

Introduction to Classical Chinese

Fall 2009

Syllabus

Course unique number: 31555

Meeting time: MWF 1-2

Classroom: [NOA](#) 1.116

Course website at http://asnic.utexas.edu/asnic/dsena/courses/chi322_wenyan/

For the updated version of this syllabus, consult the course website.

Instructor

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Course description

This course is designed to give students an introduction to classical Chinese, the written language of China from the sixth century B.C. through the second century A.D. and the foundation of the literary language of China in use until the early twentieth century. Students will be introduced to basic syntax, grammar, and vocabulary through the reading of authentic texts ranging from a variety of literary genres including short proverbs, philosophical writings, and historical literature.

Prerequisites

This class is designed for students who have taken at least two years of modern Chinese and who have had no prior instruction in classical or literary Chinese. All students must have attended CHI 612 or CHI 412L *in residence at UT* with a grade of at least C or else have the consent of the instructor.

Requirements

Preparation: The success of this class depends on the conscientious and timely preparation of all students. Coming to class unprepared will not only hamper one's own progress but will waste the time of every other student in the class. To be fully prepared, students should have completed the following tasks BEFORE WE BEGIN to cover a new lesson in class:

- Thoroughly read the text, glossary, and commentary.
- Write out all practice exercises.
- Memorize (pronunciation, meaning, and how to write the graph) all vocabulary in the passage.
- Formulate questions regarding grammatical points and word usage.
- Be familiar enough with the passage to sight translate without relying on notes, glossaries, or prepared translations.

Class participation: Your preparation will be reflected in your class participation. During class, you will be called upon to read passages aloud in Mandarin pronunciation, to sight-translate without relying on notes, glossaries, or prepared translations, and to provide a concise grammatical analysis of each sentence. In addition students are expected to formulate questions and to participate actively in class discussion.

Exercises: Each lesson has several groups of practice exercises involving both translation from classical Chinese into English and from English into classical Chinese. Students are required to prepare and write out exercises for selective discussion in class. Exercises are to be handed in on the day we begin a new lesson. To receive full credit (indicated by a check-mark), the exercises must be conscientiously prepared and submitted on time. Answer keys for the exercises are available at the back of the textbook (pp. 365-378).

Quizzes: Three quizzes consisting of questions on vocabulary, grammar, and translation will be administered according to the following schedule:

- Quiz 1: following Lesson Two (tentatively September 18)
- Quiz 2: following Lesson Five (tentatively October 16)
- Quiz 3: following Lesson Ten (tentatively November 18)

Translation assignment: Students will be given a take-home assignment consisting of a passage of classical Chinese to be translated into English. The assignment will be distributed in class on November 23 and is due at the beginning of the final class meeting on December 4.

Final examination: The final exam will test material covered in class during the entirety of the semester. The exam is tentatively scheduled for Friday, December 11, 2:00–5:00 pm. The exam will be administered at the time and place officially scheduled by the Office of the [Registrar](#), typically finalized three weeks before the end of the semester. *All students must take the final exam at the **officially scheduled time**. No make-up final exams will be given to accommodate vacation schedules or other personal time conflicts. If you enroll in this class knowing that you will leave town before the end of the final examination period, or later commit to doing so, you run the risk of receiving a grade of zero for the final exam.*

Grading

Final grades will be calculated according to the criteria below. Grades of plus/minus will be assigned as appropriate.

- Preparation, participation and exercises: 35% (including attendance)
- Quizzes: 30% (10% each)
- Translation assignment: 15%
- Final exam: 20%

Schedule

After several introductory class meetings during the first two weeks of the semester, we will begin with Lesson One of the Rouzer textbook and proceed in order through the end of the semester. Initially we will move more slowly as we cover fundamental issues in classical Chinese grammar and syntax, with the pace of our reading to pick up considerably in the second half of the semester. It is the student's responsibility to keep their preparation one step ahead (at least) of class meetings. If you are absent and not sure what is to be covered in the next class meeting, check with a classmate or e-mail the instructor. We can expect to cover approximately one lesson per week and a total of around twelve to fourteen lessons during the entire semester.

Textbooks

The following required textbook is available at the [University Co-op](#):

- Paul Rouzer. *A New Practical Primer of Literary Chinese*. Harvard East Asian Monographs 276. Cambridge and London: Harvard University Asia Center, 2007 [[PL 1117 R68](#)].

In addition to this, the following textbook is available for OPTIONAL purchase at the University Co-op. Though this grammar handbook is not strictly required for the course, it is highly recommended for those students who wish to study classical Chinese grammar in depth. For those who will continue to study and read classical Chinese, it is an invaluable reference work:

- Pulleyblank, Edwin G. *Outline of Classical Chinese Grammar*. Vancouver: University of British Columbia Press, 1995; rpt. 2000 [[PL 1101 P85](#)].

Both textbooks have been placed on [reserve](#) at the [Perry-Castañeda Library \(PCL\)](#).

Course Website

A website for this course has been established at http://asnic.utexas.edu/asnic/dsena/courses/chi322_wenyan/. It is essential that you establish some means of accessing the site because the updated syllabus, course schedule, assignments, handouts, and important announcements will all be distributed through the website. In addition to the course website, you may also use the [eGradebook](#) in [UT Direct](#) to check your grades. If you have any trouble accessing these tools, please consult the instructor.

Policy on Scholastic Dishonesty

Students who violate University rules on [scholastic dishonesty](#) are subject to disciplinary penalties, including the possibility of failure in the course and/or dismissal from the University. Since such dishonesty harms the individual, all students, and the integrity of the University, policies on scholastic dishonesty will be strictly enforced. For further information please visit the [Student Judicial Services](#) Web site: <http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/sjs>.

Students with Disabilities

Any student with a documented disability who requires academic accommodations should contact [Services for Students with Disabilities](#) at 471-6259 (voice) or 1-866-329-3986 (Video Phone) as soon as possible to request an official letter outlining authorized accommodations.