

01:165:321 Introduction to Classical Chinese

Sessions: Tuesday/Friday 9:50-11:10 am
Classroom: Tuesday SC 216; Friday SC 104
Instructor: Rachel Zhang
Email: rjz31@rutgers.edu
Office hours: Th 12:30-2:30 pm
Office: SC 341

Prerequisites: 01:165:202 or 222 or placement

Course Description and Goals:

This course provides an introduction to Classical Chinese, known in Chinese as *wényán wén* 文言文 or *gǔdài hànǔ* 古代汉语. Classical Chinese is a written form of Chinese that differs substantially from colloquial or spoken Chinese and which served as the standard for written texts for most of Chinese history. We still find the influence of the grammar, style, and vocabulary of Classical Chinese in formal Chinese writing in modern times. So even students who only wish to learn modern Chinese should be familiar with the basics of Classical Chinese.

This class will introduce the essentials of Classical Chinese vocabulary and grammar. By the end of the class students will be able to analyze and read simple texts in Classical Chinese. They will also be able to write simple texts in literary Chinese and to recite selected short passages in the language.

Textbooks:

Required:

- John C. Y. Wang, Sue-mei Wu, Shaoyu Jiang, and Frank F. S. Hsueh, *Classical Chinese Primer*, Set of 2 volumes—reader & workbook (Hong Kong: The Chinese University Press, 2007).
 - Publisher's website: <https://cup.columbia.edu/book/classical-chinese-primer-reader-workbook/9789629962869>
- Kai Li and James Erwin Dew, *Classical Chinese—A Functional Approach* (Boston: Cheng & Tsui Company, Inc., 2008). In Traditional Characters.
 - Publisher's website: <https://www.cheng-tsui.com/browse/classical-chinese>

Supplementary Grammar Book (Posted on Sakai):

- Edwin G. Pulleyblank, *Outline of Classical Chinese Grammar* (Vancouver: UBC Press, 1995).

Grading:

1. Attendance and effort 10%
2. Homework/assignments 10%
3. Quizzes 20% (5% × 4)
4. Midterm Exam 30%
5. Final Exam 30%

Course Requirements:

1. Attendance and effort: Learning a language, especially one as difficult as Classical Chinese, is a very demanding task. Attendance is of utmost importance and you are expected to come to every class. You are allowed two unexcused absences. Beginning with the third class you miss, your final grade will be lowered by 1/3 of a grade for each day you are absent without bona fide medical or religious cause. If you expect to miss one or two classes, please use the University absence reporting website <https://sims.rutgers.edu/ssra/> to indicate the date and reason for your absence. An email is automatically sent to your course instructor.
2. Assignments: You must also complete and turn in ALL assigned homework on time before class begins. Sometimes the homework assignments will be corrected orally in class to be turned in for credit; others will be corrected and graded by the instructor. The course instructor will determine which assignments are to be graded and which are to be corrected orally and let you know. Late assignments will be noted but will **NOT** receive grades.
3. Quizzes and Exams: In addition to homework and regular classroom work, there will be 4 quizzes, a mid-term exam, and a final exam. All quizzes and exams are cumulative.
4. **Normally NO make-ups will be given for exams or quizzes.** If you are ill or observing a religious holiday and notify us through the absence reporting system at <https://sims.rutgers.edu/ssra/>, you will be allowed to make up the test or quiz you missed on that day.
5. **EXTRA CREDIT:** Students interested in earning extra credit (up to 3% of the total grade) in this class have a couple of standing options:

1) You may visit any current exhibit about China or things Chinese (such as Chinese art or archaeology) at a museum or elsewhere in the greater New Jersey, New York, Philadelphia area and write a one-page report about what you observed and learned at the exhibit and how it might relate to the topic of this course. The report must be written entirely by you in your own words and handed to me printed out and include the original admission ticket or admission receipt showing the date of the visit.

2) You may attend any talk, lecture, or presentation about China or things Chinese (such as Chinese history, literature, or current events) at Rutgers or elsewhere and write a one-page report about what you heard and learned at the talk and how it might relate to the topic of this course. The report must be written entirely by you in your own words and handed to me printed out and include proof of attendance showing the date of the visit (such as a flyer or announcement signed by the speaker or organizer with a written statement giving your name and stating that you attended).

Extra Credit work must be handed in within 2 weeks of the visit or event it is based on and at the latest by the date of the final exam.

Semester Schedule

- In the schedule below, the *Classical Chinese Primer* text is referred to as **CCP**; the workbook is identified as **CCW**; the other text, *Classical Chinese—A Functional Approach*, is identified as **Li & Dew**.
- CCW is the workbook for this class from which most of the homework assignments will be drawn. However, students are required to **copy out the homework assignments by hand on separate sheets of paper before completing them.** **DO NOT turn your homework in on pages torn from this book.** The reasons for this are: (1) The additional copying required will allow you more practice writing Chinese; (2) some separate assignments are on the front and back of the same page/sheet in the book and if you hand in one side you will not have access to the other side for the next assignment; and (3) leaving the exercise book blank will allow you to use it to test yourself for review and practice.
- The schedule is subject to change.

Weeks	Dates	Learning Content	Assignments Due
Week 1	9/3	Course Introduction	
	9/6	CCP 1/ <i>Fables</i> Part 1: A & B Li & Dew 1 (p. 1-5)	
Week 2	9/10	CCP 1/ <i>Fables</i> Part 1: C & D Li & Dew 1: Exercise 3 鄭人買履	CCW 1/ <i>Fables</i> Part 1: B: II & III
	9/13	CCP 2/ <i>Fables</i> Part 2: A & B CCW 2/ <i>Fables</i> Part 2: A	Li & Dew 1: Exercise 1 & 2
Week 3	9/17	CCP 2/ <i>Fables</i> Part 2: C & D Li & Dew 2 (p. 9-13)	English translation of CCP 2/ <i>Fables</i> Part 2: B (刻舟求劍)
	9/20	Review and Quiz 1 (30 minutes)	CCW 2/ <i>Fables</i> Part 2: B: I & II
Week 4	9/24	CCP 3/ <i>Lúnyǔ</i> Part 1: 甲乙 Li & Dew 2: Exercise III 甲: 曾子殺豬	English translation of CCP 2/ <i>Fables</i> Part 2: C (塞翁失馬)
	9/27	CCP 3/ <i>Lúnyǔ</i> Part 1: 丙丁 Li & Dew 2: Exercise III 乙: 雜說四	Li & Dew 2: Exercise I & II
Week 5	10/1	CCP 4/ <i>Lúnyǔ</i> Part 2: 甲 Li & Dew 3 (p. 20-23)	CCW 3/ <i>Lúnyǔ</i> Part 1: I
	10/4	CCP 4/ <i>Lúnyǔ</i> Part 2: 乙 Li & Dew 3 (p. 17-20)	English translation of Li & Dew 2: Exercise III 乙: 雜說四
Week 6	10/8	Review and Quiz 2 (30 minutes)	CCW 4/ <i>Lúnyǔ</i> Part 2: I
	10/11	CCP 5/ <i>Lúnyǔ</i> Part 3: 甲乙 Li & Dew 3: Exercise II 甲: 為學	
Week 7	10/15	Li & Dew 3: Exercise II 乙: 愛蓮說 Review	CCW 5/ <i>Lúnyǔ</i> Part 3: I & III
	10/18	Mid-term Exam	
Week 8	10/22	CCP 6/ <i>Mèngzǐ</i> Part 1	

		Li & Dew 4 (p. 27-30)	
	10/25	CCP 7/ <i>Mèngzǐ</i> Part 2 Li & Dew 4 (p. 30-33)	CCW 6/ <i>Mèngzǐ</i> Part 1: I & II
Week 9	10/29	CCP 8/ <i>Mèngzǐ</i> Part 3 Li & Dew 4: Exercise II: 以五十步笑百步	CCW 7/ <i>Mèngzǐ</i> Part 2: II
	11/1	Review and Quiz 3 (30 minutes)	Li & Dew 4: Exercise I CCW 8/ <i>Mèngzǐ</i> Part 3: I.1
Week 10	11/5	CCP 9/ <i>Lǐjì</i> Part 1 Li & Dew 5 (p. 35-37)	English translation of Li & Dew 4: Exercise II: 以五十步笑百步
	11/8	CCP 9/ <i>Lǐjì</i> Part 2 Li & Dew 5 (p. 38-40)	CCW 9/ <i>Lǐjì</i> : I & II
Week 11	11/12	CCP 10/ <i>Lǎozǐ</i> Li & Dew 6 and Exercise I	Li & Dew 5: Exercise I
	11/15	CCP 11/ <i>Mòzǐ</i> CCW 11/ <i>Mòzǐ</i>	CCW 10/ <i>Lǎozǐ</i> : I, II & III
Week 12	11/19	Review and Quiz 4 (30 minutes)	English translation of Li & Dew 6 Exercise II 乙: 矛盾
	11/22	CCP 12/ <i>Zhuāngzǐ</i> Part 1 Li & Dew 7 (p. 53-56)	
Week 13	11/26	CCP 13/ <i>Zhuāngzǐ</i> Part 2 Li & Dew 7 (p. 56-59)	CCW 12 <i>Zhuāngzǐ</i> Part 1: I & II
	11/29	Thanksgiving Break	
Week 14	12/3	CCP 14/ <i>Xūnzǐ</i> Li & Dew 8 (61-67)	Li & Dew 7 Exercise I CCW 13 <i>Zhuāngzǐ</i> Part 2: I, II & III
	12/6	CCP 15/ <i>Hán Fēizǐ</i> & Review	CCW 14/ <i>Xūnzǐ</i> : I & II
Week 15	12/10	Final Exam	