

CHINESE 504

**Advanced Topics In Chinese Languages And Linguistics** [16:165:504] (Cr. 3.)

**Syllabus**

May 23 to June 27, 2011  
Mondays and Wednesdays 5:00-9:00 pm  
Scott Hall Room 330

This is a **HYBRID** course. It will be conducted partially on-line and have at least five in-person meetings. Tentatively, on campus dates are scheduled for 5/23, 5/25, 6/6, 6/13, 6/20, 6/27 and on-line dates are 6/1, 6/8, 6/15, 6/22. The first in-person meeting is Monday, May 23 at 5:00 pm in Scott Hall Room 103. The full course schedule will be confirmed in class.

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This course is a graduate seminar in Chinese linguistics focusing on topics relevant to the teaching of Chinese. Topics we will cover include pronunciation and Romanization, the history and development of the writing system, grammar, historical phonology, dialectology, prosody and rhyming, and the history of the language in general.

In this course we will focus on an investigation of linguistic topics regarding Chinese to provide teachers of the language with in-depth understanding of issues that confront learners of the language and the vast range of spoken and written Chinese they will encounter. The course will provide a solid foundation and background in the actual descriptive and theoretical linguistic issues that are relevant to teaching and learning Chinese. The main emphasis will be on how to bring linguistic knowledge to bear in teaching Chinese, what linguistic material is of most use to learners, and how best to present that material to students so that it will enhance their learning of the language and reinforce their mastery.

**Summer 2011** will focus entirely on *wénzìxué* 文字学—all about the Chinese writing system, its, history, structure, etc.

**SAKAI** at [sakai.rutgers.edu](http://sakai.rutgers.edu) is the name of the Course Management System we will use for the online portion of this course. Rutgers NetID is required to access Sakai, you are responsible for obtaining a NetID and an Rutgers (“eden”) email account in which to receive official notices regarding the class and your course of study at Rutgers.

**Required Texts and Readings will all be supplied via the "Resources" tab on SAKAI**

## **General Requirements**

Attendance and Participation: Attendance and active participation in class and initiative outside of class and in on-line activities are of paramount importance. Students are expected to come to every class and to fully participate in all on-line activities. The success of this seminar requires active student commitment to reading outside of class and engagement in class discussions and in on-line activities. Due to the short, intensive nature of the course, any absences or missing work will severely affect the final course grade.

Assignments: There will be regular reading, on-line, and homework assignments. All assignments must be completed on time; late assignments will not receive credit. When you do the readings, you must:

- 1) Take careful notes. What is the author's main argument or analysis? What kind of data is used to support it?
- 2) What is your opinion of the article? Are there areas you disagree with? Has the article led you to see things differently?
- 3) Were there sections you did not understand, or terminology you don't know? Be prepared to bring questions to class.

Focused discussion: Students are required to prepare lists of questions or problem items related to course topics and readings for each class and on-line session. These questions and items will serve as departure points for discussion.

## **Primary term assignment**

Students in the course must choose one of the following term assignments:

A. Lesson plan: Compile a detailed lesson plan for a 20 minute class that represents a communicative oriented lesson highlighting learning tasks focused on a specific language learning task related to the course topic and the teaching of Chinese. Students may choose which learning task to focus on. Students are expected to approach the lesson plans as application of the material, issues, and theories covered in class.

OR

B. Seminar Paper: Write a short research paper that critically reviews one area within the fields of Chinese linguistics covered in the course (pronunciation, Romanization, Grammar, Chinese characters and the writing system). The papers should bring empirical observations to bear in support of their arguments. The reports must contain extensive illustration and examples in Chinese. These examples should account for about 50% of the total content of the report and be written in Chinese characters AND Romanized Chinese AND glossed in English. The report must follow normal conventions of style for college term papers and must include a bibliography.

At the end of the course all students will hand in these assignment using the "Assignments" tab in Sakai and then present their lesson plan or seminar paper to the full class. Students should meet with the course instructor to discuss their choice and topic prior to selection of a final choice, which *should be made by the first in-person meeting in June*.

Tests: There will be at least two tests. The first will be on the basic concepts and terminology for the study of writing systems (primarily in English). The second will be on Traditional Chinese

terminology regarding the writing system (in Chinese and English). I will provide you with further information on these tests later. No make-ups will be given for missed tests.

Exams: There will be a final exam covering the material presented in class and the readings.

Grading: Final grades will be based on attendance and participation in class, written assignments and the report, test results, and the final. Your final grade will be calculated approximately as follows (subject to revision as necessary):

- attendance/focused discussion 10% (or more)
- assignments/reading responses 20%
- term assignment 30%
- tests/quizzes 20%
- final 20%

### Course Readings

The readings will be supplied in the "Resources" tab in Sakai from a selection of texts listed in the course bibliography provided at the end of this syllabus as well as other sources.

### Daily Syllabus (preliminary—subject to revision as the course proceeds)

Session	Content
Session 1: <i>In person</i> May 23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Course Introduction</li> <li>• Preliminary discussion &amp; Review of Chinese speech sounds</li> <li>• The concept of the word, the morpheme, and the Chinese character and their theoretical place in the Chinese utterance and the Chinese writing system</li> </ul>
Session 2: <i>In person</i> May 25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The relationship between speaking and writing and between written and spoken Chinese</li> <li>• Historical forms of Chinese, both written and spoken</li> <li>• The origin and development of writing systems in general and Chinese in particular</li> </ul>
Session 3: <i>On-line</i> June 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discussion and response assignment on Sakai for first set of readings:</li> <li>• Jared Diamond 1997 Chapter 11</li> <li>• Qiu Xigui Chapter 1 (primarily) and Chapter 2</li> <li>• Course slides 1 to 26</li> </ul>
Session 4: <i>In person</i> June 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Test:</b> <u>Basic concepts and terminology for the study of writing systems</u></li> <li>• Guessing at pictographs</li> <li>• The nature of the writing system, the structure of Chinese characters</li> <li>• Semantic symbols, phonetic symbols, and signs</li> <li>• The three phases of Chinese character development (Boltz)</li> <li>• Evolution of the script, diversity, unification, Qín script, changes in styles and fonts</li> </ul>
Session 5: <i>On-line</i> June 8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discussion and response assignment on Sakai for second set of readings</li> <li>• Qiu Xigui Chapter 3</li> <li>• Course slides 27 to 40</li> </ul>
Session 6: <i>In person</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Xǔ Shèn's <i>Shuōwén jiězì</i></li> <li>• Xǔ Shèn's <i>liù shū</i>, their place in understanding the structure of Chinese characters,</li> </ul>

June 13	and their relationship to the evolutionary principles of Chinese writing
Session 7: <i>On-line</i> June 15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discussion and response assignment on Sakai for third set of readings</li> <li>• Qiu Xigui Chapter 6</li> <li>• Course slides 41 to 49</li> </ul>
Session 8: <i>In person</i> June 20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Test:</b> <u>Traditional Chinese terminology regarding the writing system</u></li> <li>• The number of characters throughout history—variation and expansion of the writing system, traditional dictionaries</li> <li>• The role of historical forms of Chinese and the dialects in the evolution of Chinese characters</li> <li>• The "Traditional" versus "Simplified" character debate</li> <li>• Principles of simplification</li> </ul>
Session 9: <i>On-line</i> June 22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discussion and response assignment on Sakai for fourth set of readings</li> <li>• Qiu Xigui Chapter 13</li> <li>• Zhou Youguang Chapter 3</li> <li>• Course slides 50 to 61 &amp; Norman Tables 3.6-3.8</li> </ul>
Session 10: <i>In person</i> June 27	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Term assignment paper</b> due in Sakai by June 24</li> <li>• <b>Lesson plans:</b> Presentation of terms assignments</li> <li>• <b>Final exam</b></li> </ul>