MODERN LANGUAGES AND LITERATURES—CHINESE

College of Liberal & Creative Arts
Dean: Dr. Andrew Harris

Department of Modern Languages and Literatures
Humanities Building, Room 475
Phone: (415) 338-1421
Website: mll.sfsu.edu/chinese-program

Chair: Charles Egan
Program Coordinator: Chris Wen-Chao Li
Undergraduate Advisor: Chris Wen-Chao Li, Charles Egan, Frederik Green, Yang Xiao-Desai
Graduate Advisor: Chris Wen-Chao Li
Flagship Program Director: Charles Egan
Flagship Program Assistant Director: Frederik Green

Program Scope
Founded in 1959, the Chinese Program at San Francisco State University provides comprehensive degree programs at both the undergraduate and graduate levels. For all major and minor options, the Chinese Program offers electives taught in both English and Chinese which provide insight into one of the world's oldest civilizations and inspire the student to view the modern world from alternative perspectives. Courses on modern literature and film, taught in Chinese, reflect the dynamic transformations of contemporary Chinese society and culture. Training in the fundamentals of linguistics complements program goals by revealing the underlying structures of language. To prepare students as fully as possible for future challenges, the Chinese Program balances traditional academic offerings with practical courses such as Business Chinese, Media Chinese, and Web Chinese, which equip students with career-related language skills.

The Bachelor of Arts in Chinese is divided into three separate concentrations: Chinese Language, designed for students with little or no background in Chinese language; Chinese Literature and Linguistics, aimed at native and near-native speakers of Chinese language; and Flagship Chinese Language, a federally funded honors program.

The Minor in Chinese Language is designed for beginning language learners and is focused on the buildup of proficiency in the Modern Standard Language.

The Minor in Chinese Literature and Linguistics is designed for native and near-native speakers and requires coursework in advanced language, classical language, linguistics, literature, culture, and oratory.

The Master of Arts in Chinese provides advanced training in the areas of literature, linguistics, and pedagogy, building a solid foundation for further study and language-related careers. Many of our M.A. graduates advance to study and research at the doctoral level, and others develop skills for China-related careers, including teaching Chinese as a second language, international business and law, and translation and interpretation.

Professor

CHRIS WEN-CHAO LI (2000), Professor of Modern Languages and Literatures; B.S. (1990), National Taiwan University; M.Phil (1992), D.Phil (1997), Oxford University.

Associate Professor
FREDERIK H. GREEN (2012), Associate Professor of Modern Languages and Literatures; B.A.(Hons) (2000), Cambridge University; M.Phil. (2004), Ph.D. (2009), Yale University.

Assistant Professor
YANG XIAO-DESAI (2014), Assistant Professor of Modern Languages and Literatures; B.A. (1997), M.A. (2000), Hunan Normal University; Ph.D. (2010), University of Hawaii at Manoa.

Lecturers
Tsao, Liou, Phung

Minors

Majors

Minors

Masters
CHIN 101 First Semester Chinese (Units: 4)
Understanding, speaking, reading, and writing modern Mandarin Chinese at the elementary level. Emphasis on the spoken language. Laboratory attendance required.
Course Attributes:
• C2: Humanities
• Global Perspectives
• Social Justice

CHIN 102 Second Semester Chinese (Units: 4)
Prerequisite: CHIN 101 or consent of instructor.
Further study of elementary Mandarin Chinese. Laboratory attendance required.
Course Attributes:
• C2: Humanities
• Global Perspectives
• Social Justice

CHIN 103 Third Semester Chinese (Units: 4)
Prerequisite: CHIN 102 or consent of instructor.
Understanding, speaking, reading, and writing modern Mandarin Chinese at the low-intermediate level. Laboratory attendance required.
Course Attributes:
• C2: Humanities
• Global Perspectives
• Social Justice

CHIN 111 Accelerated Elementary Chinese I (Units: 4)
Prerequisite: Consent of the instructor. Open to highly motivated students with no or limited (elementary level) proficiency in Chinese (any dialect).
Rapidly builds Mandarin proficiency of students admitted to or considering application to the Chinese Flagship Program. CHIN 111/CHIN 112 provides instruction equivalent to CHIN 101/CHIN 102/CHIN 103.
Course Attributes:
• C2: Humanities
• Global Perspectives
• Social Justice

CHIN 112 Accelerated Elementary Chinese II (Units: 4)
Prerequisite: CHIN 111 or consent of instructor.
Follows CHIN 111. Focus on listening, speaking, reading, and writing Mandarin. CHIN 111/CHIN 112 provides instruction equivalent to CHIN 101/CHIN 102/CHIN 103.
Course Attributes:
• C2: Humanities
• Global Perspectives
• Social Justice

CHIN 228 Chinese Language and Society (Units: 3)
Examination of the role of Chinese language in various aspects of social life, such as identity, gender relations, class, kinship, social status, and hierarchies. Topics also include the regional variations of the Chinese language and its relations to culture, education, politics, and technology.
Course Attributes:
• C2: Humanities
• Global Perspectives

CHIN 271 The Classic Chinese Novel in Contemporary Pop Culture (Units: 3)
Explore the legacy of China’s four great classic novels in contemporary Chinese popular culture. Analysis of original works and their adaptation in TV shows and cinema, fiction, computer games, and theme parks. (This course is offered as CHIN 271 and HUM 271. Students may not repeat the course under an alternate prefix.)
Course Attributes:
• C2: Humanities
• Global Perspectives
• Social Justice

CHIN 275 Flagship Preparation II (Units: 2)
Prerequisites: Concurrent enrollment in CHIN 303 and consent of instructor. Augments CHIN 303 for preparation for the Chinese Flagship Program.
Focus on writing; practice with traditional and simplified Chinese characters, composition, and use of electronic media for Chinese.

CHIN 280 Chinese Calligraphy (Units: 3)
An examination of Chinese character formation and evolution, as well as a survey of varieties of Chinese scripts and hands-on practice of Chinese calligraphy.

CHIN 303 Intermediate Chinese (Units: 4)
Prerequisite: CHIN 103 or consent of instructor.
Balanced focus on spoken and written Mandarin Chinese. Developing students’ oral fluency, expanding vocabulary, correcting pronunciation. Improving skills using basic texts written in Chinese characters and writing sentences in characters. Laboratory attendance required. [Formerly CHIN 250]

CHIN 311 Conversation and Reading (Units: 3)
Prerequisite: CHIN 303 or consent of instructor.
Developing proficiency in spoken Mandarin and written Chinese. Review of basic sentence patterns, vocabulary expansion, and acquisition of Chinese characters.
Course Attributes:
• Global Perspectives

CHIN 312 Speech and Writing (Units: 3)
Prerequisite: CHIN 311 or consent of instructor.
Developing proficiency in spoken Mandarin and written Chinese. Vocabulary expansion, acquisition, and retention of Chinese characters; speaking and writing skills in interactive context.
Course Attributes:
• Global Perspectives

CHIN 315 Chinese Civilization (Units: 3)
Pre-requisite: CHIN 228
CHIN 315 is an examination of Chinese Civilization which focuses on the cultural background reflected in Chinese language and culture. Focus on the Chinese language and culture. Focus on the role of the Chinese language in society, education, politics, and technology.
CHIN 341 From Yellow Music to Mando Pop: The History & Practice of Popular Music in 20th & 21st Century China (Units: 3)
Prerequisite: CHIN 103 or its equivalent, or instructor’s consent.

Blended language and culture course that explores the historical, theoretical, and linguistic dimension of Chinese popular music from 1920s Shanghai to its contemporary manifestations in China, Hong Kong and Taiwan. Topics include the political use of popular music, the emergence of Cantopop and Mandopop, Chinese rock music, and ethnic folk.

Course Attributes:
- Global Perspectives

CHIN 375 Introduction to Academic Prose (Units: 3)
Prerequisites: Intermediate Mandarin and acceptance to Flagship or permission of Director.

Training in the four skills (listening, speaking, reading, and writing) and three modes (interpersonal, interpretive, and presentational), using materials from the humanities, social sciences, and professional disciplines.

CHIN 401 Advanced Chinese (Units: 3)
Prerequisites: CHIN 311, CHIN 312, or consent of instructor.

Developing Chinese proficiency at advanced level: vocabulary expansion, acquisition, and retention of Chinese characters in both full and simplified forms; communicative competence in four skills (listening, speaking, reading, and writing).

Course Attributes:
- Global Perspectives

CHIN 410 Building Chinese Media Literacy (Units: 3)
Prerequisite: CHIN 401 or consent of instructor.

Vocabulary, structures, styles, and topics of contemporary Chinese media. Newspapers, radio and television broadcasts, websites, blogs, and social media of Greater China. Intensive focus on reading and listening, augmented by writing and presentation assignments.

(This course is offered as CHIN 410 and JOUR 410, and is taught in Chinese. Students may not repeat the course under an alternate prefix.)

CHIN 411 Media Chinese (Units: 3)
Prerequisite: CHIN 401 or consent of instructor.

Mandarin as it is used in various genres on radio/television and in news reports and articles, editorials, interviews, and advertisements.

(This course is offered as CHIN 411, I R 413, and JOUR 411. Students may not repeat the course under an alternate prefix.)

Course Attributes:
- Global Perspectives

CHIN 475 Flagship Chinese I (Units: 3)
Prerequisites: Intermediate level Mandarin Chinese skills and acceptance to Flagship Program or permission of its Director. Concurrent enrollment in a Flagship Content Area Course is required.

Intermediate to advanced training in all four skills and three modes of language.

CHIN 476 Flagship Chinese II (Units: 3)
Prerequisites: Intermediate level Mandarin Chinese skills and acceptance to Flagship Program or permission of its Director. Concurrent enrollment in a Flagship Content Area Course is required.

Continuation of focus on intermediate to advanced training in all four skills and three modes of language.

CHIN 501 Introduction to Classical Chinese (Units: 3)
Prerequisite: CHIN 312 (may be taken concurrently) or consent of instructor.

Stylistic and structural characteristics of classical Chinese; problems of interpretation; introduction to literary genres in cultural context.

Course Attributes:
- Global Perspectives

CHIN 502 Readings in Literary Chinese (Units: 3)
Prerequisite: CHIN 311 or CHIN 312.

Close readings of classical Chinese texts drawn from philosophical, historical, and literary sources, such as the Sishu (the Four Books), the Wuqing (Five Confucian Classics), and classical Chinese poetry from the Han to the Tang. Classical Chinese grammar is studied using a hands-on approach; reading of text in original, analyze linguistic features, and socio-historical and literary context.

CHIN 507 Traditional Chinese Culture (Units: 3)
Prerequisite: CHIN 401 (may be taken concurrently) or consent of instructor.

Highlights of the development of Chinese culture from antiquity to the 19th century. Selected readings, films.

CHIN 521 Chinese Modern Fiction (Units: 3)
Prerequisite: CHIN 401 or consent of instructor.

Major authors from the May Fourth Movement and subsequent periods.

Course Attributes:
- Global Perspectives

CHIN 525 Chinese Applied Linguistics (Units: 3)
Prerequisite: CHIN 311 or consent of instructor.

Application of modern descriptive linguistics to the analysis of phonological, morphological, and syntactic structures of Mandarin.

CHIN 530 Oratory and Performance in Chinese (Units: 3)
Prerequisite: CHIN 312 or consent of instructor.

Intensive training or oral/aural skills in standard Mandarin (putonghua/guoyu) at the high intermediate to advanced levels, through preparation and participation in oratory and performance activities.

CHIN 537 The Chinese Language and Modern China (Units: 3)
Prerequisite: CHIN 312 or consent of instructor.

Introduction to the linguistic structure, historical development, and present state of Modern Standard Chinese; its relationship to the major Chinese dialect families; aspects of Chinese sociolinguistics and pragmatics.

CHIN 580 Topics in Modern Chinese Language and Literature (Units: 3)
Prerequisite: CHIN 312 or CHIN 401 or consent of instructor.

Topic to be specified in Class Schedule. May be repeated when topics vary.
CHIN 582 Topics in Classical Chinese Language and Literature (Units: 3)
Prerequisite: CHIN 501 or CHIN 502 or consent of instructor.
Advanced topics centered on works written in literary and/or classical Chinese language. Topic to be specified in Class Schedule. May be repeated when topics vary.

CHIN 600 Topics in Chinese Language, Literature, and Culture in English (Units: 3)
Prerequisite: ENG 214 or consent of instructor.
Topic to be specified in Class Schedule. May be repeated when topics vary.

CHIN 601GW The Poetic Tradition - GWAR (Units: 3)
Prerequisite: ENG 214 with a grade of C- or better or consent of instructor.
Major Chinese poets from antiquity to late imperial times, discussed in cultural context. Taught in English. (ABC/NC grading only)
Course Attributes:
  • Graduation Writing Assessment
  • Global Perspectives

CHIN 602 The Narrative Tradition (Units: 3)
Prerequisite for CHIN 802: M.A. in Chinese students or consent of the instructor.
Prerequisite for CHIN 602: Upper-division standing; ENG 214 or equivalent; GPA of 3.0 or higher; or consent of the instructor.
Chinese literary tradition including philosophical essays, historical writings, fiction, and drama from 500 B.C. to novels of late 19th Century. [Taught in English]
(CHIN 802/CHIN 602 is a paired course offering. Students who complete the course at one level may not repeat the course at the other level.)

CHIN 611GW The Revolutionary Tradition in Modern Chinese Literature - GWAR (Units: 3)
Prerequisites: Upper division standing; ENG 214 or equivalent with a grade of C- or better; or consent of instructor.
Introduction to 20th century Chinese literature and thought with particular focus on politically motivated writers; critical engagement with the most important intellectual trends and political movements from the last days of Imperial rule to the present. (ABC/NC grading only)
Course Attributes:
  • Graduation Writing Assessment
  • Global Perspectives

CHIN 612GW Negotiating Chineseness in the Late 20th and 21st Centuries - GWAR (Units: 3)
Prerequisites: Upper division standing; Chinese majors; ENG 214 or equivalent with a grade of C- or better; or consent of instructor
Exploration of multiple negotiation of Chineseness through a wide range of texts from the People’s Republic, Taiwan, Hong Kong, and the Chinese Diaspora. Focus on literary, cinematic and critical works produced between 1970 and present. (ABC/NC grading only)
Course Attributes:
  • Graduation Writing Assessment
  • Global Perspectives

CHIN 699 Independent Study (Units: 1-3)
Prerequisite: Consent of department chair and instructor. Open only to undergraduate students who have demonstrated ability to do independent work.
Written projects requiring critical analysis and interpretation of literary, linguistic, or pedagogical problems.

CHIN 785 Projects in the Teaching of Chinese (Units: 1-3)
Prerequisites: Graduate standing; tutoring appointment in the Chinese Flagship Program.
Experience with proficiency-based methods for teaching Chinese. Supervising faculty member offers individual direction and group pedagogy sessions. Enrollment for 1-3 units (1 unit requires 2 hours tutoring and 1 hour preparation weekly). May be repeated for a total of 4 units maximum. (CR/NC grading only)

CHIN 799 Chinese Tutorial Practicum (Units: 3)
Prerequisite: Admission to the Chinese M.A. program.
Development of pedagogical skills for language teaching to individuals and small groups. Students engage in tutorial practicum, under supervision. Lectures/workshops on Teaching Chinese as a Second Language supplement practical experience. May be repeated for 3 units. (CR/NC grading only.)

CHIN 802 The Narrative Tradition (Units: 3)
Prerequisite for CHIN 802: M.A. in Chinese students or consent of the instructor.
Prerequisite for CHIN 602: Upper-division standing; ENG 214 or equivalent; GPA of 3.0 or higher; or consent of the instructor.
Chinese literary tradition including philosophical essays, historical writings, fiction, and drama from 500 B.C. to novels of late 19th Century. [Taught in English]
(CHIN 802/CHIN 602 is a paired course offering. Students who complete the course at one level may not repeat the course at the other level.)

CHIN 820 The Road To Modernity Part I: Chinese Literary Trends of the Late Imperial and Republican Periods (Units: 3)
Prerequisite: Graduate standing or consent of instructor.
Examination of the most important literary trends and genres (fiction, poetry, drama, reportage) that have shaped the development of modern Chinese literature from the 1850s until 1945. Will constitute part 1- of a 2-part survey of modern Chinese literature.

CHIN 821 Modern Chinese Literature (Units: 3)
Prerequisite: Admission to Chinese program or consent of instructor.
Readings by major authors from the May Fourth Movement to the present, as well as selections from secondary scholarship.

CHIN 822 Classical Chinese Literature (Units: 3)
Prerequisite: Admission to Chinese program or consent of instructor.
Classical philosophical, historical, and belletristic writings.

CHIN 824 Testing & Assessment in Teaching/Learning Chinese as a Second Language (Units: 3)
Prerequisite: Admission to Chinese M.A. program or consent of instructor.
Survey of research and methods in testing/assessment in Teaching Chinese as a Second/Foreign Language. Focus on standards for measuring language competence, professionalism, and program reviews.
CHIN 825 Applied Linguistics and Teaching Chinese (Units: 3)
Prerequisite: Admission to Chinese program or consent of instructor.
Investigation of practical issues pertinent to second language acquisition and pedagogy in Teaching Chinese as a Second Language.

CHIN 826 Semantics and Morphology (Units: 3)
Prerequisite: Admission to Chinese M.A. program, or CHIN 401 and consent of instructor.
Introduction to linguistic meaning and word formation in Chinese. Chinese semantics, pragmatics, morphology in light of recent findings in cognitive science.

CHIN 827 Language Change and Dialectic Variation (Units: 3)
Prerequisite: MLL 325 [formerly F L 325] or equivalent.
Introduction to mechanisms of language change and their application to Chinese historical linguistics and modern dialect classification. Topics include sound change, lexical change, grammaticalization, linguistic reconstruction, language typology, and Chinese philology.

CHIN 837 Materials Development for Teaching Chinese (Units: 3)
Prerequisite: Admission to Chinese M.A. program or consent of instructor.
Strengthening skills in developing teaching materials and level-appropriate thematic units, adopted for national foreign language standards and California state-approved curriculum framework. Language learning assessment and student projects. [Online Course]

CHIN 881 Translation (Units: 3)
Prerequisite: Admission to Chinese M.A. program, or consent of instructor.
Translation theory and its application to English and Chinese. Topics include meaning, levels of equivalence, fidelity and authorship, metaphor and idiomatic language, domesticating and foreignizing strategies, transliteration and romanization, translation of specific genres, Chinese translation theory, and translation research.

CHIN 882 Consecutive and Simultaneous Interpreting (Units: 3)
Prerequisite: Graduate standing or consent of instructor.
Seminar focusing on general English-Chinese and Chinese-English liaison, consecutive and simultaneous interpreting. Training in shadowing, note-taking, and effort management, leading to build-up of skills inconsecutive and simultaneous interpreting.

CHIN 883 Advanced Translation and Interpreting (Units: 3)
Prerequisites: Graduate standing; CHIN 881, CHIN 882; or consent of instructor.
Training in the translation of literary texts and in conference interpreting. Translation portion focuses on Chinese literary works and methods of transforming the aesthetic and the cultural; interpreting segment will provide training in consecutive and simultaneous interpreting.

CHIN 896EXM Culminating Experience Examination (Units: 0-3)
Prerequisites: Consent of instructor, committee chair, and approval of Advancement to Candidacy (ATC) and Culminating Experience (CE) forms by Graduate Studies. ATC and Proposal for Culminating Experience Requirement forms must be approved by the Graduate Division before registration.
Enrollment in 896EXAM required for students whose culminating experience consists of an examination only. (CR/NC, RP)

CHIN 899 Independent Study (Units: 1-3)
Prerequisites: Consent of the graduate major adviser and the supervising faculty member. Enrollment by petition.
Study is planned, developed, and completed under the direction of a member of the departmental faculty. Open only to graduate students who have demonstrated ability to do independent work.