In the Department of East Asian Studies

Chair, Associate Professor Hong Zhang (Chinese)
Professor Kimberly Besio; Associate Professor Hong Zhang; Assistant Professor Andie Wang; Language Assistant Kuei-Lan Cheng

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

Requirements for the Minor in Chinese

Six courses are required to fulfill the minor in Chinese. They include five language courses of at least three credits each at the level of Chinese 126 or above, and one more course chosen from either a 400-level course in Chinese or a course on Chinese literature/culture (needs to be approved by the advisor for Chinese) at the 200 level or higher.

Course Offerings

CN115f  Conversation and Pronunciation  A conversation class designed for first-year students learning Chinese as a second language. There are two course learning goals: developing students’ understanding of the Pinyin system and guiding their practices of pronunciation. Students will enhance their awareness of the Pinyin system and learn a variety of strategies to improve their pronunciation. Prerequisite: Concurrent enrollment in Chinese 125 or 126. One credit hour.  

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. Five credit hours.  

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.  

CN127f  Intermediate Chinese I  A continuation of CN126, designed for students who have completed two semesters of Chinese language courses at Colby, or its equivalent. Students will continue development of interpersonal, interpretive, and presentational skills in Mandarin with a specific focus on predictable, familiar topics related to daily activities and personal environment. By the end of the semester, students will be able to handle short social interactions and interact at a functional level in some familiar contexts. Students will also develop the ability to reflect on language learning. Prerequisite: Chinese 126. Four credit hours.  

CN128s  Intermediate Chinese II  A continuation of CN127, designed for students who have completed three semesters of Chinese language courses at Colby, or its equivalent. Students will continue exploring use of Mandarin in complex social interactions and a variety of everyday topics. By the end of the semester, students will be able to maneuver connected sentences for communicative purposes related to everyday life and personal interests and studies. Students will also advance the ability to reflect on language learning. Prerequisite: Chinese 127. Four credit hours.  

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 (may be taken concurrently). One credit hour.  

CN235fs  Chinese Conversation II  Intermediate level conversation class with a focus on building language fluency and vocabulary for
CN321f   Third-Year Chinese  A continuation of CN128, designed for students who have completed four semesters of Chinese language courses at Colby, or its equivalent. It is a bridge course between Intermediate and Advanced Chinese language courses. Students will begin to explore sociocultural issues in Chinese. By the end of the semester, students will be able to handle complex social interactions with ease and confidence, and communicate about events and experiences in an organized way. Students will also develop a complex understanding of cultural perspectives and acquire the skills to become an autonomous language learner. Prerequisite: Chinese 128.  Four credit hours.  ZHANG

CN322s   Third-Year Chinese II  This course is designed for students who have completed 5 semesters of Chinese courses or its equivalent. As a bridge course between Intermediate and Advanced Chinese courses, it aims to solidify foundation in speaking and listening, in particular to strengthen abilities of conducting sustained conversations and structured presentations in Chinese with adequate details and from multiple perspectives. Chinese art will serve as the authentic material and content for learning; Mandarin Chinese is the primary medium of communication in this course. Prerequisite: Chinese 321.  Four credit hours.  WANG

CN335s   Chinese Conversation III  Conversation class for advanced students on various contemporary social and cultural issues. Prerequisite: Chinese 321.  One credit hour.  CHENG

CN335b   Boundaries and Margins humanities lab  Explores the shifting political discourses and visual representations of Chinese women from Mao_s socialist China (1949-1978) to post-Mao market-reform China (1978 to present). Drawing on primary sources such as propaganda posters, cover images and selected texts from Women of China, the official magazine of All-China Federation of Women (ACFW), students gain linguistic, visual, and historical knowledge on state feminism, gender equality, birth control policy, and impact of market reform and consumer culture on women in China from 1949 to the present. Boundaries and Margins humanities lab. Prerequisite: Chinese 322 or a 400-level Chinese course.  Four credit hours.  I.

CN343s   Business Chinese  Advanced Chinese language with a focus on vocabulary and sentence patterns that will facilitate research and discussion of, as well as participation in, China's vibrant business scene. 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 322 or a 400-level Chinese course.  Four credit hours.

CN343s   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.  ZHANG

CN343s   Chinese Women from Mao to Market  Explores the shifting political discourses and visual representations of Chinese women from Mao_s socialist China (1949-1978) to post-Mao market-reform China (1978 to present). Drawing on primary sources such as propaganda posters, cover images and selected texts from Women of China, the official magazine of All-China Federation of Women (ACFW), students gain linguistic, visual, and historical knowledge on state feminism, gender equality, birth control policy, and impact of market reform and consumer culture on women in China from 1949 to the present. Boundaries and Margins humanities lab. Prerequisite: Chinese 322.  Four credit hours.  I.

CN431    Chinese Art and Its Changing Landscape  An advanced Chinese language course that contextualizes learning through authentic materials focusing on the fascinating and constantly evolving topic of Chinese food culture. A multidisciplinary approach to understanding Chinese food culture in an immersion environment will advance language proficiency levels in all four language modalities—listening, speaking, reading, and writing—by promoting effective cross-cultural communication and fostering an in-depth understanding of the historical, ever-changing, complex Chinese culture. Humanities lab course. Prerequisite: Chinese 322 or another 400-level course.  Four credit hours.

CN455f   Talking about Contemporary China  An advanced Chinese language course that contextualizes learning through authentic materials focusing on public speeches and talks. These videotaped public speeches and talks touch on a variety of key social and cultural issues in Chinese culture. Students will be guided to develop linguistic and cultural competence as well as content knowledge to understand the social and cultural issues covered, to participate in an active and interactive exploration of the issues, to engage in culture-rich and content-based language learning, and to ultimately develop a deeper understanding of these issues. Prerequisite: Chinese 322 or a 400-level Chinese course.  Four credit hours.  WANG

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