PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Courses in Chinese encompass the study of Chinese language, literature, media and culture. The primary emphasis is on Modern Standard Chinese (putonghua: the national language of China known to English speakers as Mandarin), though limited study is also available for Cantonese and Classical Chinese (wenyan). The upper division courses taught in Chinese form the nucleus for a minor and provide a foundation for advanced studies at other universities or graduate school. Upper division lecture courses taught in English are designed to help students appreciate the richness of Chinese culture, language and literature in the tradition of general education.

An understanding of China, combined with a proficiency in the Chinese language, will, in addition to the obvious academic and intellectual gains, make one more versatile and more sought after in international business, education, social work, law enforcement, government, and foreign service positions upon graduation.

Through language instruction it is believed that the student will acquire the basic tools to communicate with the growing population of Chinese-speaking immigrants in California, to undertake travels in China, Taiwan, Hong Kong, and other Southeast Asian countries where Chinese are a major ethnic group, and to pursue further studies in Chinese history, culture, and society.

Students interested in further advanced study in Chinese may design a Special Major in Chinese through consulting program faculty and spending one year undergoing intensive language study at a Mandarin Training Center in Taiwan, China or Hong Kong.

Note: Proficiency posting to students’ permanent transcripts is available through the Department of Foreign Languages in Mandarin and Cantonese. Proficiency is measured by a two-part examination.

MINOR REQUIREMENTS

Total units required for Minor: 12

Courses in parentheses are prerequisites.

Specific course requirements:

(3) CHIN 102 Advanced Mandarin: T.V., Film & Radio
    (CHIN 2B or permission of instructor)

(3) CHIN 103 Advanced Mandarin: Conversation & Composition
    (CHIN 2B or permission of instructor)

(3) CHIN 105 Advanced Mandarin: Topics in Chinese Linguistics
    (CHIN 2B or permission of instructor)

(3) CHIN 110 Advanced Mandarin: Modern Chinese Fiction
    (CHIN 2B or permission of instructor)

The prerequisite lower division language acquisition will generally be done through coursework, though an equivalency exam is available for those students who feel they may already be at the upper division level.

FACULTY

Mark Riley, Chair, Department of Foreign Languages
Lewis Robinson; Kenneth Luk
Alice Cain, Department Secretary
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LOWER DIVISION COURSES

1A. Elementary Mandarin. A beginning course in Mandarin with emphasis on listening comprehension, speaking, grammar structure and character writing. The relationship between language and culture will also be emphasized. The course will include an introduction to elements of Chinese culture that pertain to language, such as mode of thinking, inter-human relations, and aesthetic expressions. 5 units. (CAN CHIN 2)

1B. Elementary Mandarin. Continuation of CHIN 1A, with growing emphasis on reading, writing, and listening. Chinese cultural patterns as reflected in the language, such as societal values and views of the world, will continue to be emphasized. Prerequisite: CHIN 1A or permission of instructor. 5 units. (CAN CHIN 4)

2A. Intermediate Mandarin. An intermediate course in Mandarin on the further development of reading, speaking, and writing skills. Emphasis will be placed on the shift from romanized script to Chinese characters. Introduction will also be made to simple prose reading. Meets the Foreign Language Graduation Proficiency Requirement. Prerequisite: CHIN 1B or permission of instructor. 4 units.

2B. Chinese Impact on East Asian Languages and Cultures. Imparts an appreciation of the linguistic and cultural impact of Classical China upon the nations of East Asia, with a view toward understanding the present-day relationship between language and culture in each of the major countries under consideration (China, Japan, Korea, Viet Nam, etc.). Note: due to the nature of the linguistic borrowing, it is essential that the student have at least an intermediate proficiency in written Chinese, attained by means of either personal background, or successful completion of CHIN 2A. 4 units.

5A. Intermediate Conversational Skills in Mandarin. Controlled conversation and discussion in Mandarin to develop more advanced conversational skills in the language. Students will have regularly assigned tapes to listen to, videos to watch and texts to read, in order to develop the ability to understand and respond to Mandarin spoken in everyday situations. This course is designed for students at the intermediate or 2A-B level. Note: this course meets the Foreign Language Graduation Proficiency Requirement. Prerequisite: CHIN 1B or permission of instructor. 3 units.

10A. Elementary Cantonese. A beginning course in Cantonese with emphasis on listening comprehension, speaking, and grammar structure. The relationship between language and culture will also be emphasized. The course will include an introduction to elements of Chinese culture that pertain to language, such as mode of thinking, inter-human relations, and aesthetic expressions. 4 units.

10B. Elementary Cantonese. Continuation of CHIN 10A. Chinese cultural patterns as reflected in the language, such as societal values and views of the world, will continue to be emphasized. Prerequisite: CHIN 10A or permission of instructor. 4 units.

UPPER DIVISION COURSES

102. Advanced Mandarin: T.V., Film and Radio. The course is designed to enhance general proficiency in Mandarin Chinese at an advanced level through the various Chinese media. The course is open to students who have successfully completed Intermediate Mandarin, and others who can demonstrate an equivalent degree of proficiency. Prerequisite: CHIN 2B or permission of the instructor. 3 units.

103. Advanced Mandarin: Conversation and Composition. The course is designed to augment the student’s ability to treat a topic both through proper verbal expression and formal written expression. The linguistic differences between these two modes of expression are a major focus of the course. The art of letter writing is also treated. Prerequisite: CHIN 2B or permission of the instructor. 3 units.

105. Advanced Mandarin: Topics in Chinese Linguistics. Topics will include a general survey of historical linguistics, comparative dialectology, a linguistic appreciation of Classical Chinese (wenyan), the concise style of newspaper language and other written forms. Prerequisite: CHIN 2B or permission of the instructor. 3 units.

110. Advanced Mandarin: Modern Chinese Fiction. This is a survey course taught exclusively in Mandarin as an introduction to Modern Chinese Fiction through a careful study of representative works from both the People’s Republic of China and Taiwan. Prerequisite: CHIN 2B or permission of the instructor. 3 units.

120. Chinese Civilization. Presentation of formative cultural achievements of China through language and literature with a view to understanding present-day popular Chinese culture. A general survey course conducted in English for students who are taking Chinese language courses and others who want a deeper appreciation of this important non-Western culture. 3 units.

150. Survey of Chinese Literature. An introduction to Chinese literature from classical times to the present. The various forms of Chinese prose, poetry, and novel will be surveyed through the selective reading of representative works (in English translation). Class is conducted in English. Prerequisite: Passing score on the WPE. 3 units.

194. Field Experience/Internship. Directed fieldwork in a project which uses the language skills developed through previous study of Chinese. The projects may include interpreting and translating for public and/or private agencies in Sacramento, teaching or tutoring in the community, or other projects approved by the faculty supervisor. All work will be monitored by CSUS faculty. The student must submit written reports to his/her supervisor. Can be taken more than once for credit. Prerequisites: intermediate competency in Chinese and permission of instructor. Graded Credit/No Credit. 1-3 Units.

195. Fieldwork-Tutoring. Tutoring of lower division students in Mandarin or Cantonese. 3 hours of tutoring per week for each unit. May be taken for credit more than once. Prerequisites: advanced level fluency and permission of instructor. Graded Credit/No Credit. 1-3 units.

196. Experimental Offerings in Mandarin. Special topics in literature, civilization and advanced Mandarin language. 3 units.

199. Special Problems. Individual projects or directed reading. Open only to students who appear competent to carry on independent study. Admission requires the approval of the instructor by whom the work is to be supervised. 1-3 units.