How is language structured? What are the social forces associated with the development of language? How does the mind process and produce language? What are the best methods for teaching and learning a new language? Linguistics is a vibrant and multifaceted field that bridges the academic and the everyday. From Sociolinguistics to Linguistic Anthropology to Applied Linguistics, each of the various disciplines associated with the general area of Linguistics provides an illuminating perspective on the ways in which language works.

At Williams, students can gain insight into the intricacies of linguistic functions in courses located in several different academic units.

**ANTH 227 (F) Language and Society: What Does Your Speech Say About You?**

**Cross-listings:** ANTH 227 ARAB 227

**Secondary Cross-listing**

Sociolinguistics is the study of how aspects of society influence the way language is used by the society members. In this course, we will examine the inter-relationships between the way language is used in various social contexts affecting that usage. How and why do languages change? How does language reflect a person's identity? How does language intersect with power relations among individuals within a society? Does language vary according to gender? How are language varieties formed, and what determines their status within speech communities? How and why do speakers code-switch among different varieties? These are some key questions that we will examine in this class, drawing on readings that focus on different languages.

**Requirements/Evaluation:** active class participation, response essays, assignments, article presentation, variation paper, final exam

**Prerequisites:** none

**Enrollment Limit:** 20

**Enrollment Preferences:** seniors, students who need to fulfill Arabic major or Anthropology major requirements, students interested in linguistics

**Expected Class Size:** 20

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

**Distributions:** (D1)

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

ANTH 227 (D2) ARAB 227 (D1)

**Attributes:** Linguistics

Not offered current academic year

**ANTH 262 (S) Language and Power**

"A language is a dialect with an army." This (originally Yiddish) aphorism points to ways in which language, often imagined to be a neutral or apolitical medium of communication, proves in practice to be a social domain fully implicated in the operations of power. How do we create community - and social exclusion - by the way that we talk? What role does speech play in the accumulation of cultural capital? How are racism and colonialism sustained or subverted by language practices, and how can speech transform the world? This introduction to linguistic anthropology draws together classic works of linguistic and semiotic theory with studies of the politics of actual speech grounded in rich and particular cultural and historical contexts, from witchcraft accusations in rural France to the partition of Hindi and Urdu in colonial South Asia. Students will gain familiarity with key concepts (speech acts, performatives, code-switching, language ideology), themes and debates in the social scientific study of language. Assignments include regular postings of 1-page critical response papers and an ethnographic project analyzing a series of speech events in our local community.

**Requirements/Evaluation:** Regular postings of critical response papers and an ethnographic final project.

**Prerequisites:** None.

**Enrollment Limit:** 20

**Enrollment Preferences:** Students in all fields of study are most welcome. If overenrolled, priority will be given to Anthropology or Sociology majors
ARAB 227 (F) Language and Society: What Does Your Speech Say About You?

**Cross-listings:** ANTH 227 ARAB 227

**Primary Cross-listing**

Sociolinguistics is the study of how aspects of society influence the way language is used by the society members. In this course, we will examine the inter-relationships between the way language is used in various social contexts affecting that usage. How and why do languages change? How does language reflect a person's identity? How does language intersect with power relations among individuals within a society? Does language vary according to gender? How are language varieties formed, and what determines their status within speech communities? How and why do speakers code-switch among different varieties? These are some key questions that we will examine in this class, drawing on readings that focus on different languages.

**Requirements/Evaluation:** active class participation, response essays, assignments, article presentation, variation paper, final exam

**Prerequisites:** none

**Enrollment Limit:** 20

**Enrollment Preferences:** seniors, students who need to fulfill Arabic major or Anthropology major requirements, students interested in linguistics

**Expected Class Size:** 20

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

**Distributions:** (D2)

**Attributes:** Linguistics

Not offered current academic year
Enrollment Limit: 10
Enrollment Preferences: current or prospective Japanese, Chinese, and Asian Studies majors
Expected Class Size: 10
Grading: no pass/fail option, no fifth course option
Unit Notes: students wishing to take the course in English should register under ASST 207 and students wishing to take the course in Japanese should register under JAPN 407

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:
JAPN 407 (D1) ASST 207 (D1)

Attributes: Linguistics

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: discussion
Requirements/Evaluation: 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
Grading: yes pass/fail option, yes fifth course option
Distributions: (D1)
Attributes: EXPE Experiential Education Courses  Linguistics

Not offered current academic year

CHIN 272  (S)  The History and Mythology of Chinese Scripts
Cross-listings: STS 272  CHIN 272  COMP 272

Primary Cross-listing

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: discussion
Requirements/Evaluation: quizzes, short writing assignments, a midterm, and a final exam
Prerequisites: none
Enrollment Limit: none
Enrollment Preferences: none
COGS 222  (F) Minds, Brains, and Intelligent Behavior: An Introduction to Cognitive Science

Cross-listings:  PSYC 222  PHIL 222  COGS 222

Primary Cross-listing

This course will emphasize interdisciplinary approaches to the study of intelligent systems, both natural and artificial. Cognitive science synthesizes research from cognitive psychology, computer science, linguistics, neuroscience, and contemporary philosophy. Special attention will be given to the philosophical foundations of cognitive science, representation and computation in symbolic and connectionist architectures, concept acquisition, problem solving, perception, language, semantics, reasoning, and artificial intelligence.

Class Format: This hybrid course will meet in-person and will also be available for remote video attendance and participation. Remote students will be expected to attend class synchronously with the in-person lecture and will not be able to watch lectures at other times, so must be available during the class hours in the catalog. Supplemental material--e.g., office hours, study sessions for exams, background discussion for weekly assignments--will be delivered on-line.

Requirements/Evaluation: midterm and final exams, and self-paced weekly exercises

Prerequisites: PSYC 101 or any PHIL course or CSCI 134 or permission of instructor; background in more than one of these is recommended. It is not necessary to contact the instructor to indicate a special interest in the course.

Enrollment Limit: 20

Enrollment Preferences: sophomore and first-year students, with additional preference given to students who satisfy more of the prerequisites.

Expected Class Size: 20

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

Unit Notes: meets Contemporary Metaphysics & Epistemology requirement only if registration is under PHIL

Distributions: (D2)

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

PSYC 222  (D2) PHIL 222  (D2) COGS 222  (D2)

Attributes: Linguistics  PHIL Contemp Metaphysics + Epistemology Courses  PSYC 200-level Courses
JAPN 131  (F)  Introduction to Japanese Linguistics
This course is an introduction to the basic ideas and methodology of linguistics. We learn how to formally analyze the patterns of speech sounds (phonetics and phonology), word formation (morphology), sentence structures (syntax), and meanings (semantics and pragmatics). Other topics, such as first language acquisition and language variations, may be discussed as needed. Although we use Japanese as the primary target data throughout the course, we occasionally look at data from other languages for further application of linguistic methodology and for the better understanding of cross-linguistic variations and underlying universality across languages. Classes are conducted in English.

Requirements/Evaluation: class discussion, reading assignments (as preparation for class), written assignments (exercises), mid-term and final exam
Prerequisites: no background knowledge of Japanese or linguistics is required; open to all students who are interested in Japanese language or language in general
Enrollment Limit: 25
Enrollment Preferences: first-year and sophomore students
Expected Class Size: 25
Grading: yes pass/fail option, yes fifth course option
Distributions: (D1)
Attributes: Linguistics
Not offered current academic year

JAPN 258  (S)  Language and Literacy Development
Cross-listings:  PSYC 258  JAPN 258
Primary Cross-listing
Language is uniquely a human function and fundamental to one's participation in society. Children learn to talk in the first three years of life at an impressive speed. However, in order to successfully participate in academic and social life, it is critical for one to develop literacy skills. Learning to read is a multifaceted process that involves various cognitive resources. This course is an introduction to language development and literacy acquisition in first language and in a cross-linguistic environment including Japanese, Chinese and English. Linguistic concepts such as phonology, syntax and morphology will be introduced as we discuss the acquisition processes. Questions to be addressed include: How does a child develop oral language from birth? How does a child learn the meaning of words? How is learning to talk and read similar or different across various languages? How is learning to read different from learning to speak? How "natural" is it to learn to read?
Requirements/Evaluation: active participation in the class discussion, weekly reaction paper, quiz, final paper
Prerequisites: none
Enrollment Limit: 25
Enrollment Preferences: Japanese, Chinese, Asian Studies, and Psychology majors
Expected Class Size: 25
Grading: yes pass/fail option, yes fifth course option
JAPN 407 (F) An Exploration of Japanese Language and Culture

Primary Cross-listing

Language is the primary means for human beings to lead social lives and it expresses, embodies and symbolizes cultural and social reality. This tutorial will examine the intertwining ways in which the Japanese language reflects the patterns of life and intrinsic beliefs of Japanese, while exploring how this linguistic code may influence and shape the ways Japanese think. We will look into the following topics: polite language and the variety of personal pronouns in order to examine how the hierarchical structure of Japanese society is reflected in them. Also, we will explore women's speech, youth and queer Japanese to discuss social and gender identities and the role of linguistic stereotypes in manga, anime and TV dramas as well as the "easy Japanese movement," which depicts the shift from a monolingual to multilingual Japanese society. And finally, our examination will investigate the semantic and cultural losses that occur in translations from Japanese prose to English prose. The course is conducted in either Japanese or English with materials drawn from linguistics and sociocultural studies both in Japanese and English. Students wishing to take the course in English should register under ASST 207T and students wishing to take the course in Japanese should register under JAPN 407T. Japanese language learners will not only develop analytical and critical thinking, but will gain more advanced Japanese skills such as reading to understand the logic of arguments, exponent narrative, and academic presentations and writing.

Requirements/Evaluation: attendance and participation, 5 short papers, 5 critiques, and one final project; ASST 207 will meet once a week; JAPN 407 will meet twice a week

Prerequisites: none for ASST 207; a 400-level Japanese language course, advanced level Japanese proficiency or permission of instructor for JAPN 407

Enrollment Limit: 10

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

Expected Class Size: 10

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

Unit Notes: students wishing to take the course in English should register under ASST 207 and students wishing to take the course in Japanese should register under JAPN 407

Distributions: (D1)

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

JAPN 407 (D1) ASST 207 (D1)

Attributes: Linguistics

Not offered current academic year

MATH 338 (F) Intermediate Logic (QFR)

Secondary Cross-listing

In this course, we will begin with an in-depth study of the theory of first-order logic. We will first get clear on the formal semantics of first-order logic and various ways of thinking about formal proof: natural deduction systems, semantic tableaux, axiomatic systems and sequent calculi. Our main goal will be to prove things about this logical system rather than to use this system to think about ordinary language arguments. In this way the goal of the course is significantly different from that of Logic and Language (PHIL 203). Students who have take PHIL 203 will have a good background for this class, but students who are generally comfortable with formal systems need not have taken PHIL 203. We will prove soundness and completeness, compactness, the Lowenheim-Skolem theorems, undecidability and other important results about first-order logic. As we go through these results, we
will think about the philosophical implications of first-order logic. From there, we will look at extensions of and/or alternatives to first-order logic. Possible additional topics would include: modal logic, the theory of counterfactuals, alternative representations of conditionals, the use of logic in the foundations of arithmetic and Gödel's Incompleteness theorems. Student interest will be taken into consideration in deciding what additional topics to cover.

Requirements/Evaluation: problem sets and exams  
Prerequisites: some class in which student has studied formal reasoning  
Enrollment Limit: 20  
Enrollment Preferences: Philosophy majors; juniors and seniors  
Expected Class Size: 15  
Grading: yes pass/fail option, yes fifth course option  
Distributions: (D2) (QFR)  
This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:  
MATH 338 (D3) PHIL 338 (D2)  
Quantitative/Formal Reasoning Notes: This is a class in Formal Logic. PHIL 203 satisfies the QFR requirement. If anything, this class will be significantly more formal.  
Attributes: Linguistics  

PHIL 203  (S)  Logic and Language  (QFR)  
Logic is the study of reasoning and argument. More particularly, it concerns itself with the difference between good and bad reasoning, between strong and weak arguments. We all examine the virtues and vices of good arguments in both informal and formal systems. The goals of this course are to improve the critical thinking of the students, to introduce them to sentential and predicate logic, to familiarize them with enough formal logic to enable them to read some of the great works of philosophy, which use formal logic (such as Wittgenstein's *Tractatus*), and to examine some of the connections between logic and philosophy.  
Class Format: discussion  
Requirements/Evaluation: a midterm, a final, frequent homework and problem sets  
Prerequisites: none  
Enrollment Limit: 40/sect  
Enrollment Preferences: Philosophy majors, seniors, juniors, sophomores, first-years in that order.  
Expected Class Size: 40/sect  
Grading: yes pass/fail option, yes fifth course option  
Distributions: (D2) (QFR)  
Quantitative/Formal Reasoning Notes: The main part of the course is learning two formal languages of logic: sentential logic predicate logic  
Attributes: Linguistics  PHIL Contemp Metaphysics + Epistemology Courses  
Not offered current academic year

PHIL 222  (F)  Minds, Brains, and Intelligent Behavior: An Introduction to Cognitive Science  
Cross-listings: PSYC 222  PHIL 222  COGS 222  
Secondary Cross-listing

This course will emphasize interdisciplinary approaches to the study of intelligent systems, both natural and artificial. Cognitive science synthesizes research from cognitive psychology, computer science, linguistics, neuroscience, and contemporary philosophy. Special attention will be given to the philosophical foundations of cognitive science, representation and computation in symbolic and connectionist architectures, concept acquisition, problem solving, perception, language, semantics, reasoning, and artificial intelligence.

Class Format: This hybrid course will meet in-person and will also be available for remote video attendance and participation. Remote students will be expected to attend class synchronously with the in-person lecture and will not be able to watch lectures at other times, so must be available during the class hours in the catalog. Supplemental material—e.g., office hours, study sessions for exams, background discussion for weekly assignments—will be
delivered on-line.

Requirements/Evaluation: midterm and final exams, and self-paced weekly exercises

Prerequisites: PSYC 101 or any PHIL course or CSCI 134 or permission of instructor; background in more than one of these is recommended. It is not necessary to contact the instructor to indicate a special interest in the course.

Enrollment Limit: 20

Enrollment Preferences: sophomore and first-year students, with additional preference given to students who satisfy more of the prerequisites.

Expected Class Size: 20

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

Unit Notes: meets Contemporary Metaphysics & Epistemology requirement only if registration is under PHIL

Distributions: (D2)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:
PSYC 222 (D2) PHIL 222 (D2) COGS 222 (D2)

Attributes: Linguistics PHIL Contemp Metaphysics + Epistemology Courses PSYC 200-level Courses

Fall 2020
LEC Section: H1 TR 11:30 am - 12:45 pm Joseph L. Cruz

PHIL 308 (F) Wittgenstein's "Philosophical Investigations"
Bertrand Russell claimed that Ludwig Wittgenstein was "perhaps the most perfect example I have ever known of genius as traditionally conceived--passionate, profound, intense, and dominating." Wittgenstein's two masterpieces, the Tractatus Logico-Philosophicus and the Philosophical Investigations, stand like opposing poles around which schools of twentieth-century analytic philosophy revolve. The Wittgenstein of the Tractatus is known as the "earlier Wittgenstein," the Wittgenstein of the Investigations is known as the "later Wittgenstein." This course is an intensive, line-by-line study of the Investigations--one of the greatest (and thus, one of the most controversial) books in the history of philosophy. Aside from its overwhelming influence on 20th and 21st century philosophy and intellectual culture, any book which contains the remark, "If a lion could talk, we could not understand him," deserves serious attention.

Requirements/Evaluation: one short midterm paper (5-7 pages) and one longer final paper (12-15 pages)

Prerequisites: at least two Philosophy Courses, PHIL 202 highly recommended

Enrollment Limit: 19

Expected Class Size: 12

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

Distributions: (D2)

Attributes: Linguistics PHIL History Courses

Not offered current academic year

PHIL 310 (F) Wittgenstein's Later Philosophy (WS)
Ludwig Wittgenstein (1889-1951) is probably the greatest philosopher of the 20th century. His later work, best known through posthumously published Philosophical Investigations, continues to influence contemporary thinking about language, mind, action, knowledge, ethics, religion, aesthetics, culture, and of course, philosophy itself. Understanding later Wittgenstein is thus vital for engaging in contemporary philosophy, but neither the interpretation nor the evaluation of his thought is straightforward or easy. Later Wittgenstein is a controversial, polarizing figure; but serious reading of his work is invariably intellectually enriching and fertile. This tutorial aims to provide students with the skills necessary for careful, serious and thorough reading of Wittgenstein's later philosophy. In the first part of the course, we will read Wittgenstein's Philosophical Investigations, one of the greatest books ever written. In the second part of the course, we will read On Certainty, and selections from other of Wittgenstein's posthumously published works: Zettel, Philosophical Grammar, Remarks on the Philosophy of Psychology, Culture and Value, Lectures and Conversations on Aesthetics, Psychology and Religious Belief, and The Big Typescript. Throughout the course, we will consult and discuss the important secondary literature on Wittgenstein, and analyze different philosophical presuppositions and goals that motivate particular readings. The central topics of the course will be: meaning, rule following, human languages; private experiences and other minds; intention and action; knowledge and skepticism; and especially, the methods and nature of philosophy.
**Requirements/Evaluation:** tutorial attendance and participation; bi-weekly tutorial papers, each about 5 pages long (totaling 6 per student); bi-weekly oral responses to the paper of the tutorial partner

**Prerequisites:** two Philosophy courses

**Enrollment Limit:** 10

**Enrollment Preferences:** preference will be given to students who already took a course on Wittgenstein, for example, PHIL 309

**Expected Class Size:** 10

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

**Distributions:** (D2) (WS)

**Writing Skills Notes:** Students will write two short (about 800 words) seminar papers; five 5-7 pages long papers; five 2-3 pages long comments on their tutorial partner's papers; and a final paper (also 5-7 pages long) which will be a revision of one of the previously written papers. Students will get regular feedback from their tutorial partner and from the instructor on the substance of their work as well as on their oral and writing skills, with suggestions for improvement.

**Attributes:** Linguistics PHIL History Courses

Not offered current academic year

**PHIL 338 (F) Intermediate Logic (QFR)**

**Cross-listings:** MATH 338 PHIL 338

**Primary Cross-listing**

In this course, we will begin with an in-depth study of the theory of first-order logic. We will first get clear on the formal semantics of first-order logic and various ways of thinking about formal proof: natural deduction systems, semantic tableaux, axiomatic systems and sequent calculi. Our main goal will be to prove things about this logical system rather than to use this system to think about ordinary language arguments. In this way the goal of the course is significantly different from that of Logic and Language (PHIL 203). Students who have take PHIL 203 will have a good background for this class, but students who are generally comfortable with formal systems need not have taken PHIL 203. We will prove soundness and completeness, compactness, the Lowenheim-Skolem theorems, undecidability and other important results about first-order logic. As we go through these results, we will think about the philosophical implications of first-order logic. From there, we will look at extensions of and/or alternatives to first-order logic. Possible additional topics would include: modal logic, the theory of counterfactuals, alternative representations of conditionals, the use of logic in the foundations of arithmetic and Godel's Incompleteness theorems. Student interest will be taken into consideration in deciding what additional topics to cover.

**Requirements/Evaluation:** problem sets and exams

**Prerequisites:** some class in which student has studied formal reasoning

**Enrollment Limit:** 20

**Enrollment Preferences:** Philosophy majors; juniors and seniors

**Expected Class Size:** 15

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

**Distributions:** (D2) (QFR)

**Quantitative/Formal Reasoning Notes:** This is a class in Formal Logic. PHIL 203 satisfies the QFR requirement. If anything, this class will be significantly more formal.

**Attributes:** Linguistics

Not offered current academic year

**PSYC 222 (F) Minds, Brains, and Intelligent Behavior: An Introduction to Cognitive Science**

**Cross-listings:** PSYC 222 PHIL 222 COGS 222

**Secondary Cross-listing**

This course will emphasize interdisciplinary approaches to the study of intelligent systems, both natural and artificial. Cognitive science synthesizes research from cognitive psychology, computer science, linguistics, neuroscience, and contemporary philosophy. Special attention will be given to the
philosophical foundations of cognitive science, representation and computation in symbolic and connectionist architectures, concept acquisition, problem solving, perception, language, semantics, reasoning, and artificial intelligence.

Class Format: This hybrid course will meet in-person and will also be available for remote video attendance and participation. Remote students will be expected to attend class synchronously with the in-person lecture and will not be able to watch lectures at other times, so must be available during the class hours in the catalog. Supplemental material--e.g., office hours, study sessions for exams, background discussion for weekly assignments--will be delivered on-line.

Requirements/Evaluation: midterm and final exams, and self-paced weekly exercises
Prerequisites: PSYC 101 or any PHIL course or CSCI 134 or permission of instructor; background in more than one of these is recommended. It is not necessary to contact the instructor to indicate a special interest in the course.

Enrollment Limit: 20
Enrollment Preferences: sophomore and first-year students, with additional preference given to students who satisfy more of the prerequisites.
Expected Class Size: 20
Grading: no pass/fail option, no fifth course option
Unit Notes: meets Contemporary Metaphysics & Epistemology requirement only if registration is under PHIL

Distributions: (D2)
This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:
PSYC 222 (D2) PHIL 222 (D2) COGS 222 (D2)
Attributes: Linguistics PHIL Contemp Metaphysics + Epistemology Courses PSYC 200-level Courses

Fall 2020
LEC Section: H1  TR 11:30 am - 12:45 pm  Joseph L. Cruz

PSYC 258  (S)  Language and Literacy Development

Cross-listings: PSYC 258  JAPN 258

Secondary Cross-listing
Language is uniquely a human function and fundamental to one's participation in society. Children learn to talk in the first three years of life at an impressive speed. However, in order to successfully participate in academic and social life, it is critical for one to develop literacy skills. Learning to read is a multifaceted process that involves various cognitive resources. This course is an introduction to language development and literacy acquisition in first language and in a cross-linguistic environment including Japanese, Chinese and English. Linguistic concepts such as phonology, syntax and morphology will be introduced as we discuss the acquisition processes. Questions to be addressed include: How does a child develop oral language from birth? How does a child learn the meaning of words? How is learning to talk and read similar or different across various languages? How is learning to read different from learning to speak? How "natural" is it to learn to read?

Requirements/Evaluation: active participation in the class discussion, weekly reaction paper, quiz, final paper
Prerequisites: none
Enrollment Limit: 25
Enrollment Preferences: Japanese, Chinese, Asian Studies, and Psychology majors
Expected Class Size: 25
Grading: yes pass/fail option, yes fifth course option
Unit Notes: Psychology majors, this course counts as a 200-level elective in psychology but does not count as one of the three 200-level courses for the major; for Asian Studies, Chinese, and Japanese majors, this course counts as a comparative requirement course

Distributions: (D1)
This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:
PSYC 258 (D2) JAPN 258 (D1)
Attributes: Linguistics

Not offered current academic year
The History and Mythology of Chinese Scripts

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: 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

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

Distributions: (D1)

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

STS 272 (D2) CHIN 272 (D1) COMP 272 (D1)

Attributes: Linguistics

Not offered current academic year