

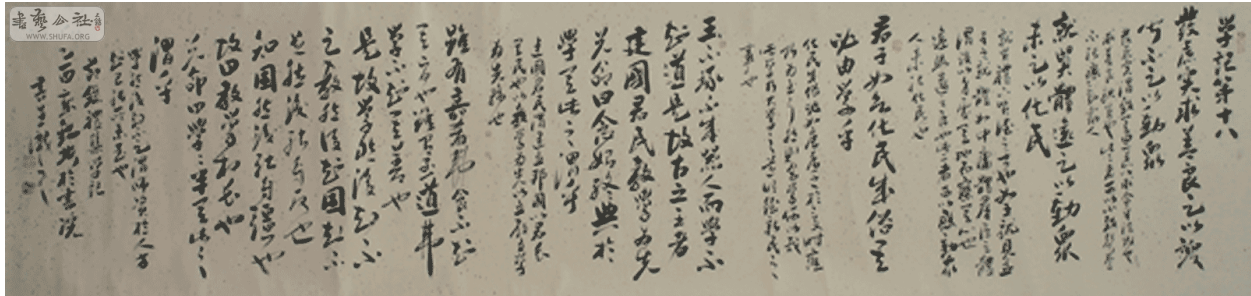
# Introduction to Classical Chinese

CHIN 0910B, Spring 2014

MWF, 10:00-10:50, J. Walter Wilson 201

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East Asian Studies  
Email: kiles@brown.edu

Office location: Gerard House, 205  
Office Hours: M 2-4, or by appointment



## Course Description:

This course will provide you with a basic understanding of Classical Chinese 古文, which is what we call the written language of the major texts from the Spring and Autumn period 春秋時代 (770-ca. 475 BCE) through the Han dynasty 漢代 (206 BCE-220 CE). Many of the foundational texts of traditional Chinese thought were written during this period, including the well known *Analects* 論語, the *Mencius* 孟子, the *Daode jing* 道德經, and the *Records of the Grand Historian* 史記. This course will introduce you to the basic grammar and vocabulary of Classical Chinese and some of the major genres and themes of the literature of this period through the reading, analysis, and translation of short passages from a range of these major texts. By the end of the semester, you will be equipped with the vocabulary, grammar, and knowledge of reference works to begin engaging with texts written in Literary Chinese 文言文/漢文, the formal written language of China from the end of the Han dynasty until the early twentieth century, but also at certain times of Japan, Korea, and Vietnam as well. You will also find that knowledge of Classical Chinese grammar and vocabulary will deepen your understanding of modern written Chinese vocabulary, grammatical constructions, and idioms.

## Prerequisite:

Students must have completed at least CHIN 0500 or JAPN 0700 or have an equivalent level of proficiency with Chinese characters to enroll in this course. Students who have previously studied Classical Chinese are welcome to audit the course but may not take it for credit. If you are unsure whether you have completed the equivalent of the prerequisite or would like to make a case for an exception, please contact me by email.

## Learning Goals:

This course will:

- Provide an overview the basic grammar, syntax, and vocabulary of Classical Chinese
- Situate readings within the history and culture of early China
- Introduce major reference works

By the end of this course, you will be able to:

- Read and translate unfamiliar texts from early China with a dictionary
- Relate readings from primary sources to the history and culture of early China
- Discern the elements of Classical Chinese in formal writing in modern Chinese

### **Materials:**

The following coursepack, which is required for this course, will be available for purchase at the Brown Bookstore:

*An Introduction to Classical Chinese*, edited by Patrick Hanan and David Lattimore, and revised by Shang Wei and Lening Liu.

The following text is recommended for this course and will be available in the bookstore:

*Outline of Classical Chinese Grammar*, by Edwin G. Pulleyblank, Vancouver: University of British Columbia Press, 1995.

Additional details, updated weekly assignments and other handouts will be available on Canvas.

### **Statement on Academic Integrity:**

To ensure that all students are aware of Brown's policy on academic honesty, all students should read Brown University's Academic and Student Conduct Codes, available here: [www.brown.edu/Administration/Dean\\_of\\_the\\_College/curriculum/documents/principles.pdf](http://www.brown.edu/Administration/Dean_of_the_College/curriculum/documents/principles.pdf)

### **Statement for Students with Disabilities:**

Students who require accommodations for disabilities should contact the Student and Employee Accessibility Services (SEAS) as early in the semester as possible. They are located at 20 Benevolent Street and can be reached at (401) 863-9588 or [DDS@Brown.edu](mailto:DDS@Brown.edu).

### **Evaluation:**

Your grade for the course will be based on the following criteria (A=90%-100%, B=80%-90%, C=70%-80%). Below you will find my expectations for each described in greater detail.

<b>Participation</b>	<b>20%</b>
<b>Quizzes</b>	<b>10%</b>
<b>Homework</b>	<b>15%</b>
<b>Collaborative Project</b>	<b>10%</b>
<b>Exams</b>	<b>25%</b>
<b>Final Exam</b>	<b>20%</b>
<b>Attendance</b>	<b>-2% for each unexcused absence</b>

### **Attendance Policy**

I will expect your attendance at every meeting unless you have contacted me by email beforehand explaining why you must be absent. Generally, for each unexcused absence, your final grade will be lowered by two percentage points (2%).

**Participation (20%)**

Preparation before class and participation during class are essential components of the learning process. I ask that you do not consult vocabulary lists or prepared translations during class. In class, I will ask each student to read aloud in Mandarin, and to translate words and sentences from the text. Within the classroom, I expect you to take responsibility for your own education and to engage proactively with other students and with me. Careful listening paired with thoughtful contributions will help you make the most of your time in the classroom.

**Quizzes (10%)**

Most meetings will begin with a short quiz on vocabulary, grammar, or reading comprehension. I will not ask that you write the characters, but I do expect you to be able to recognize them, and to learn the pinyin and tone of each character. You may not make up these quizzes, but each student may drop his/her three lowest scores (including absences resulting in zeros).

**Homework (15%)**

Written exercises will be due regularly. These give you a chance to practice new vocabulary and grammar points and to receive individual feedback. It is important that you complete your homework legibly. Homework will receive a  $\checkmark$ ,  $\checkmark+$ , or  $\checkmark-$ . If you receive a  $\checkmark-$ , it is your responsibility to either correct your mistakes and hand it in to me at our next meeting, or to stop by my office hours within one week to discuss your mistakes. If you do not do either, you will receive no credit for that assignment. You are welcome to work on the homework with your classmates so long as you indicate that on the assignment. I ask that you do not seek assistance from anyone who is not a student in the class.

**Collaborative Project (10%)**

Near the end of the semester, I will ask you to participate online collaborative annotated translation exercise that will give you the opportunity to 1) apply what you have learned in class to a text not in our textbook, 2) use some of the reference materials we have discussed in class, 3) work together as a group toward a translation. I will provide more details on this project mid-semester.

**Exams (25%)**

Five exams (5% each) will test vocabulary usage, grammar, and reading comprehension. You will not need to write characters, but you will be expected to be able to read the texts in traditional characters (繁體字). Note that only in emergencies will I allow a make-up exam.

**Final Exam (20%)**

The final exam will be held on May 7, 2014 at 9:00am. This exam will be cumulative, and you will be expected to demonstrate a grasp of the basic vocabulary, grammar, particular works and genres covered over the course of the semester. I will hold several review sessions during the reading period, and I will be available to schedule individual appointments during that time as well.

**Email and Office Hours:**

I encourage all of you to meet with me during my office hours at least once during the term. I also encourage you to check the Canvas site regularly. I will use it to post announcements, relevant websites, and other supplementary materials. I will respond to all emails within 24 to 48 hours of receiving them. Please do not expect an instantaneous reply.

**Course Schedule:**

I reserve the right to revise the course schedule as necessary throughout the semester. I will not, however, change the dates of scheduled exams.

<b>Monday 10-10:50</b>	<b>Wednesday 10-10:50</b>	<b>Friday 10-10:50</b>
	1/22 Introduction	1/24 Lessons 1-2
1/27 Lessons 3-4	1/29 Lessons 4-5	1/31 Lesson 5, EXAM 1
2/3 Lessons 6-7	2/5 Lessons 7-8	2/7 Lessons 8-9
2/10 Lessons 10-11	2/12 Lessons 11-12	2/14 Lesson 12 EXAM 2
2/17 Lessons 13	2/19 Lessons 13-14	2/21 Lesson 14
2/24 Lesson 15	2/26 Lessons 15-16	2/28 Lesson 16 EXAM 3
3/3 Lesson 17	3/5 Lesson 17	3/7 Lesson 17
3/10 Lesson 17	3/12 Lesson 18	3/15 Lesson 18
3/17 Lesson 18	3/19 Lesson 18	3/21 Lesson 18 EXAM 4
3/24 Spring recess	3/26 Spring recess	3/28 Spring recess
3/31 Lesson 18	4/2 Lesson 18	4/4 Lesson 18
4/7 Lesson 19	4/9 Lesson 19	4/11 No Class, rescheduled for reading period
4/14 Lesson 19	4/16 Lesson 19	4/18 EXAM 5
4/21 Lesson 19	4/23 Final Projects	4/25 Final Projects
4/28 Final Projects	4/30 Review	5/2 Review

**FINAL EXAM: May 7, 2014, 9:00AM (group 3), location TBD**