CHI 322 (32225)  
Introduction to Classical Chinese  
Chien-hsin Tsai  
Office Hours: TTH 11:00am-12:30pm WCH 5.104B or by appointments  
Class Time & Location: TTH 9:30-11:00 (MEZ 2.118)

Course description
This course introduces students 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 learn about 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 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
1. Preparation: The success of this class depends on the conscientious and timely reparation of all students. Coming to class unprepared will not only hamper one’s own progress but will put that of other students at risk. 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.
2. Attendance: Two undocumented absences will reduce your attendance grades to 1/2, three to 1/4, three and more to ZERO. And when you don’t attend the class, there are, logically, no points for participation.
3. Class Participation: Your preparation will be reflected in your class participation. During class, students will take turns 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. Additionally, students are expected to formulate questions and to participate actively in class discussion.
4. Vocabulary Quizzes: Short weekly vocabulary quizzes will be administered promptly at the beginning of class meetings on Thursdays (excluding test days). These quizzes may not be made-up due to tardiness or absence.
5. Exercises: Each lesson has several groups of practice exercises involving both translation from classical Chinese into English. Students are required to prepare and write out exercises for selective discussion in class.
6. **Test:** Each test consists of vocabulary, translation from literary Chinese to English, and translation from literary Chinese to contemporary standard Mandarin.
   - **Make-ups:** Offered only in cases of illness or other extraordinary circumstances and must be arranged with the instructor BEFORE the regular test is held. Requests for make-ups made after the fact is generally not considered unless the student has made every reasonable effort to notify the instructor prior to the start of the exam.

7. **Translation Assignment:** Student will be given a take-home assignment consisting of a text to be translated into English on Week 14. The assignment is due on Nov. 29.

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**Grading**

- Attendance: 10%
- Participation and preparation: 20%
- Vocabulary quizzes: 15%
- Tests: 40% (10% the first two, 20% the last one)
- Translation assignment: 15%

**Course texts (selections, available on Canvas)**

3. Supplemental readings

**Schedule**

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 email the instructor. We can expect to cover approximately one lesson per week. In the first two months of the semester (week 2 to week 9), we will study the basics. Henceforward, we will delve into famous texts (level of difficulty: intermediate) and the pace of our reading may pick up considerably.

**Official Policies**

- **Academic integrity:** You are expected to adhere to university requirements on academic honesty and integrity. Behaviors, such as plagiarism, copying of another student’s work, are serious offenses that will result in the grade of an “F” for the course and will be reported to the office of Student Judicial Services, where further disciplinary action may be taken. Please refer to the following website for information on how to avoid plagiarism in your work and/or discuss this with the instructor: [http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/sjs/acint_student.php](http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/sjs/acint_student.php)
- **University Electronic Notification Mail Policy:** In this course, e-mail will be used as a means of communication with students. You will be responsible for checking your e-mail regularly for class announcements and assignments. As per the University Electronic
Notification Policy (please see http://www.utexas.edu/its/policies/emailnotify.html), it is your responsibility to update your email address and to check your e-mail regularly.

• Accommodations for Students with Documented Disabilities: Students who require special accommodations need to get a letter that documents the disability from the Services for Students with Disabilities area of the Office of the Dean of Students (471-6529 voice or 471-4641 TTY). This letter should be presented to the instructor at the beginning of the semester so that appropriate accommodations can be made at that time. For more information, please see: http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/ssd/

• Use of Canvas in Class: Most of our readings are available on Canvas. You should print out and bring your readings to class. Please allow yourself enough time before an assignment is due. As with all computer systems, there are occasional scheduled downtimes as well as unanticipated disruptions. Blackboard is available at http://courses.utexas.edu. Support is provided by the ITS Help Desk at 475-9400 during business hours on weekdays.

• The following recommendations regarding emergency evacuation from the Office of Campus Safety and Security, 512-471-5767, http://www.utexas.edu/safety/
  • Occupants of buildings on The University of Texas at Austin campus are required to evacuate buildings when a fire alarm is activated. Alarm activation or announcement requires exiting and assembling outside.
  • Familiarize yourself with all exit doors of each classroom and building you may occupy. Remember that the nearest exit door may not be the one you used when entering the building.
  • Students requiring assistance in evacuation shall inform their instructor in writing during the first week of class.
  • In the event of an evacuation, follow the instruction of faculty or class instructors.
  • Do not re-enter a building unless given instructions by the following: Austin Fire Department, The University of Texas at Austin Police Department, or Fire Prevention Services office.
  • Behavior Concerns Advice Line (BCAL): 512-232-5050
  • Link to information regarding emergency evacuation routes and emergency procedures can be found at: utexas.edu/emergency.

• By UT Austin policy, you must notify me of your pending absence at least fourteen days prior to the date of observance of a religious holy day. If you must miss a class, an examination, a work assignment, or a project in order to observe a religious holy day, you will be given an opportunity to complete the missed work within a reasonable time after the absence.