Program Description

Courses in Chinese encompass the study of Chinese language, literature, media, and culture. The primary emphasis is on Modern Standard Mandarin Chinese. Elementary Chinese courses (CHIN 1A through CHIN 1B) focus on reading, writing, and spoken Mandarin, based on Traditional Chinese characters. Upon completion of CHIN 2B, students will be able to converse at an elementary to intermediate level and to read and write Traditional and Simplified Chinese texts. The upper division courses form the nucleus for a minor and provide a foundation for advanced studies at other universities or graduate school. Upper division lecture courses taught in English are designed to help students appreciate the richness of Chinese culture, language, and literature in the tradition of general education.

An understanding of China, combined with proficiency in the Chinese language, will, in addition to the obvious academic and intellectual gains, make graduates more versatile and sought after in international business, education, social work, law enforcement, government, and Foreign Service positions.

Through language instruction, students will acquire the basic tools to communicate with the growing population of Chinese-speaking immigrants in California, to undertake travels in China, Taiwan, Hong Kong, and other Southeast Asian countries where Chinese are a major ethnic group, and to pursue further studies in Chinese history, culture, and society.

Students interested in further advanced study in Chinese may design a Special Major in Chinese by consulting program faculty and spending one year undergoing intensive language study at a Mandarin Training Center in Taiwan, China, or Hong Kong. The Asian Studies Program also offers a major with a concentration in Chinese Studies.

Degree Program


Contact Information

Curtis Smith, Department Chair
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Faculty

SMITH, CURTIS D.

CHIN 1A. Elementary Mandarin. 5 Units
Term Typically Offered: Fall only

Beginning Mandarin with emphasis on listening comprehension, speaking, grammar structure and character writing. The relationship between language and culture will also be emphasized. Includes an introduction to elements of Chinese culture that pertain to language, such as mode of thinking, inter-human relations, and aesthetic expressions.
CHIN 150. Survey of Chinese Literature. 3 Units
Prerequisite(s): GWAR Certification before Fall 09, or WPJ score of 70+, or at least a C- in ENGL 109M or ENGL 109W.
Term Typically Offered: Spring only

Introduction to Chinese literature from classical times to the present. The various forms of Chinese prose, poetry, and novel will be surveyed through the selective reading of representative works (in English translation). Class is conducted in English.

CHIN 195. Fieldwork-Tutoring. 1 - 3 Units
Prerequisite(s): Advanced level fluency and instructor permission.
Term Typically Offered: Fall, Spring

Tutoring of lower division students in Mandarin or Cantonese. 3 hours of tutoring per week for each unit. May be taken for credit more than once. Credit/No Credit

CHIN 199. Special Problems. 1 - 3 Units
Term Typically Offered: Fall, Spring

Individual projects or directed reading. Open only to students who appear competent to carry on independent study. Admission requires the approval of the instructor by whom the work is to be supervised. Credit/No Credit