate from the advisor, to each thesis. The readers will give a written assessment of the thesis that will be an important factor in the final determination of the student’s grades for the thesis and what honors designation, if any, will be given. These written comments will be shared with the student. Within two weeks after submission, the department will schedule an oral defense. This will be a one to one-and-a-half hour session in which the student will give a public presentation of his or her thesis to members of the department and invited guests followed by a question and answer period. A final, corrected copy of the thesis must be submitted to the Technical Services Department of Sawyer Library by 4:00 P.M. on the last day of the final examination period.

In order to qualify for Honors, the department must agree that the student has earned two semester grades of B+ or higher, based on his or her thesis and oral defense. Students whose thesis and defense are deemed by the department to be of exceptional merit will be awarded Highest Honors. A letter from the department chair will inform students of these decisions.

STUDY ABROAD

Students intending to major in the department are strongly encouraged to study in Asia at some point during their time at Williams—for a summer or for a semester or full year. Study-abroad in an immersive environment in the target culture is an indispensable step toward advanced proficiency in a second language. Prospective majors or language students who are planning to study abroad must attend the fall semester study-abroad information sessions organized by the department or discuss their plans with department faculty as far in advance as possible. The department administers the Linen Fellowships for Summer Study in Asia which fund selected students’ summer intensive language study or research projects. Up to four study-abroad courses may be transferred and counted toward graduation and toward the majors offered in the department. Students MUST contact the department faculty BEFORE assuming study-away credit will be granted toward the major in the department. Upon return, students should ask their study-away program to send their transcript to the Registrar’s office so that the appropriate number of credits can be transferred and granted by the department chair.

DEPARTMENT EMAIL LISTS

To be informed about the events, activities and funding opportunities in the department, please use your Williams login to sign up for one or more of the following GLOW special interest email lists.

“DALLC Majors and Faculty” (open to all current and prospective Chinese, Japanese, or East Asian Languages and Cultures majors):
https://glow.williams.edu/enroll/AWTMXP

“Asia-Related Funding Opportunities” (open to all students who would like to seek internal or external funding related to Asia):
https://glow.williams.edu/enroll/PGJHAC

“Special Interest Chinese” (open to all students interested in Chinese language and culture): https://glow.williams.edu/enroll/XEYMPG

“Special Interest Japanese” (open to all students interested in Japanese language and culture): https://glow.williams.edu/enroll/DAYTN3

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 and silent reading, questions and discussion in Chinese, translation and explanation in English as needed.

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

Prerequisites: none

Enrollment Limit: 15

Enrollment Preferences: If the course is overenrolled, first priority will be given to current or prospective majors in the Department of Asian Languages, Literatures, and Cultures; and second priority will be given to first-year students and sophomores.

Expected Class Size: 10

Grading: yes pass/fail option, no fifth course option

Unit Notes: Course credit granted only if both semesters (CHIN 101 and 102) as well as the Winter Study Sustaining Program are taken

Distributions: (D1)

Fall 2023
LEC Section: 01  MWF 9:00 am - 9:50 am  TR 8:55 am - 9:45 am  Cornelius C. Kubler
LEC Section: 02  M-F 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 and silent reading, questions and discussion in Chinese, translation and explanation in English as needed.

Requirements/Evaluation: attendance and participation, daily quizzes in the form of dialog or reading performance, homework, regular unit tests, and an oral and written final exam

Prerequisites: CHIN 101 and WSP Sustaining Program or equivalent. Students who have never taken a Chinese language course at Williams should complete the Chinese Placement Evaluation in GLOW before registering for this course.

Enrollment Limit: 12

Enrollment Preferences: If the course is overenrolled, first priority will be given to current or prospective majors in the Department of Asian Languages, Literatures, and Cultures; and second priority will be given to first-year students and sophomores.

Expected Class Size: 12

Grading: yes pass/fail option, no fifth course option

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

Distributions: (D1)

Spring 2024
LEC Section: 01  MWF 9:00 am - 9:50 am  TR 8:55 am - 9:45 am  Li Yu
LEC Section: 02  M-F 10:00 am - 10:50 am  Li Yu

CHIN 131  (S)  Basic Cantonese

Cross-listings: ASIA 130 CHIN 131

Primary Cross-listing
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 greater China rose steadily in the period 1980-2010 and it continues to be an important language today. 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, which have become even more widely used in Hong Kong since 1997. Since students will ordinarily possess prior proficiency in Mandarin, a rather 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, quizzes, unit tests, and an oral and written final exam.

Prerequisites: CHIN 202 or permission of instructor

Enrollment Limit: 12

Enrollment Preferences: Chinese and East Asian Languages & Cultures majors as well as Asian Studies concentrators

Expected Class Size: 12

Grading: no pass/fail option, yes fifth course option

Distributions: (D1)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:

ASIA 130(D1) CHIN 131(D1)

Spring 2024

SEM Section: 01 TF 1:10 pm - 2:25 pm Cornelius C. Kubler

CHIN 152 (S) Basic Taiwanese/Southern Min

Cross-listings: CHIN 152 ASIA 152

Primary Cross-listing

This course 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 Sinitic languages, 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.

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

Prerequisites: CHIN 301 or permission of the instructor

Enrollment Limit: 15

Enrollment Preferences: if course is over-enrolled, preference given to majors in CHIN, EALC, JAPN and concentrators in Asian Studies

Expected Class Size: 10

Grading: yes pass/fail option, yes fifth course option

Distributions: (D1)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:

CHIN 152(D1) ASIA 152(D1)

Not offered current academic year

CHIN 162 (S) Languages of East Asia
Cross-listings: GBST 162 CHIN 162 ANTH 162 ASIA 162

A survey of the Chinese, Japanese, and Korean languages in their linguistic and cultural context. Working with various types of multimedia including audio, video, animation, and texts, we'll take up the phonetics, phonology, morphology, syntax, and lexicon of these three major East Asian languages, including also their history and writing systems as well as how they function in the societies where they are spoken. Though the emphasis of the course is on linguistic description and analysis, there will also be an applied component, as part of which we'll learn several dozen common expressions in each language. Some of the questions to be discussed are: What are the similarities and differences among these three languages? How are and how aren't they related? How did the modern standard form of each develop and what is its relationship to any non-standard languages or dialects? How do these three languages reflect sociolinguistic phenomena such as gender, class, and politeness? How do the writing systems of these languages function and what is the role of Chinese characters in them? What has been the influence of Classical Chinese on Modern Chinese, Japanese, and Korean? How have these languages changed due to influence from English and other languages? How are they used in Asian American speech communities? And what are the prospects for their future development, including the influence of computers and digital communications? While this course is not intended as a comprehensive introduction to linguistics, it does introduce many basic terms and concepts from that discipline.

Class Format: combination of lecture, discussion, and language practice

Requirements/Evaluation: three quizzes, two 2- to 3-page papers, an oral presentation, and an 8- to 10-page term paper

Prerequisites: none (lectures, class discussions, and readings in English; no prior background in linguistics or any Asian language required)

Enrollment Limit: 20

Enrollment Preferences: open to all with preference to first-year students and sophomores as well as majors/concentrators in CHIN, JAPN, EALC, ANTH, ASIA and GBST

Expected Class Size: 15

Grading: yes pass/fail option, yes fifth course option

Distributions: (D1)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:

GBST 162(D2) CHIN 162(D1) ANTH 162(D2) ASIA 162(D1)

Attributes: Linguistics

Spring 2024

SEM Section: 01  MW 8:25 pm - 9:40 pm   Cornelius C. Kubler

CHIN 200  (F)  Accelerated Chinese on Special Topics for Heritage Speakers

Cross-listings: ASIA 201 CHIN 200

This course is tailor designed for students who already possess intermediate-level proficiency in speaking Chinese but lack the basic reading and writing skills, commonly referred to as heritage speakers of Chinese. They will make accelerated progress in their literacy skills through this course and be able to take either CHIN 202 or CHIN 302 in the spring semester. Adopting a semi-tutorial format (a mix of group classes and two/three-people classes) , this course aims to provide differentiated instruction to heritage learners of varying proficiency levels whose Chinese speaking and listening abilities exceed their reading and writing skills. This tailored course will help students effectively expand their literacy skills while helping to solidify the linguistic foundation for continuous proficiency advancement. The main theme of the course is focused on the experiences of Chinese Americans in a global context. Students will gain a deeper understanding of Chinese culture by way of individual projects that are meaningful and relevant to their intellectual interests. Students who are placed into CHIN 102 or 202 at the beginning of the fall semester should consider taking this course in the fall.

Class Format: Semi-tutorial format, students will meet as a large group in most weeks for linguistic development and two-to-three-people groups in some weeks for project-based discussions.

Requirements/Evaluation: Active participation in class, homework, quizzes, essays, oral presentations, and a final project

Prerequisites: Students must complete the Chinese Placement Evaluation in GLOW before registering for this course

Enrollment Limit: 12
Enrollment Preferences: Enrollment priority goes to current or prospective majors in the Department of Asian Languages, Literatures, and Cultures, concentrators in the Program of Asian Studies, and then to first-year students and sophomores

Expected Class Size: 12

Grading: no pass/fail option, yes fifth course option

Distributions: (D1)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:
ASIA 201(D1) CHIN 200(D1)

Fall 2023
LEC Section: 01 MR 2:35 pm - 3:50 pm Cecilia Chang

CHIN 201 (F) Intermediate Chinese I
Intermediate Chinese I and II are designed to consolidate the foundations built in Basic Chinese and continue developing students’ skills in aural comprehension, speaking, reading, writing, and intercultural communication. 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: Students will do dialog performance and communicative exercises in the speaking/listening classes. We will do read-aloud, questions and answers in the reading/writing classes.

Requirements/Evaluation: attendance and active participation, daily quizzes in the form of speaking or reading performances, homework, regular unit tests, and a final exam (including both oral and written portions)

Prerequisites: CHIN 102 or permission of instructor. Students who have never taken a Chinese language course at Williams should complete the Chinese Placement Evaluation in GLOW before registering for this course.

Enrollment Limit: 12

Enrollment Preferences: Priorities will be given to current or prospective majors in the Department of Asian Languages, Literatures, and Cultures, first-year students and sophomores, then to juniors and seniors.

Expected Class Size: 12

Grading: yes pass/fail option, no fifth course option

Distributions: (D1)

Fall 2023
LEC Section: 01 MWF 9:00 am - 9:50 am TR 8:55 am - 9:45 am Ju-Yin Wang
LEC Section: 02 M-F 10:00 am - 10:50 am Ju-Yin Wang

CHIN 202 (S) Intermediate Chinese II
Intermediate Chinese I & II are designed to consolidate the foundations built in Basic Chinese and continue developing students’ skills in aural comprehension, speaking, reading, writing, and intercultural communication. 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.

Requirements/Evaluation: attendance and active participation, daily homework and quizzes, regular written and oral unit tests, essays, and a final exam

Prerequisites: CHIN 201 or permission of instructor. Students who have never taken a Chinese language course at Williams should complete the Chinese Placement Evaluation in GLOW before registering for this course.

Enrollment Limit: 12

Enrollment Preferences: Priorities will be given to current or prospective majors in the Department of Asian Languages, Literatures, and Cultures, first-year students and sophomores, then to juniors and seniors.
Expected Class Size: 12
Grading: no pass/fail option, yes fifth course option
Distributions: (D1)

Spring 2024
LEC Section: 01  MWF 9:00 am - 9:50 am  TR 8:55 am - 9:45 am  Xiaoming Hou
LEC Section: 02  M-F 10:00 am - 10:50 am  Xiaoming Hou

CHIN 214  (F)  Foundations of China
Cross-listings: HIST 214 GBST 212 REL 218 ASIA 211 CHIN 214 ANTH 212

Primary Cross-listing
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 (a writing system that would be the dominant one in East Asia for thousands of years), the teachings of Confucius (whose ideas continue to play a role in the lives of billions of people today), the construction of the Great Wall (which is not, as it turns out, visible from space), and the creation of the imperial bureaucratic system (that was, in essence, the progenitor of the modern bureaucratic state). We will proceed chronologically but focus on a set of thematic topics, including language and writing, religion and philosophy, art and architecture, politics and economics, and science and technology. While this course is entitled “Foundations of China,” we will take a critical perspective on narratives, both Chinese and Western, that see Chinese history as an unbroken history of a single “civilization.”

Requirements/Evaluation: short writing assignments (approximately 750-1000 words each), quizzes, a mid-term, and a final exam
Prerequisites: none
Enrollment Limit: 40
Enrollment Preferences: Chinese majors, History majors, Religion majors, and Anthropology majors
Expected Class Size: 25
Grading: yes pass/fail option, yes fifth course option
Distributions: (D1)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:
HIST 214(D1) GBST 212(D1) REL 218(D1) ASIA 211(D1) CHIN 214(D1) ANTH 212(D1)
Attributes: HIST Group B Electives - Asia  HIST Group P Electives - Premodern

Not offered current academic year

CHIN 215  (S)  Foundations of Confucian Thought  (DPE) (WS)
Cross-listings: REL 295 ASIA 215 CHIN 215

Primary Cross-listing
How should people treat each other? What constitutes human nature and does it tend towards good or evil? How should we organize society, by focusing on laws and regulations, or on ritual and moral guidance? What is the nature of moral rulership? What is the proper relationship between the individual and larger units of society, from the family to the state? These are some of the key questions that the school of thought that has come to be known as “Confucianism” addresses. As the dominant moral and political philosophy for thousands of years in much of East Asia, Confucianism has shaped our world, past and present, in innumerable ways. In this class we will focus on the foundational texts of the Confucian tradition: the Analects (purported to record the words of Confucius himself), Mengzi (often romanized as "Mencius"), and Xunzi. Beyond those questions noted above, we will further examine how these texts construct their arguments; how they were first composed, compiled, and circulated; how they employ such key concepts as "humaneness" (ren), "moral power" (de), and "ritual propriety" (li); and how they functioned as part of the larger philosophical, linguistic, political, and historical context that we now think of as "early China."

Requirements/Evaluation: Evaluation is based on writing assignments (3-4 pages, 5-6 pages, and 10-12 pages) and participation in class discussions.
Prerequisites: None.
Enrollment Limit: 19
**Enrollment Preferences:** Enrollment priority goes to current or prospective majors in the Department of Asian Languages, Literatures, and Cultures; current or prospective Asian Studies concentrators; and Religion majors.

**Expected Class Size:** 19

**Grading:** yes pass/fail option, yes fifth course option

**Distributions:** (D1) (DPE) (WS)

**This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:**
REL 295(D2) ASIA 215(D1) CHIN 215(D1)

**Writing Skills Notes:** Writing will include short writing assignments (1 paragraph, 3-4 pages, and 5-6 pages) that will involve drafts, feedback and revision, and one longer final paper of 10-12 pages that will involve close consultation with the instructor during the writing process.

**Difference, Power, and Equity Notes:** Throughout the course we will examine how these texts deal with issues of differentials of power, both political and social, in a range of contexts. In particular, we will discuss how these texts conceptualize political and social power and how they see hierarchy and difference functioning in both beneficial and deleterious ways in society.

Spring 2024

**SEM Section:** 01  MWF 10:00 am - 10:50 am  Christopher M. B. Nugent

**CHIN 223 (S) Ethnic Minorities in China: Past and Present (DPE)**

**Cross-listings:** ANTH 223 CHIN 223

**Primary Cross-listing**

According to the most recent census conducted in China in 2010, of the 1.3 billion population of China, more than 110 million (8.49%) were ethnic minorities (shaoshu minzu). Most of the minority groups reside in autonomous regions and districts, which constitute 64% of China's total acreage. This course introduces students to the multiethnic aspect of China's past and present. We will ask the central question of "what is minzu" and address various topics such as the minority-group identification project; the definition of minzu (translated as "ethnic group," "nationality," or "race" by different scholars); the intersections between language, religion, tourism, diaspora and ethnicity; historical sino-centric views about "foreigners" and "barbarians" as well as the roles that "barbarians" have played in China's long history. We will examine how social differences and hierarchy are constructed and discuss how power plays in the shaping of "ethnicity." A multidisciplinary approach will be adopted for the course, taking in sources from anthropology, history, literature, ethnic studies, and cultural studies. Throughout the course, the pedagogical techniques of "intercultural dialogue" will be adopted to encourage students to discuss their own ethnic experiences and compare ethnic minority issues in China with similar issues in the United States. Students are also encouraged to come up with real-world solutions and strategies to deal with issues of racism, bias, and discrimination.

**Requirements/Evaluation:** class attendance, weekly quizzes, active participation in both the online discussion forum and in-class meetings, two short (5-page) response papers, and one final research paper (10-12 pages).

**Prerequisites:** none, open to all students; no knowledge of Chinese language required

**Enrollment Limit:** 15

**Enrollment Preferences:** current and prospective majors in the Department of Asian Studies, then to first-years

**Expected Class Size:** 15

**Grading:** no pass/fail option, yes fifth course option

**Materials/Lab Fee:** books and reading packet

**Distributions:** (D2) (DPE)

**This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:**
ANTH 223(D2) CHIN 223(D2)

**Difference, Power, and Equity Notes:** We explore the interactions between "power" and "ethnicity," "center" and "periphery" in the Chinese context and compare them with students' own experiences. Students are required to write one short response paper on their personal encounter with the concept of "race" or "ethnicity." For the final research paper, students are required to identify one problem among all the ethnic minority issues in the Chinese context and write a policy recommendation to make real-world changes.

**Attributes:** ASAM Related Courses  GBST East Asian Studies Electives

Not offered current academic year
From the first "wows" that the short films invoked at a Shanghai teahouse in 1896, Chinese films have made successive wonders that straddle reality and fantasy, technological modernity and shadow-making craft, aesthetic experiments and monetary yearnings, global investments and local interests. This seminar 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.

**Requirements/Evaluation**: Evaluation will be based on 1) ACTIVE in-class discussion; 2) Pre-class discussion posts based on reading and recorded lectures (Graded as Complete or Incomplete); 3) Three short papers (3-5 pages); and 4) the final project (including a presentation, and a paper or other form of project).

**Prerequisites**: none

**Enrollment Limit**: 20

**Enrollment Preferences**: current or prospective majors in Department of Asian Languages, Literatures, and Cultures; Comp Lit majors; those with Asian Studies Concentration.

**Expected Class Size**: 15

**Grading**: yes pass/fail option, yes fifth course option

**Distributions**: (D1) (DPE)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:

CHIN 226(D1) ASIA 226(D1) COMP 296(D1)

**Difference, Power, and Equity Notes**: This course provides students with the opportunity to analyze the clashes and negotiations between Western media technological modernities and Chinese indigenous understanding of shadows, visuality, and sound. By discussing various films produced from mainland China, Hong Kong, Taiwan, and other diaspora areas from 1920 to now, this course asks students to explore how cinema invokes (and erases) differences, and consolidates (and challenges) hegemonic notions of nation, gender, and class.

**Attributes**: FMST Core Courses

Not offered current academic year

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**CHIN 253 (S) "Illness" in Modern and Contemporary Chinese Literature and Culture (DPE)**

**Cross-listings**: WGSS 255 COMP 254 CHIN 253

**Primary Cross-listing**

From early modern anxieties about China's status as the "sick man of Asia" to contemporary concerns regarding the prospect of transnational pandemics, "illnesses" 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 illnesses, from tuberculosis to AIDS to the Novel Coronavirus, 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 "illness"--a universal human experience that is nevertheless heavily bounded by culture and history. Specifically, we examine the cultural and social meaning of "illness"; the relationship between illness on the one hand, and the politics of body, gender, and class on the other; we ask how infectious 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 "illness" such as infectious cannibalism and fin-de-siècle "viruses," 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). 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**: All regular course meetings will be conducted in person.
Requirements/Evaluation: Evaluation will be based on 1) ACTIVE in-class discussion; 2) Publishing GLOW Discussion posts based on reading (Graded as Complete or Incomplete); 3) three short papers (3-5 pages); 4) the final project (including an abstract, a presentation, and a paper or other form of project).

Prerequisites: None; no knowledge of Chinese language required, though students with Chinese language background are encouraged to work with Chinese sources if they wish; open to all

Enrollment Limit: 20

Enrollment Preferences: Current or prospective majors in the Department of Asian Languages, Literatures, and Cultures; Comp majors; Asian Studies Concentration; WSGG majors; and then to first-year students

Expected Class Size: 12

Grading: yes pass/fail option, yes fifth course option

Distributions: (D1) (DPE)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:

WGSS 255(D1) COMP 254(D1) CHIN 253(D1)

Difference, Power, and Equity Notes: This course provides students with the opportunity to analyze the shaping of social stigma as well as the dynamics of unequal power by means of closely reading "illness" in 20th and 21st century China. We will exam how "illness" is sometimes gendered and politicized; how "illness", in other times, empowers individuals and bonds underrepresented minorities. Illness, as a seemingly universal human experience, tells diverse stories of (in)difference, (dis)power, and (un)equity.

Attributes: PHLH Bioethics + Interpretations of Health

Not offered current academic year

CHIN 275 (S) Acting Out: Performativity, Production, and Politics in East Asian Theatres (DPE)

Cross-listings: CHIN 275 COMP 271 ASIA 275 THEA 271 AAS 275

Primary Cross-listing

"Asian Theatres," for those in the West, can conjure up a variety of exotic impressions: spectacle and cacophony, mysterious masks and acrobatic bodies, exquisite styles and strangely confusing conventions. Although Asian theatres have been studied systematically in the West for at least a century, the West has never truly left its "othering" look at them. Yet, what is "different" for the West is bedrock for Asian cultures. Theatre, one of the most important and dynamic forms of cultural production and communication, has actively involved all strata of Asian societies for a millennium. How to explain theatre's continued presence and relevance for Asian nations? What do the traditions of Kun, Noh, and Talchum reveal about the cultures and communities in which they were created? This course seeks to understand from the Asian perspective, rather than "exoticize" and "other," musical and dance theatres from China, Japan, and Korea. Examining the evolving presentations of signature dramas dating from the sixteenth to the eighteenth centuries, we will act out Asian theatres in the following ways: (1) by reading the original plays in translation in tandem with their contemporary and intercultural reproductions, we will explore how Asian theatres fare in the era of globalization within and beyond national borders; (2) by revealing the "technologies" of writing, reading, acting, and staging these plays in different cultural milieus, we will consider what kinds of language and rhetoric, forms of music and movement, as well as visual components are deployed to convey evolving messages; (3) by considering key performances held outside of the proscenium stage, we will gain exposure to alternative theatrical spaces in Asian and diasporic communities that reform performing conventions, reconfigure staging environments, and renegotiate cultural values. In this manner, we will together gain an appreciation for the aesthetic devices, thematic concerns, and production politics of East Asian theatres and their global reproductions. Class materials include drama, production videos, and invited zoom sessions with Asian theatre practitioners and directors who live in the U.S. and other diasporic communities. All materials are in English. No language prerequisite.

Requirements/Evaluation: Evaluation will be based on 1) ACTIVE in-class discussion; 2) three short papers (3 pages each); 3) a take-home midterm; and 4) participation in a final in-class theatre production.

Prerequisites: None; open to all. No knowledge of Asian languages required, though students with advanced Asian language proficiency are encouraged to work with primary sources if they wish.

Enrollment Limit: 20

Enrollment Preferences: Current or prospective majors in the Department of Asian Languages, Literatures, and Cultures; Theatre majors; Comp Lit majors; Concentrators in Asian Studies or Asian American Studies.

Expected Class Size: 15

Grading: yes pass/fail option, yes fifth course option
Distributions: (D1) (DPE)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:

CHIN 275(D1) COMP 271(D1) ASIA 275(D2) THEA 271(D1) AAS 275(D2)

Difference, Power, and Equity Notes: This course examines the power dynamics of spectacle and cacophony and how theatre provided a cultural space that engaged all strata of East Asian societies, thereby masking class and ethnic divisions within these nation-states, while also presenting a distinct image of "China," "Japan," and "Korea" to be consumed in the West. Students will learn ways in which "traditional" theatre productions affirm or subvert Western biases against Asians.

Attributes: AAS Non-Core Electives GBST East Asian Studies Electives

Spring 2024
SEM Section: 01 MR 2:35 pm - 3:50 pm Man He

CHIN 301 (F) Upper-Intermediate Chinese I
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: The class meets four days per week, twice in lecture (75 mins) and twice in conference (50 mins).

Requirements/Evaluation: Evaluation will be based on daily classroom performance, short essays, presentations, homework, quizzes, unit tests, and a final exam (oral and written).

Prerequisites: CHIN 202 or permission of instructor. Students who have never taken a Chinese language course at Williams should complete the Chinese Placement Evaluation in GLOW before registering for this course.

Enrollment Limit: 12

Enrollment Preferences: Current or perspective majors in the Department of Asian Languages, Literatures, and Cultures; Asian Studies Concentrators.

Expected Class Size: 10

Grading: no pass/fail option, no fifth course option

Distributions: (D1)

Fall 2023
LEC Section: 01 TR 11:20 am - 12:35 pm Cecilia Chang
CON Section: 02 MW 11:00 am - 11:50 am Cecilia Chang

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.

Requirements/Evaluation: Evaluation will be based on daily classroom performance, short essays, presentations, homework, quizzes, unit tests, and a final exam (oral and written).

Prerequisites: CHIN 301 or permission of instructor. Students who have never taken a Chinese language course at Williams should complete the Chinese Placement Evaluation in GLOW before registering for this course.

Enrollment Limit: 12

Enrollment Preferences: If the course is overenrolled, preferences will be given to current or prospective majors in the Department of Asian Languages, Literatures, and Cultures, and Asian Studies Concentrators.

Expected Class Size: 10

Grading: no pass/fail option, no fifth course option

Distributions: (D1)
CHIN 312  (F)  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.

Requirements/Evaluation: classroom performance, homework, quizzes, tests, and a final exam
Prerequisites: CHIN 202 or extensive reading knowledge of Chinese characters through other languages
Enrollment Limit: 40
Enrollment Preferences: Students who have completed CHIN 202 or have extensive reading knowledge of Chinese characters through other languages
Expected Class Size: 10
Grading: yes pass/fail option, yes fifth course option
Distributions: (D1)

Fall 2023
SEM Section: 01    TR 9:55 am - 11:10 am    Christopher M. B. Nugent

CHIN 401  (F)  Advanced Chinese I
This course is designed to enhance the Chinese language proficiency of students at the advanced levels. A wide assortment of materials is used including (for speaking/comprehension) documentaries and films featuring Chinese speakers from various segments of society; and (for reading) newspaper and magazine articles dealing with Chinese culture and society as well as selections from modern Chinese literature. Conducted in Mandarin.

Class Format: The class meets three days per week, twice in lecture (75 mins) and once in conference (50 mins).
Requirements/Evaluation: Class performance, homework, presentations, essays, unit tests, and final exam/project.
Prerequisites: CHIN 302 or permission of instructor. Students who have never taken a Chinese language course at Williams should complete the Chinese Placement Evaluation in GLOW before registering for this course.
Enrollment Limit: 12
Enrollment Preferences: Current or prospective majors in the Department of Asian Languages, Literatures, and Cultures; Asian Studies concentrators.
Expected Class Size: 10
Grading: no pass/fail option, no fifth course option
Distributions: (D1)

Fall 2023
LEC Section: 01    MR 1:10 pm - 2:25 pm    Xiaoming Hou
CON Section: 02    W 1:10 pm - 2:00 pm    Xiaoming Hou
CON Section: 03    W 2:10 pm - 3:00 pm    Xiaoming Hou
CHIN 402  (S)  Advanced Chinese II
This course is designed to enhance the Chinese language proficiency of students at the advanced levels. A wide assortment of materials is used including (for speaking/comprehension) documentaries and films featuring Chinese speakers from various segments of society; and (for reading) newspaper and magazine articles dealing with Chinese culture and society as well as selections from modern Chinese literature. Conducted in Mandarin.

Class Format: two 75-minute classes plus one 50-minute discussion conference.
Requirements/Evaluation: homework, quizzes, unit tests, essays, oral presentations, and a final exam/project.
Prerequisites: CHIN 401 or permission of instructor. Students who have never taken a Chinese language course at Williams should complete the Chinese Placement Evaluation in GLOW before registering for this course.
Enrollment Limit: 12
Enrollment Preferences: Current or prospective majors in the Department of Asian Languages, Literatures, and Cultures; Asian Studies concentrators.
Expected Class Size: 10
Grading: no pass/fail option, no fifth course option
Distributions: (D1)

Spring 2024
LEC Section: 01  MR 1:10 pm - 2:25 pm  Xiaoming Hou
CON Section: 02  W 1:10 pm - 2:00 pm  Xiaoming Hou
CON Section: 03  W 2:10 pm - 3:00 pm  Xiaoming Hou

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

Primary Cross-listing
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, this course is designed to develop linguistic proficiency at the levels of Advanced Low to Advanced Mid based on the ACTFL proficiency guidelines. Language partners will be arranged through collaboration with a graduate program in Chinese pedagogy in Taiwan for opportunities for in-depth discussions on course content.

Class Format: Mandarin Chinese will be the instructional language for this course. Semi-tutorial format, students will meet as a large group on one day for linguistic development and three to four people groups on other days for discussions.
Requirements/Evaluation: quizzes, presentations, posting of discussion questions, two position papers (3 pages) and one final paper (5 pages)
Prerequisites: CHIN 402 or permission of instructor
Enrollment Limit: 12
Enrollment Preferences: Majors in Chinese; DALLC; Asian Studies Concentration; seniors.
Expected Class Size: 12
Grading: no pass/fail option, no fifth course option
Distributions: (D1)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:
CHIN 425(D1) ASIA 425(D1)

Not offered current academic year
Primary Cross-listing

Spring Grass (Chuncao) is a Chinese novel written by award-winning author Qiu Shanshan (1958-). Using the literary techniques of social realism, the novel chronicles the life of a young rural woman from 1961 to 2001. Spring Grass, the protagonist of the novel, was born in a rural village to a mother who preferred sons over daughters. At a young age, Spring Grass was deprived of the opportunity to attend school. Against all odds, she managed to marry for love, venture into the city, and become an enterprising migrant worker. This novel not only reflects the struggles of women in contemporary China but also captures the economic transformation of modern China since 1978 when the Reform and Open-Door Policy (gaige kaifang) was initiated. The novel was adapted into a television drama series and became an instant hit in 2008. This course takes an interdisciplinary, cultural studies and humanistic approach to studying a literary text, using literature as a means to help students better understand social and cultural issues. Through close readings of the novel, the eponymous TV drama series, documentaries, and films depicting rural life and women’s roles in China, as well as in-depth discussions of both primary and secondary sources that deal with the cultural, historical, and socioeconomic background of the unfolding story of Spring Grass, this course aims to provide a window for students to examine the issues of inequality in the Chinese village and society at large. Why would mothers be harsh to their own daughters and bar girls’ right to education? Why would young people leave their village and migrate to the city? Why would migrant workers leave their children behind in the village? Why would economic developments in China exacerbate the problem of gender inequality in society? Why would the ideology and cultural logic behind Mao Zedong’s proclamation "women can hold up half of the sky” add more burden to women rather than truly liberate them? Why would city people discriminate against country folks? After taking this course, students will gain a deeper understanding of the issues related to gender inequality (nannü bu pingdeng) and the urban/rural-gap (chengxiang chabie) in China. Throughout the course, they are also encouraged to critically think about how to achieve equity in different societies. This tutorial is conducted in either Chinese or English. Students wishing to take the course in English should register under ASST or WGSS and language learners wishing to take the course in Chinese should register under CHIN.

Requirements/Evaluation: For all students, active participation in tutorial meetings and an online writing portfolio as the final project. For CHIN students, four 4- or 5-page tutorial papers and revisions in Chinese, four 2-page critiques. For ASIA/WGSS students, five 5-page tutorial papers in English, five 2-page critiques, one revised paper.

Prerequisites: For students registering under CHIN, the prerequisite is CHIN 402 or a language proficiency interview conducted by the instructor. For students registering under ASST or WGSS, there is no prerequisite.

Enrollment Limit: 10

Enrollment Preferences: Enrollment priorities will be given to Chinese language learners who register under CHIN, and to freshmen and sophomores who register under ASST or WGSS.

Expected Class Size: 10

Grading: no pass/fail option. no fifth course option

Distributions: (D1) (DPE) (WS)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:

WGSS 127(D2) ASIA 127(D1) CHIN 427(D1)

Writing Skills Notes: Writing is taught using the writing-as-process pedagogical approach. The writing process consists of invention, composition, and revision. Detailed writing prompts will be provided to students to generate and organize ideas for each essay. The instructor gives detailed feedback to students’ drafts and students are required to turn in revisions. At the end of the semester, students will compile an online writing portfolio to showcase their best works.

Difference, Power, and Equity Notes: The issue of “inequality,” including both gender inequality and regional inequality is the driving force behind the readings and discussions of this tutorial. Students are guided to develop an empathetic way of interpreting a literary work that features a rural woman/migrant worker. They will critically analyze the sources of inequality in the Chinese cultural context and explore ways to address such inequality.
What happens when memories, already slippery, are further massaged by literary and cinematic narrative strategies? How is the historical “pasts” 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, mesology and mythology, amnesia and nostalgia, and diaspora and settlement 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. This tutorial is conducted in either Chinese or English. Students wishing to take the course in English should register under ASST or COMP and language learners wishing to take the course in Chinese should register under CHIN.

Requirements/Evaluation: attendance and participation, five 5-page papers, five peer-review and critique papers, revisions on selected papers.

Prerequisites: None for students taking the course under ASST and COMP 297; CHIN 402 or permission of the instructor for students taking CHIN 428

Enrollment Limit: 10

Enrollment Preferences: current or prospective majors in the Department of Asian Languages, Literatures, and Cultures; COMP majors; Asian Studies Concentration

Expected Class Size: 10

Grading: no pass/fail option, no fifth course option

Distributions: (D1) (DPE) (WS)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:

COMP 297(D1) CHIN 428(D1) ASIA 228(D1)

Writing Skills Notes: Students will write a 5-page paper every other week for a total of five papers. On weeks when they are not writing papers, they are expected to critique their tutorial partner’s paper as peer reviewers. Detailed writing prompts will be provided to students to generate and organize ideas for each essay. Students are also required to revise key paragraphs, sections, and papers throughout the semester.

Difference, Power, and Equity Notes: This course provides students with the opportunity to analyze and critique the following entangled modernist dualisms: present and pasts; memory and representations; diaspora and settlement; transnationalism and localism. By discussing texts produced from the PRC, Hong Kong, Taiwan, and other diaspora areas in these “post” societies, this course asks students to explore how literary and cinematic narratives invoke (and erase) differences, and challenge (and consolidate) borders.

Attributes: FMST Core Courses

Not offered current academic year

CHIN 493 (F) Senior Thesis: Chinese

Chinese senior thesis; this is part of a full-year thesis (493-494).

Grading: yes pass/fail option, yes fifth course option

Distributions: (D1)

Fall 2023
HON Section: 01 TBA Li Yu

CHIN 494 (S) Senior Thesis: Chinese

Chinese senior thesis; this is part of a full-year thesis (493-494).

Grading: yes pass/fail option, yes fifth course option

Distributions: (D1)

Spring 2024
HON Section: 01 TBA Li Yu
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.

Grading: yes pass/fail option, yes fifth course option
Distributions: (D1)

Fall 2023
IND Section: 01 TBA Li Yu

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.

Grading: yes pass/fail option, yes fifth course option
Distributions: (D1)

Spring 2024
IND Section: 01 TBA Li Yu