

To: All Academic Advisors on West Lafayette Campus
From: Chinese Language Program, SLC
Date: September 23, 2015
RE: Policies and Guidelines for Undergraduate Chinese Language Courses at Purdue

This memo intends to provide guidelines to advisors on our course offerings, policies and definitions of native speakers and heritage speakers. Please note that (Mandarin) Chinese is used throughout this document to identify the language form taught at Purdue.

Definitions

Native Speakers of Chinese

Students from mainland China, Taiwan and Hong Kong are considered as native speakers of Chinese if they received elementary and junior high school education with (Mandarin) Chinese as the primary language of instruction. Due to their native proficiency in the language, they are not permitted to take the placement test nor any language courses (100- to 400-level). No credits for lower level courses (101-202) will be granted after they complete any literature, culture and calligraphy courses numbered in CHNS 280, 281, 285, 305, 330, 341, 342, 490, 594 and LC490/A&D 391 "History of Chinese Art".

Students from Hong Kong

Although the official languages in Hong Kong are English and (Mandarin) Chinese, there are substantial localized expressions and terminologies originating from Cantonese, a major dialect spoken in Hong Kong. Therefore, students who grew up and graduated from Hong Kong elementary and junior high schools are encouraged to take CHNS 313 (Advanced Reading and Writing in Chinese) to brush up their language skills in (Mandarin) Chinese. No credits for lower level courses (101-202) will be granted after they complete CHNS 313. They are welcome to take our literature, culture and calligraphy courses numbered in CHNS 280, 281, 285, 305, 330, 341, 342, 490, 594 and LC490/A&D 391 "History of Chinese Art".

Heritage Students

Previous research defines heritage Chinese students (learners and speakers) broadly as those language students who are raised in homes outside of Chinese speaking countries/regions where Chinese is spoken, and who speak or at least understand one form of Chinese (Cantonese or Mandarin) and are to some degree bilingual in Chinese and in English. More specifically, heritage students define Chinese with a particular family relevance and who are English-dominant with no or limited reading and writing ability in Chinese. Heritage students are encouraged to take the placement test for the faculty to determine their language proficiency before signing up for any CHNS language courses.

CHNS 107 and 207 are exclusively designed for heritage students.

Placement Test

The Chinese Placement Test is for non-native speakers of Chinese only and is given three times per academic year: August, October and March. Please call the School of Languages and Cultures or SLC website for the date and location of the test. This test does not belong to the SLC central testing system such as Placement Tests for Spanish, French, German or Japanese. Therefore, please do not advise students to go to the SLC Placement Test, but rather to the *Chinese* Placement Test. We are also happy to give individual tests upon students' request, and appointments are required.

The Placement Test in Chinese does not grant credits to students who take the test. It is a test for the faculty to determine the proficiency level of the students in order to place them into an advanced course. After the students take the placement test, they will be given a test result card ("yellow card") to take to the advisor for record and they will also be asked to present the card to the CHNS faculty if they wish to petition for lower level credits after passing the advanced course they were placed in. Please be advised that the students need to petition for the credits since the "credit granting" process is not automatic.

New Courses

CHNS 281: Chinese food culture: (3 credits, three hrs/week)

This course is an introduction to the food culture of China with study of Chinese gastronomy, including history, production and preparation of Chinese food, drinks and snacks. Discussions include the cultures of foods and their social functions in networking and profession. Chinese food industry outside of Chinese speaking regions will be discussed as well. Readings are in English. NO PRIOR EXPOSURE TO THE CHINESE LANGUAGE IS ASSUMED.

CHNS 330: Chinese cinema: (3 credits, three hrs/week)

This course surveys the development of Chinese cinema from its beginning to the present. Films from mainland China as well as Taiwan and Hong Kong will be examined in-depth for their aesthetic quality and techniques, and equally important, against their socio-historical, political, economic and cultural contexts. The class is conducted in English. Films are all in Chinese with English subtitles.

Thank you very much for your cooperation. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the following faculty in their respective areas.

Professor Wei Hong (hongwei@purdue.edu): CHNS 101-402 Chinese language; Heritage Chinese;
 Professor Daniel Hsieh (dhsieh@purdue.edu): classical Chinese language and literature;
 Professor Hongjian Wang (wang2512@purdue.edu): modern Chinese literature and film;