

KALAMAZOO COLLEGE
2017-2018 ACADEMIC CATALOG

Chinese

Professors: Chu (Chair), Hong

The Chinese Department provides students with an exposure to the language, literature, and culture of China. Seven levels of Chinese language courses, with a balanced emphasis on listening, reading, writing, and speaking, set a good foundation. Students may study abroad in China or take part in other forms of advanced study to master the language used by one-quarter of the world's population. Literature (in English translation) and culture courses acquaint students with the Chinese literary works and their social/political/cultural texts and contexts, facilitate their enjoyment of literature in general, and enhance their capability to understand the meaning of Chinese literary and cultural expressions, and traditional and contemporary Chinese society.

Requirements for the Minor in Chinese

Number of Units

Six units are required.

Required Courses

CHIN 103 Beginning Chinese III

CHIN 201 Intermediate Chinese I

CHIN 202 Intermediate Chinese II

CHIN 203 Intermediate Chinese III

Electives

Chinese Literature Elective (Must be taken on campus.)

Chinese Literature or Studies Elective (May be taken during study abroad or on campus.)

Related Programs

The Chinese Department is also an essential part of the East Asian studies program. Students may major in international and area studies with a focus on East Asia or major in East Asian Studies, China Track. Interested students should consult with Ms. Chu. For "Requirement for the Major in East Asian Studies, China Track", see catalog listing for East Asian Studies.

Study Abroad Opportunities

The College has established an exchange program in Beijing and Harbin in the People's Republic of China. Students who are interested in study abroad opportunities are strongly recommended to complete CHIN-203 before leaving for China. It is also important to note that Chinese language courses are offered in the Fall-Winter-Spring sequence for both CHIN-101-102-103 and CHIN-201-202-203. In other words, CHIN-101 and CHIN-201 are only offered in the Fall Quarter. For more details about language preparation for Study Abroad, consult early with Ms. Chu and the Center for International Programs.

Chinese courses

CHIN 101 Beginning Chinese I

This course is an introduction to the Chinese language. Pronunciation system, basic vocabulary, written script, fundamental grammatical structures, as well as some cultural background of the language will be studied. The goal of this course is to set a good foundation for making Chinese a functional language for the students. Students are asked to follow three principles: (1) make Chinese a part of daily life, (2) use Chinese actively in class and outside of class, and (3) be creative in finding ideas for using the Chinese language.

CHIN 102 Beginning Chinese II

This course follows Beginning Chinese I. All four skills -- listening, speaking, reading, and writing -- are equally

emphasized. By the end of this course, students are expected to understand simple questions and answers, to be able to ask and respond to simple questions, to understand simple statements, and to be able to participate in simple conversations on a few familiar topics. Students will also be expected to read and write simple notes, meaningful sentences, and short passages constructed with basic grammatical patterns.

Prerequisite: CHIN-101

CHIN 103 Beginning Chinese III

A continuation of Beginning Chinese II, this course further consolidates the essential skills in reading, writing, listening to, and speaking Chinese. The goals are to increase vocabulary, to form a clear understanding of the language through knowledge of the meaning of words and structures, and to advance the ability of students to express themselves in the language accurately and properly on some selected topics.

Prerequisite: CHIN-102

CHIN 201 Intermediate Chinese I

This course follows CHIN 103 and starts the Intermediate Chinese language sequence. It will create an authentic language environment for the students and help make learning Chinese an interesting experience. The students will develop their fundamental language skills with a balanced emphasis on listening, speaking, reading, and writing. A communicative approach will be adopted, and accuracy will be emphasized at the same time. Culture will be brought into the classroom through songs, poems, and so on. Short cultural talks related to course material will be given.

Prerequisite: CHIN-103

CHIN 202 Intermediate Chinese II

This course follows CHIN 201, Intermediate Chinese I, and emphasizes interactive skills. More authentic materials will be used, and more topics and situations concerning contemporary Chinese society will be introduced. Class activities include visiting local Chinese communities and interviewing native speakers of Chinese language.

Prerequisite: CHIN-201

CHIN 203 Intermediate Chinese III

The course concludes the Intermediate Chinese sequence. Students should be prepared for exposure to various spoken and written styles of Chinese and for a steady expansion of their vocabulary. After completing three quarters of Intermediate Chinese, students will have gained a solid foundation in Chinese grammar and vocabulary and have developed good strategies for effective reading and listening comprehension. In addition, students will have acquired further confidence in their ability to speak Chinese.

Prerequisite: CHIN-202

CHIN 215 Chinese Cultural Motifs through Calligraphy

Chinese scripts are windows to East Asia cultures. This course traces the etymology and introduces the cultural background of Chinese scripts. It also provides hands-on practice of Chinese calligraphy. This course combines aesthetic training and language learning. Students learn the Chinese scripts not only as linguistic symbols but also as cultural motifs and art forms. Learning the etymology and cultural background of the scripts helps one to understand the linguistic formation of Chinese and other Asian languages that use Chinese scripts. It further provides useful references to the value system, thinking process, and aesthetic principles behind the Chinese language. The hands-on practice of calligraphy is a unique cultural experience. Through frequent review and constant practice, the students become familiar with Chinese scripts, learn the linguistic and cultural meanings associated with these scripts, and acquire the artistic skill of creative expression.

CHIN/SEM 220 Chinese Food Culture

Chinese culture is among the most food-conscious ones. Through China's long history, food has always been a means of communication, a symbol of good life, and at the same time a target of criticism for its indulgence and improper distribution. Additionally, it has been a provision for healthcare, and a rich resource of linguistic expressions and literary allusions and metaphors. These will be the topics of the seminar, which should be a meaningful and effective pathway to the core of Chinese life and philosophy. This course is a Shared Passages Sophomore Seminar.

Prerequisite: Sophomores Only

CHIN 222 20th-Century Urban China

This course interrogates literary and cinematic representations of Chinese cities in the twentieth century. By examining urban narrative in Chinese fiction, drama, poetry and film from the Republican and People's Republic periods, this class offers a new understanding of Chinese modernity as marked by its unique urban sensibilities and configurations.

CHIN 225 Traditional Chinese Literature in Translation

This course examines the relationship between the individual and society in traditional Chinese literature. We will read a wide selection of important texts from China's long history, including the Classic of Poetry, early assassin narratives, medieval nature poetry and romantic tales, vernacular stories, urban drama, and novels from the late imperial period. Among the more important questions that we will investigate is the complex role that Chinese literature played in articulating the place of the individual vis-à-vis the community and state.

CHIN 235 Modern Chinese Literature in Translation

This course will examine the literary world of modern China by closely analyzing representative stories and novels written during the 20th century. As will quickly become clear in the course, literature in modern China has had and continues to have a close relationship with politics as well as with a wide variety of discussions on cultural identity in post-traditional China. Among the main goals of the course will be to explore how literature comes to grips with a thoroughgoing crisis of an established culture that results in a series of consequences unprecedented in Chinese history. Above all, the course will seek to understand how and why literature has played the role that it has, and what implications for the meaning of literature can be determined from examining the relationship between writing and society in modern China.

CHIN 245 Chinese Film

This course examines the cinematic traditions of China, Taiwan, and Hong Kong in light of such topics as: the foundational legends of Chinese cinema, the relationship between film and politics, representations of historical crisis (e.g., the February 28 Incident (1947), the Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution (1966-76), and the British handover of Hong Kong (1997)), revolutionary aesthetics, and "spectacular" violence. The overarching question we will explore is: How do Chinese films create the spectacle of "China," narrate its history, and represent its diverse cultural landscapes both at home and abroad?

CHIN 260 Women in China

As in many countries subject to imperialism, women's movements in China were an important part of China's modernization project. How, then, have Chinese feminist theories and women's movements been different from those in the West? What is it like to live as a woman in a rapidly changing China through the 20th and 21st centuries? This course takes three approaches to explore these questions. To examine the characteristics and changes of gender roles we look at the representations of women in literature and film. To understand women's experiences we read women writers' essays, memoirs and fictions. To think about how women work as historical agents who make historical changes, we look at women activists, feminist thinkers and women's movements.

CHIN 295 Reading of Chinese Poetry

This course provides students with an opportunity to read, discuss, and enjoy Chinese poetry. All readings are in English translation. While the primary focus is on close reading of poetic texts, students will be analyzing poetry from scholarly perspectives, writing research papers of poetic studies, and composing their own poems. Students will also acquire knowledge on the history of Chinese poetry and poetics from the beginnings to the eighteenth century. This course may be of the interest of East Asian Studies majors, students who want to learn about Chinese culture, and those who are interested in poetry in general.

CHIN 300 Advanced Chinese

This course is a continuation of the Intermediate Chinese language sequence. The objective is to make a transition from textbook Chinese to real-life communication situations. For this purpose, the course surveys materials including texts from literature, the social sciences and cultural history, and students will be exposed to a wide variety of written and spoken styles of Chinese. Some of the materials selected are original publications drawn from books, magazines and newspapers. The opportunity to work directly with lively, authentic materials will be valuable for studying Chinese language, literature, society and culture. This course focuses on content and style with extensive discussion and frequent written assignments in Chinese. It will consolidate what the students have learned in the past and help them develop better reading and writing skills. In addition, the improvement of speaking and listening abilities will also be emphasized. This course may be tailored to the needs of the participants and may be taken for credit up to three times.

Prerequisite: CHIN-203

CHIN 495 Social & Cultural Issues in Today's China

This course is designed for, and only open to, seniors who have returned from study in China. It is built upon the students' on-site experiences, language ability and newly gained understanding of contemporary China. The class is conducted in Chinese and all reading materials are in the original language, including essays and articles published in newspapers, periodicals, and literary journals in China. Class activities include discussing and debating on contemporary affairs, and analyzing and summarizing key points of the course materials. In addition to reading, frequent written assignments such as reading comprehension and essay writing, are expected.

CHIN 593 Senior Individualized Project

Each program or department sets its own requirements for Senior Individualized Projects done in that department, including the range of acceptable projects, the required background of students doing projects, the format of the SIP, and the expected scope and depth of projects. See the Kalamazoo Curriculum -& Senior Individualized Project section of the Academic Catalog for more details.

Prerequisite: Permission of department and SIP supervisor required.

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