



Core Curriculum Supplement

Academic Unit / Office Modern and Classical Languages

Catalog Year of Implementation 2018-2019

Course (Prefix / Number) CHNS / 3354

Course Title Chinese Culture and Language

Core Proposal Request

Add to Core Curriculum

Revise course already in Core Curriculum

	Current Core Categorization (New additions: select N/A for this column)	Proposed Categorization for Upcoming Core
Foundational Component Area (required)	N/A (Not currently a Core course)	Language, Philosophy Culture (40)
Component Area Option (optional)	N/A (No Component Area Option)	N/A (No Component Area Option)
Category Listing: Single or Double?	N/A (Not currently a Core course)	List under the Foundational Component Area ONLY.

Core Proposal Rationale - Please provide a rationale for including, or continuing to include, this course in the UH Core Curriculum:

To meet instructional needs of students

Core Objectives (see [THECB Core objectives](#))

Critical Thinking

Teamwork

Communication

Social Responsibility

Empirical & Quantitative Skills

Personal Responsibility

Please explain how the Core Objectives selected above will be met:

- Critical Thinking: In this course, students will have to think critically about how language in general can be seen as a carrier of culture after given examples of how the Chinese language maintains and conveys the Chinese culture. Students will also have to write a final essay that allows them to analyze a certain cultural phenomenon in greater depth.
- Communication: Students will take turns leading discussion in class and write an essay summarizing and explicating points of Chinese culture reflected through language.
- Social Responsibility: Students will gain a basic understanding of the Chinese culture and culturally appropriate ways of speaking which allows them to engage Chinese people more effectively.
- Personal Responsibility: Students will learn about the ethical issues of saving endangered dialects or languages.

When submitting this proposal form, please remember to attach a syllabus, learning objectives, and/or sample lesson(s).

CHNS 3354
Chinese Culture and Language
Fall 2016
Fridays 10:00 – 11:30
McElhinney 103

Instructor: Ming-Chew Teo

Office: Agnes Arnold Hall 659

Office Hours: Mondays and Wednesdays 10:00 – 11:30, and by appointment

Email: mteo@uh.edu

Course Introduction:

Taking a linguistics approach, this course will explore how the Chinese language can be seen as a carrier of Chinese culture from the past to the present. Students gain an understanding of the nature of the Chinese language and by learning about its present state and its historical development.

Students will also learn about Chinese culture and history through the composition of Chinese characters, Chinese kinship terms, borrowings from foreign languages, and Chinese ways of saying things.

Each class will mix discussion and lecture on the materials covered in the textbook and readings. This will give students an opportunity to raise questions and to talk about various issues of interest.

This class is not intended for students whose first language is Chinese, unless they are declared majors or minors in Chinese Studies.

Course Objectives:

Upon completion of this course, you will be able to

1. Discuss the composition of the Chinese language family, and give typological characteristics and historical background of the language(s).
2. Demonstrate an understanding of distinctive linguistic features of the Chinese language.
3. Explain the development of the Chinese script from the Zhou dynasty to the present.
4. Explain the historical development of the Chinese language.
5. Explain the basic composition of Chinese characters. Students will need to learn to recognize some Chinese characters to do so.
6. Explain how Chinese may be input into a computer.
7. Explain the rationale behind Chinese language reform in both speech and writing systems.
8. Understand how identity is constructed through language and socially appropriate ways of speaking.
9. Understand the ethical issues of saving endangered dialects/languages.
10. Exhibit a survey knowledge of text traditions that comprise the Chinese cultural “canon.”

Textbook and Materials:

You are expected to purchase the following textbook at the Bookstore.

Kane, Daniel. 2006. The Chinese Language: It's Current History and Use. Cambridge University Press.

All other materials will be made available as handouts or links to articles on Blackboard.

Grading:

- A. Class participation (5%)
Attend classes regularly and participate actively in discussions.
- B. Lead class discussion (5%)
Students are to lead discussions by preparing a handout that contains:
1) a short summary of the reading(s); 2) a few discussion questions.
- C. Blackboard assignments (24%)
A Blackboard assignment normally consists of readings, an online quiz/exercise and short writing.
- D. Final Essay/Project (26%)
The final essay/project will be due the last official class day. The essay will allow you to independently identify a topic on which you will summarize and explicate points of Chinese culture reflected through language. Example topics will be provided.
- E. Exams (40%)
A midterm and a final, 20% each.

Grading Scale:

A = 93 – 100; **A-** = 90 – 92.5; **B+** = 87 – 89.5; **B** = 83 – 86.5; **B-** = 80 – 82.5;
C+ = 77 – 79.5; **C** = 73 – 76.5; **C-** = 70 – 72.5; **D+** = 67 – 69.5; **D** = 63 – 66.5;
D- = 60 – 62.5; **F** = < 60.

Class Policies:

- 1. Attendance and absences:** Students are required to attend all classes throughout the semester. If you must miss a class for a health or other significant reason, please let me know in advance. Regardless of the circumstances, you are responsible for all the materials during your absence. Excessive absence will impair your grades.
- 2. No electronic devices:** No laptops, tablets, smartphones etc. will be allowed in class. Please keep all sound-emitting devices on silent mode and in your bags. If there is good reason why a device must be left on, please secure the instructor's approval before class begins.
- 3. Academic Honesty:** Any violations to the university academic honesty policy will be pursued according to University guidelines. Please find the Academic Honesty Policy on the web.

4. Disability Support Services: If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact me personally as soon as possible so we can discuss accommodations that are necessary to allow your full participation in this course.

Tentative Schedule:

Topics covered	Time	Readings
Class overview. Introduction to the Chinese language.	Week One	Norman, Chapter One.
China and its surrounding languages. Modern Standard Chinese from second language learner perspective.	Week Two	Kane, 1-29. Norman, Chapter One.
Overview of pronunciation and the Chinese language family (dialects)	Week Three	Kane, 94-106, 139-154.
Chinese characters	Week Four	Kane, 33-76.
Word classification for Modern Standard Chinese. Chinese computer input.	Week Five	Kane, 155-185. TBA.
Review	Week Six	
Midterm Exam	Week Seven	
Chinese script development	Week Eight	Kane, 80-92. Norman, Chapter Three.
Ancient and Middle Chinese	Week Nine	Kane, 85-93. Sun, 13-19.
History of language reforms and language policies	Week Ten	Sun, 20-28.
Culture in Popular Language	Week Eleven	Jurafsky, 171-186.
Culture in Popular Language	Week Twelve	Sun, 115-146.
Language and cultural identity	Week Thirteen	Zhang 2005.
Thanksgiving Holiday	Week Fourteen	
Review	Week Fifteen	
Exam Week		

Note: Blackboard assignments will be due on 9/1, 9/8, 9/15, 9/22, 9/29, 10/13, 10/20, 10/27, 11/3, 11/10, 11/17, 12/1

Important administrative dates:

- August 29 Last day to add a class.
- September 9 Last day to Drop a Course or Withdraw without receiving a grade.
- October 28 Last day to drop a course or withdraw with a 'W'.
- December 3 Last day of classes.
- December 15 Official closing.