

[CHI 322](#)

## **Introduction to Classical Chinese**

Spring 2013

### **Syllabus**

Course unique number: 32115

Meeting time: Tue & Thu, 9:30-11am

Classroom: [MEZ](#) 2.118

Course website at <http://webspace.utexas.edu/~dms2244/courses/chi322/>

**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.
- Be familiar enough with the passage to sight translate without relying on notes, glossaries, or prepared translations.
- Formulate questions regarding grammatical points and word usage.

**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.

**Pop quizzes:** The instructor reserves the right to administer unannounced vocabulary quizzes throughout the semester, as a means of evaluating student preparation. Such quizzes will be administered promptly at the start of the class period and cannot be made-up due to tardiness or absence.

**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 corrected in class and submitted at the completion of each lesson. To receive full credit (indicated by a check-mark), the exercises must be completed on time and conscientiously prepared and corrected. Should a student miss class, answer keys for the exercises will be posted online to facilitate self-correction before submitting to the instructor.

**Tests:** Three tests consisting of questions on vocabulary, grammar, and translation will be administered according to the tentative schedule below. Please note that the test schedule is determined by the pace of the class, which varies from year to year, so the following dates are subject to revision.

- Test 1: following Lesson Two, tentatively February 7
- Test 2: following Lesson Five, tentatively March 7
- Test 3: tentatively April 9

*Make-ups:* Make-up tests, offered only in cases of illness or other extraordinary circumstances, must be arranged with the instructor BEFORE the regular test is held. Requests for make-ups made after the fact will not be considered unless the student has made every reasonable effort to notify the instructor prior to the start of the exam.

**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 April 2 and is due at the beginning of class on April 30.

**Final examination:** The final exam will test material covered in class during the entirety of the semester. The exam is **tentatively** scheduled for Monday, May 13, 9:00 am -12:00 noon. 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, pop-quizzes and exercises: 35% (including attendance)
- Tests: 30% (10% each)
- Translation assignment: 15%
- Final exam: 20%

## Schedule

We will begin with Lesson "Zero" of the course packet 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 one's 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 ten to twelve lessons during the entire semester.

## **Course Packet**

A required course packet is available for purchase at [Jenn's Copy and Binding](#) (2200 Guadalupe Street, tel. 473-8669, e-mail [2200@jennscopies.com](mailto:2200@jennscopies.com)). We will begin using the material in this packet from day one, so students should obtain a copy before the first class meeting.

## **Course Website**

A website for this course has been established at <http://webspace.utexas.edu/~dms2244/courses/chi322/>. 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. Student grades will be posted on [Blackboard](#). If you have any trouble accessing these tools, please consult the instructor.

## **Access to Online Course Material**

Access to some online course material is restricted to students who are enrolled in the course. In order to acquire this material, it is necessary for you to have access to [WebSpace](#), UT's online file storage and sharing system. If you have not done so already, please [sign up for WebSpace](#) as soon as possible. Use your regular uteid and password to authenticate when prompted. Contact the instructor should you have any difficulty accessing this material.

## **Instructor's Presentations**

Copies of the presentations used by the instructor in class are available on the [course website](#). These presentation files are offered for your convenience but are in no way intended to obviate the need for careful note-taking during class.

## **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](#) website: <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](#) (tel. 471-6259 [voice] or 1-866-329-3986 [Video Phone], e-mail [ssd@austin.utexas.edu](mailto:ssd@austin.utexas.edu)) as soon as possible to request an official letter outlining authorized accommodations.