In the Department of East Asian Studies

Co-Chairs, Professor Kimberly Besio (Chinese) and Associate Professor Hideko Abe (Japanese)
Professor Kimberly Besio; Associate Professor Hong Zhang; Faculty Fellow Hui-Ching Lu; Teaching Assistant Chia Ling Tang

A minor in Chinese is offered for students who have a substantial interest in Chinese language and culture.

Requirements for the Minor in Chinese

Five language courses of at least three credits each at the level of Chinese 126 or above, and one more course with a substantial literary/cultural component to be chosen from either a 400-level course in Chinese or a course on Chinese literature/culture in English (please see list under “East Asian Studies”) at the 200 level or higher. Students who start taking Chinese from 321 or beyond are expected to take at least four language courses probably including courses chosen from our 400-level language offerings and independent study 491 and 492.

Note: The minor in Chinese is intended for non-East Asian studies majors. East Asian studies majors must declare either a Chinese concentration or a Japanese concentration within the major.

Course Offerings

CN125f Elementary Chinese I An introduction to the essential building blocks of the Mandarin Chinese language. Students will learn the pinyin Romanization system, basic strokes and radicals of the writing system, as well as approximately 200 characters. Basic sentence structures will be introduced within the context of social situations encountered in daily student life. By the end of the course students will be able to employ all four language modalities (listening, speaking, reading, and writing) to exchange basic information about themselves and their studies. Prerequisite: Chinese 125 is prerequisite to 126. Five credit hours. BESIO

CN126s Elementary Chinese II A continuation of Chinese 125. Basic sentence structures of Mandarin Chinese will be introduced within the context of social situations encountered in daily student life. Students will be able to employ all four language modalities (listening, speaking, reading, and writing) to discuss past actions and future plans. They will begin to learn strategies for constructing complex sentences and coherent paragraphs and will learn an additional 150 Chinese characters. Prerequisite: Chinese 125. Five credit hours. LU

CN127f Intermediate Chinese I A continuation of Chinese 126. Students will continue to build up their vocabulary and learn new sentence patterns and grammar points through an integrated emphasis on the four skills of language learning: listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Prerequisite: Chinese 126; Chinese 127 is prerequisite to 128. Four credit hours. LU

CN128s Intermediate Chinese II A continuation of Chinese 127, with greater emphasis on building language proficiency in real life situations and language competence in spoken and written Chinese. Prerequisite: Chinese 127. Four credit hours. LU

CN135fs Chinese Conversation I Practice using basic sentence patterns in conversational situations. Emphasis on oral/aural practice of patterns and phrases related to such daily situations as going to the post office, talking on the telephone, shopping, ordering in a restaurant, etc. Supplemental vocabulary/phrase lists are supplied. Prerequisite: Chinese 126. One credit hour. TANG

CN235f Chinese Conversation II Intermediate level conversation class with a focus on building language fluency and vocabulary for daily life situations. Nongraded. Prerequisite: Chinese 127. One credit hour. TANG

CN321f Third-Year Chinese A continuation of Chinese 128. Students solidity command of basic sentence patterns, increase sophistication of oral and written expression, and hone aural and reading comprehension skills through a focus on situations and topics encountered by foreigners living, studying, and working in China. In a Chinese-only classroom environment, supplementary texts and communicative exercises allow students to begin a transition from texts and listening passages produced for language learners to authentic texts and interchanges produced by and for native Chinese speakers, preparing them for future study and work in China or the United States. Prerequisite: Chinese 128. Four credit hours. BESIO

CN322s Third-Year Chinese II Advanced Chinese language, concentrating on reading, writing, and speaking. Prerequisite: Chinese 321. Four credit hours. ZHANG
CN335s  Chinese Conversation III  Conversation class for advanced students on various contemporary social and cultural issues.  
Prerequisite:  Chinese 321.  One credit hour.  TANG

CN430s  Contemporary Chinese Society  Advanced Chinese language with a focus on current affairs and topical social issues in contemporary China. Students will be immersed in a Chinese-language environment and should be prepared to discuss issues in Chinese such as China's market reform, commercialization, changing family patterns, migrant labor, popular culture, tradition, and Confucian thought.  Prerequisite:  Chinese 321 or a 400-level Chinese course.  Four credit hours.  ZHANG

CN431f  Business Chinese  Advanced Chinese language with a focus on vocabulary and sentence patterns that will facilitate research and discussion of business in China. Students will be immersed in a Chinese-language environment and should be prepared to discuss issues related to business in China in Chinese. Formerly offered as Chinese 497.  Prerequisite:  Chinese 321 or a 400-level Chinese course.  Four credit hours.  ZHANG

[CN434]  Docu-China: Advanced Readings in Chinese  Uses documentaries to further consolidate and strengthen Chinese proficiency through interactive audiovisual means as well as via the traditional text-analysis and pattern-practice approach. By incorporation of online TV programs, news clips, and other learning tools, students not only enrich their learning experience but also learn to use the target language to understand and discuss concurrent social, cultural, political, and economic issues.  Prerequisite:  Chinese 321 or a 400-level course.  Four credit hours.

[CN450]  Chinese Short Stories  Close readings and analysis of selected contemporary Chinese short stories. We will use, and thereby improve facility with, all four language modalities (reading, writing, speaking, listening) as we place these stories in their social, historical, linguistic, and literary contexts. Two particular goals are 1) to master the vocabulary of literary analysis, and 2) to learn to manipulate different registers of linguistic formality—the colloquial language of the characters in the texts as well as the formal language of scholarship—through a variety of written exercises and classroom activities.  Prerequisite:  Chinese 321 or another 400-level Chinese course.  Four credit hours.

[CN452]  Chinese Society in Fiction and Film  Fiction and film not only immerse students in the living colloquial language, they also function as windows into social values and concerns. We will read contemporary Chinese short stories and view films focusing on social issues such as the scars left by the Cultural Revolution, attitudes toward sexuality, and Chinese society's growing materialism. We will use, and thereby improve facility with, all four language modalities (reading, writing, speaking, listening) as we read, view, and discuss these works, as well as the social, historical, linguistic, and literary contexts in which they were produced.  Prerequisite:  Chinese 321 or 322 or another 400-level Chinese language course.  Four credit hours.

CN491f, 492s  Independent Study  Individual projects in areas where the student has demonstrated the interest and competence necessary for independent work.  Prerequisite:  Permission of the instructor.  Two to four credit hours.  FACULTY