

Chinese

Department of Linguistics

Chinese
College of Arts and Sciences
609 Baldy Hall
North Campus
Buffalo, NY 14260-1030

PH: 716.645.2177
Fax: 716.645.3825
Email: thuang3@buffalo.edu
Web: linguistics.buffalo.edu/chinese

Overview

China has the world's oldest living civilization, and its culture has had significant impact on its neighboring countries. Now China is rapidly becoming a major player in world politics, and its economy is expanding fast. Not only is China a country that one must deal with politically, economically, and culturally, it also provides opportunities to the world in business, scholarly research, and within many other contexts. Mandarin Chinese (or Putonghua) is the official language.

The Chinese curriculum provides a solid foundation for an understanding and appreciation of the rich and diverse culture of China. The language (Mandarin Chinese) and culture courses offered are useful to students who aspire to an East Asia-related academic or professional career in education, government, communication, business, or other fields in the United States and abroad.

The curriculum of the Chinese program includes:

Courses designed to develop or improve competence in spoken and written Chinese.
Courses for the advanced study of Chinese language and culture.

About our Degrees

The curriculum of the Chinese program includes:

- Courses designed to develop or improve competence in written and spoken Chinese
- Courses for the advanced study of Chinese language and culture
- Courses that deal with Chinese business etiquette

Acceptance Information

Minimum GPA of 2.0 in prerequisite and required courses.
Application should be made when the student has completed the prerequisite courses or during the semester in which they will be completed.

Degree Requirements

Please see [Degrees and Policies](#).

About our Courses

For course descriptions, please see [Courses](#).

About our Faculty

Dr. Tsan Huang's research focuses on phonetics, in particular speech perception and the phonetics/phonology interface, as well as Chinese linguistics.

Extracurricular Activities

See the [UB Student Association](#).

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Practical Experience and Special Academic Opportunities

Study Abroad

Programs for study abroad are available for those who pursue studies in Chinese, Japanese, and Korean. Study abroad is particularly encouraged for majors and minors in these languages. For more information, see [Study Abroad](#).

Career Information and Further Study

The courses offered in the Chinese program give students the opportunity to develop advanced skills in a strategic Asian language and to study the people and cultures of China. Many students opt to combine a minor in Chinese with a major in the social sciences, engineering, the humanities, the sciences, or management.

Students majoring in business administration, geography, international business and world trade, and the interdisciplinary social sciences programs in international studies and Asian studies would find their bachelor's degrees complemented by the study of the Chinese language. Given China's huge population, its geopolitical importance, its massive and growing economy, and U.S. interest in that country as a trading partner, the need for large numbers of U.S. citizens who are fluent speakers of Chinese and are knowledgeable about Chinese culture will continue to grow.

Degree Options

East Asian Studies. Of interest to students enrolled in Chinese language and culture courses is the East Asian languages and cultures (EALC) section in the Department of Linguistics. The EALC consists of the Chinese, Japanese, and Korean programs. This special major, which combines courses offered in the three programs, can be arranged with faculty members of the three programs in the EALC section.

For more information, contact Dr. Mitsuaki Shimojo, coordinator of the East Asian languages and cultures section and director of the Japanese Language and Culture Program, 609 Baldy Hall, (716) 645-2177; e-mail: shimojo@buffalo.edu.

The Asian studies program also offers a BA in Asian studies and a minor in Asian studies. For more information, contact Dr. Kristin Stapleton, Director, 714 Clemens Hall, (716) 645-3474, or via e-mail at kstaple@buffalo.edu.

Degrees Offered

Undergraduate: Minor

Special Major

For students who want to further their studies in East Asian languages, a special major in Chinese, Japanese, or Korean can be arranged in consultation with the Language Program director and the Special Major Services Office (275 Park Hall). For more information, see [Special Majors](#).

Links to Further Information About this Program

- [Undergraduate Catalog](#)
- [Undergraduate Admissions](#)
- [Graduate Admissions](#)
- [Department of Linguistics \(Program in Chinese\)](#)
- [College of Arts and Sciences](#)

Chinese - Minor

Acceptance Criteria

Minimum GPA of 2.0 in prerequisite and required courses.

Application should be made when the student has completed the prerequisite courses or during the semester in which they will be

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completed.

Advising Notes

Students with advanced Chinese language proficiency or whose mother tongue is Chinese should consult with the program advisor to arrange an appropriate program.

Prerequisite Courses

[CHI 101](#)- [CHI 102](#) First-Year Chinese or [CHI 104](#) Transitional First-Year Chinese (or equivalent proficiency)

Required Courses

[CHI 201](#)-[CHI 202](#) Second-Year Chinese

[CHI 301](#)-[CHI 302](#) Third-Year Chinese

Two China-related or Chinese language courses, which may include one course from another department

Contact Dr. Tsan Huang (thuag3@buffalo.edu) with questions.

CHI 100: Business Chinese: Conversation

Credits: 3

Semester(s): Fall

Type: LEC

Not offered on a regular basis

Develops necessary language skills for both business and travel. Little or no knowledge of the Chinese language required. Basics about Chinese culture and business etiquettes are also integrated in the course.

CHI 101: First-Year Chinese

Credits: 5

Semester(s): Fall, Spring

Type: LEC

Basic language skills in speaking, reading, and writing of modern vernacular Chinese. Strongly emphasizes fluency in speaking and reading. Not open to native speakers of Mandarin or those who can read and/or write Chinese characters.

CHI 102: First-Year Chinese

Credits: 5

Semester(s): Fall, Spring

Pre-requisites: [CHI 101](#)

Type: LEC

Basic language skills in speaking, reading, and writing of modern vernacular Chinese. Strongly emphasizes fluency in speaking and reading. Not open to native speakers of Mandarin or those who can read and/or write Chinese characters.

CHI 104: Transitional First-Year Chinese

Credits: 5

Semester(s): Spring

Type: LEC

For students who can speak Mandarin or any local dialect of Chinese but have only a little knowledge of reading and writing in Chinese. Students taking this course are not permitted to enroll in [CHI 101](#)- [CHI 102](#) and vice versa.

CHI 105: Intensive 1st Year Chinese

Credits: 10

Semester(s): Spring

Type: LEC

Not offered on a regular basis

An intensive course covering both [CHI 101](#) and [CHI 102](#) in one semester. Students taking this course are not permitted to enroll in [CHI 104](#) or CHI 101-[CHI 102](#), and vice versa.

CHI 110: Beginning Business Chinese

Credits: 4

Semester(s): Fall

Type: LEC

Designed to help students develop basic language skills for both business and travel. No prior knowledge of the Chinese language required. Basics about Chinese culture and business etiquettes are also integrated in the course.

CHI 201: Second-Year Chinese

Credits: 4

Semester(s): Fall

Type: LEC

Continuation [CHI 102](#). Reading speed is substantially accelerated, and there is oral practice based on the reading materials.

CHI 202: Second-Year Chinese

Credits: 3

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Semester(s): Spring
Pre-requisites: [CHI 201](#)
Type: LEC

Continuation of [CHI 201](#). Reading speed is substantially accelerated, and there is oral practice based on the reading materials.

CHI 280: Survey of Chinese Culture

Credits: 3
Semester(s): Spring
Type: LEC

Surveys major cultural and traditional elements that have influenced various aspects of Chinese life. Topics include classical Chinese philosophical ideals, religion, women, family, education, Chinese language and symbolic reference, and literature and art. Taught in English; requires no knowledge of Chinese language.

CHI 301: Third-Year Chinese

Credits: 3
Semester(s): Fall
Type: LEC

Involves readings and discussions, both written and oral, of works on contemporary cultural and social life in the vernacular.

CHI 302: Third-Year Chinese

Credits: 3
Semester(s): Spring
Pre-requisites: [CHI 301](#)
Type: LEC

Continuation of [CHI 301](#). Involves readings and discussions, both written and oral, of works on contemporary cultural and social life in the vernacular.

CHI 311: Masterpieces of Classical Chinese Literature in Translation

Credits: 3
Type: LEC

Not offered on a regular basis

Studies representative works of classical Chinese literature. Taught in English; requires no knowledge of Chinese language.

CHI 322: Modern Chinese Literature in Translation

Credits: 3
Type: LEC

Not offered on a regular basis

The history of modern China is a continuous process of political, social, cultural, and intellectual metamorphoses, and modern Chinese literature is a part of and a reflection of these changes. With readings of representative literary works in English translation, the course discusses the birth and development of modern Chinese literature, emphasizing this literature as a mirror of and a moving

force for modern China's social, political, cultural, and intellectual changes. Taught in English; requires no knowledge of Chinese language.

CHI 341: Literary Chinese I

Credits: 3
Semester(s): Fall
Type: LEC

Not offered on a regular basis

A reading course on historical, philosophical, and literary works in the literary language of Wenyan by leading men of letters in classical China.

CHI 342: Literary Chinese II

Credits: 3
Semester(s): Spring
Type: LEC

Continuation of [CHI 341](#). A reading course on historical, philosophical, and literary works in the literary language of Wenyan by leading men of letters in classical China.

CHI 371: Business Chinese

Credits: 4
Type: LEC

Not offered on a regular basis

Emphasizes speaking and listening skills in a business context. Uses reading and writing assignments extensively to enhance students' conversational skills, presentations and classroom discussions. Topics covered include the influence of traditional Chinese culture, such as Confucianism, Taoism, and military strategies, on the Chinese style of business negotiation and etiquette. Students also study current materials concerning China's business and trade organizations, regulations, and practices.

CHI 372: Business Chinese

Credits: 4
Type: LEC

Not offered on a regular basis

Continuation of [CHI 371](#). Emphasizes speaking and listening skills in a business context. Uses reading and writing assignments extensively to enhance students' conversational skills, presentations and classroom discussions. Topics covered include the influence of traditional Chinese culture, such as Confucianism, Taoism, and military strategies, on the Chinese style of business negotiation and etiquette. Students also study current materials concerning China's business and trade organizations, regulations, and practices.

CHI 380: Chinese Tradition & Guanxi

Credits: 3
Semester(s): Fall
Type: LEC

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Not offered on a regular basis

Surveys major cultural and traditional elements that have influenced various aspects of contemporary Chinese life. Topics include Chinese philosophical ideals, religion, women, family, education, Chinese language and symbolic reference, literature and art in both traditional and modern China. Taught in English; requires no knowledge of Chinese language.

CHI 401: Readings on Chinese Culture and Customs

Credits: 3
Type: LEC

An advanced vernacular Chinese (Baihua) language course with readings on daily life and customs in China today. In learning the language, students learn how a Chinese person would behave, think, and talk in various situations. Students also study and discuss the differences between Chinese and American social customs and behaviors (all in Chinese, of course). An informative course for a student whose future career may require close contact and association with China.

CHI 402: Readings on Chinese Culture and Customs

Credits: 3
Pre-requisites: [CHI 401](#)
Type: LEC

Continuation of [CHI 401](#). An advanced vernacular Chinese (Baihua) language course with readings on daily life and customs in China today. In learning the language, students learn how a Chinese person would behave, think, and talk in various situations. Students also study and discuss the differences between Chinese and American social customs and behaviors (all in Chinese, of course). An informative course for a student whose future career may require close contact and association with China.

CHI 430: Special Topics

Credits: 3
Type: LEC

May be offered in Chinese, English, or both.

CHI 431: Special Topics

Credits: 3
Type: LEC

May be offered in Chinese, English, or both.

CHI 490: Directed Readings in Chinese

Credits: 2-3
Type: TUT

The content of this course is variable and therefore it is repeatable for credit. The [University Grade Repeat Policy](#) does not apply.

Involves readings tailored to the individual needs and interests of students of advanced standing.

CHI 494: Senior Capstone Course

Credits: 3
Semester(s): Fall
Type: TUT

Course for senior-level majors intended to provide a learning experience that integrates knowledge from lower-level courses. Topics may vary.

CHI 496: Internship/Practicum

Credits: 3
Type: TUT

The content of this course is variable and therefore it is repeatable for credit. The [University Grade Repeat Policy](#) does not apply.

Hands-on experience in language and cultural studies at institutions and organizations in Western New York and/or nationwide.

CHI 498: Undergraduate Research

Credits: 1-8
Type: TUT

The content of this course is variable and therefore it is repeatable for credit. The [University Grade Repeat Policy](#) does not apply.

Students collaborate with faculty research mentors on an ongoing project or conduct independent research under the guidance of a faculty member. This experience provides students with an inquiry-based learning opportunity and engages them as active learners in a research setting.

CHI 499: Independent Study

Credits: 1-3
Type: TUT

The content of this course is variable and therefore it is repeatable for credit. The [University Grade Repeat Policy](#) does not apply.

Allows students with some prior knowledge of Chinese to sit in courses, be involved in classroom activities, help tutor students taking lower level Chinese courses and help the instructors with some of the grading.