In the Department of East Asian Studies

Chair, Professor Kimberly Besio (Chinese)
Professor Kimberly Besio; Associate Professor Hong Zhang; Assistant Professor Andie Wang; Language Assistant Wen-hui Chen

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. 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. BESIO

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. Four credit hours. WANG

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. WANG

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. CHEN

CN235fs  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. CHEN

CN321f   Third-Year Chinese
A continuation of Chinese 128. Students solidify 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. CHEN

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.  CHEN

[CN430]   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.

CN431f  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 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 course.  Four credit hours.

[CN453]  Chinese Food Culture 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.  Prerequisite:  Chinese 322 or another 400-level course.  Four credit hours.

CN455s  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. Previously listed as CN498 (Spring 2017).  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