

CHINESE

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(Offered within the Department of Asian Studies)

Chinese puts you in touch with 1.3 billion people and with a culture still vital after more than 3,000 years. Already the second-largest economy in the world, with an annual economic growth rate more than double that of the U.S., China is also playing an increasingly large role in Asia. Our country critically needs proficient speakers of Chinese, not only in government service, but also in business, law, journalism, and technology. But with few exceptions, Americans visit China unable to speak the language. St. Olaf has taught Chinese since 1973 and is one of only a few colleges in the Midwest that offers four years of language study, multiple study abroad programs, and a broad selection of related courses in art, economics, history, literature, philosophy, politics and religion.

The Chinese Major

To fulfill a Chinese major, students will demonstrate both linguistic and cultural competence.

For linguistic and language skills, the Chinese language major students will possess proficiency in listening, speaking, reading, and writing at the American Council of Teaching Foreign Languages (ACTFL) Intermediate-High level or above as well as metalinguistic and intercultural awareness of the use of Chinese language in different social milieus.

Regarding cultural knowledge, students will have the ability to analyze, interpret, and critique various discourses and cultural productions such as literature, art, history, religion, philosophy, and politics in both social-cultural and global-contemporary contexts.

Intended Learning Outcomes of the Major

Special Programs

Since 1984, St. Olaf has had a sister-school relationship with East China Normal University (ECNU) in Shanghai, China, a city that has been the focus of China's trade and cultural exchange with the West for 150 years. Students with two years of study of Chinese language are encouraged to spend a fall semester on our Term in China program in Shanghai. Since 2018, furthermore, St. Olaf has been working with Fulbright Taiwan to diversify our study abroad programs. Students with or without prior Chinese language studies are encouraged to spend either a fall or a spring semester at one of the institutions affiliated with our Term in Taiwan program.

Requirements

Requirements for the Major

Code	Title	Credits
Core language courses ¹		
CHIN 231	Intermediate Chinese I	1.00
CHIN 232	Intermediate Chinese II	1.00

CHIN 301	Third-Year Chinese I	1.00
CHIN 302	Third-Year Chinese II	1.00
One language course above CHIN 302 ²		1.00
Four courses, taught in English, focused on China/Chinese language and culture ³		4.00

Recommended

LAC course(s), study abroad, internships, or other immersion experiences in Chinese-speaking regions.

4

Total Credits	9
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1

If a student places in a Chinese language course above CHIN 231 Intermediate Chinese I (e.g., CHIN 232 Intermediate Chinese II or CHIN 301 Third-Year Chinese I), the student will fulfill the total 9 credits requirement by taking additional upper-level language courses (above CHIN 302) and/or courses in English that focus on China/Chinese language and culture.

If a student begins language study in CHIN 111 Beginning Chinese I or CHIN 112 Beginning Chinese II, the student can fulfill the total 9 credits requirement by counting CHIN 111 and/or CHIN 112 toward the major and completing one or two fewer courses in English.

2

The following courses currently fulfill this requirement: CHIN 320 Special Topics in Chinese, CHIN 351 Chinese Language and Society through the Media, CHIN 360 Professional Chinese, or the equivalent of a CHIN 320 or above course taken during *Term in China* at ECNU, Term in Taiwan through Fulbright Taiwan, and/or other approved study abroad language programs.

3

At least one course must examine transnationalism/regionalism/global perspectives or compare China/Chinese with other countries/cultures through specific disciplines (e.g. art, religion, literature, history, philosophy, economics, and political science). At least one of these four courses must be 300-level, and no more than one at 100-level. One of these courses can be an Independent Study (capstone project) or the Asian Studies senior seminars (ASIAN 397 and ASIAN 399). ASCON 110 and ASCON 120 do not count towards the Chinese major.

4

Students are awarded certification of applied foreign language competence (AFLC) on their transcripts after successful completion of two LAC courses. LAC courses carry 0.25 credits each (unless offered during January term, when they hold zero credit). Please refer to the Classes and Labs for LAC courses.

**By completing this major, the student also satisfies the OLE Core Writing in the Major requirement.*

For students double-majoring in Asian Studies and Chinese or Japanese, the following rules apply: CHIN 231 and CHIN 232 can count for both the language and area studies majors; one 300-level course can count for both the language and area studies major; two level three language courses can count for both the language and area studies major.

Courses

For information about the Chinese major and the Asian studies major, see Asian Studies.

CHIN 111: *Beginning Chinese I*

First of two elementary courses that helps students with no prior background to develop basic Mandarin skills, such as pronunciation, pinyin, grammar, and handwriting along with knowledge of Chinese culture and society. Students should achieve the Novice Mid level on the ACTFL proficiency scale and identify about 150 characters in areas of daily life and immediate needs upon completion of this course. Students attend three classes and one laboratory weekly. Offered annually in the fall semester.

CHIN 112: *Beginning Chinese II*

Second semester of the two elementary courses, designed for those who have completed CHIN 111 or with equivalent backgrounds. It aims to further develop basic Mandarin skills, such as speaking, listening, reading, writing, and knowledge of Chinese culture and society. Students should achieve the Novice High to Intermediate Low level on the ACTFL proficiency scale, identifying about 300 characters upon completion of this course. Students attend three classes and one laboratory weekly. Offered annually in the spring semester.

Prerequisite: CHIN 111 or placement.

CHIN 231: *Intermediate Chinese I*

This course is for students who have successfully completed CHIN 112 or students who have had at least one year of Chinese learning experience. It aims to enhance students' proficiency in all four language skills (speaking, listening, reading, and writing) as well as knowledge of various Chinese communities and cross-cultural communications. Students should achieve the Intermediate Low/Medium level on the ACTFL proficiency scale. Students attend three classes and one laboratory weekly. Offered annually in the fall semester. Also counts toward Asian studies major.

Prerequisite: CHIN 112 or placement.

CHIN 232: *Intermediate Chinese II*

This course is for students who have successfully completed CHIN 231 or students with equivalent previous Chinese learning experiences. It aims to further enhance students' proficiency in all four language skills (speaking, listening, reading, and writing) as well as knowledge of various Chinese communities and cross-cultural communications. Students should achieve the Intermediate Medium/High level on the ACTFL proficiency scale. Students attend three classes and one laboratory weekly. Offered annually in the spring semester. Also counts toward Asian studies major and business and management studies concentration.

Prerequisite: CHIN 231 or placement.

CHIN 294: *Academic Internship***CHIN 298: *Independent Study*****CHIN 301: *Third-Year Chinese I***

This course provides continued practice in speaking, reading, and writing at the third-year level. Our text introduces students to Chinese geography and history and modern written style. Conducted entirely in Chinese. Offered annually in the fall semester. Also counts toward Asian studies major and business and management studies concentration.

Prerequisite: CHIN 232 or placement.

CHIN 302: *Third-Year Chinese II*

This course provides continued practice in speaking, reading, and writing at the third year-level. Our text introduces students to Chinese geography and history and modern written style. Conducted entirely in Chinese. Offered annually in the spring semester. Also counts toward Asian studies major and business and management studies concentration.

Prerequisite: CHIN 301 or placement.

CHIN 320: *Special Topics in Chinese*

In this fourth-year-level Chinese course, students explore a specified topic or theme in language, in various text/media (literature, newspaper, television, and film), in culture/civilization, or in a combination of these, through close examination of texts (written or visual), discussion, analysis, and interpretation of selected materials. Specific topics vary by instructor and semester. May be repeated if topic is different. Taught in Chinese. Offered annually. Also counts toward Asian studies major.

Prerequisite: CHIN 302 or placement.

CHIN 351: *Chinese Language and Society through the Media*

This advanced Chinese language course aims to develop students' language proficiency and introduce students to various aspects of contemporary Chinese social life and culture. Course materials include films with excerpts of written scripts, newspapers, television, and essays related to the unit topics. Classroom activities include lectures, language drills, discussions, debates, presentations, and performances. Taught in Chinese. Offered annually. Also counts toward Asian studies major.

Prerequisite: CHIN 302 or placement.

CHIN 360: *Professional Chinese*

This advanced Chinese language course assists students in acquiring content knowledge and language skills in professional and business settings. Course materials include profession-related conversations, news articles, website blogs, and radio and TV news. Class activities include lectures, language drills, discussions, presentations, and group projects. Specialized knowledge in business and economics is not required to take this course. Taught in Chinese. Offered periodically. Also counts toward Asian studies major and concentration.

Prerequisite: CHIN 302 or placement.

CHIN 394: *Academic Internship***CHIN 398: *Independent Research***

Courses focused on China/Chinese

ART 259 The Arts of China

ASIAN 156 Contemporary China Through Film (Taught in English)

ASIAN 217 Encountering China: Shanghai (study abroad) ASIAN 217 Encountering China: Shanghai (study abroad)

ASIAN 236 Traditional Chinese Literature (Taught in English)

ASIAN 237 Modern Chinese Literature and Society

HIST 250 China: Past and Present

HIST 251 Revolutionary China

Courses Focused on China/Chinese with Cross-Cultural/Regional/Global Comparative Perspectives

ASCON 215 Asian Conversations III (study abroad)

ASCON 216 Asian Conversations III (on campus)

ASCON 220 Asian Conversations: Engaging Asia with Voice and Representation

ASIAN 121 Asian Cultures in Comparative Perspectives

ASIAN 123 Asia in America

ASIAN 130 Asian Science Fiction in Global Perspective (English translation)

ASIAN 200 Topics in Asian Studies

ASIAN 230 The Philosophy of Anime

ASIAN 255 Engaging Asia: San Francisco (study away)

ASIAN 268 The Art of Calligraphy: Techniques and Appreciation

ASIAN 282 Second Language Acquisition and Pedagogy in an Asian Context

ASIAN 310 Buddhism through Text and Image

ASIAN 333 What is a Hero?

ASIAN 397 Seminar: Human Rights/Asian Context

ASIAN 399 Seminar for Asian Studies Majors

AS/RE 256 Religions of China, Korea, and Japan

AS/RE 257 Buddhism

AS/RE 289 Buddhism, Peace and Justice

HIST 240 Methods Seminar: Histories of Africa, Asia, and Latin America (depending on content and instructor)

HIST 345 East Asia Seminar

PHIL 117 Confucius, Buddha, and Socrates

PHIL 249 Asian Philosophy

PSCI 245 Asian Regionalism

REL 390 History of Religions Seminar (depending on content and instructor)

Plan of Study Chinese Major - Plan of Study

This is a sample plan that meets the prescribed requirements for this major at St. Olaf. This tool is meant as a guide and does not replace working closely with the student's academic advisor.

This plan is for a student who places into Chinese at St. Olaf at the 111 (first semester) level. Students can major in Chinese whether

they start at the beginner level (CHIN 111) or have prior experience in the language.

Please see the Asian Studies major or Japanese major pages for requirements specific to those majors.

Course	Title	Credits
First Year		
Fall Semester		
FYS 120 or WRIT 120	First-Year Seminar (or Conversation Program - ASCON) or Writing and Rhetoric	1.00
CHIN 111	Beginning Chinese I	1.00
Credits		2
Spring Semester		
WRIT 120 or FYS 120	Writing and Rhetoric (or Conversation Program - ASCON) or First-Year Seminar	1.00
CHIN 112	Beginning Chinese II	1.00
Credits		2
Sophomore Year		
Fall Semester		
CHIN 231	Intermediate Chinese I	1.00
Non-language course (China or Asia related)		1.00
Credits		2
Spring Semester		
CHIN 232	Intermediate Chinese II	1.00
Credits		1
Junior Year		
Fall Semester		
CHIN 301	Third-Year Chinese I	1.00
Non-language course (China or Asia related)		1.00
Credits		2
Spring Semester		
CHIN 302	Third-Year Chinese II	1.00
Credits		1
Senior Year		
Fall Semester		
Language course above CHIN 302		1.00
Level III non-language course (China or Asia related)		1.00
Credits		2
Spring Semester		
Level III non-language course (China or Asia related)		1.00
Credits		1
Total Credits		13

Students must successfully complete the equivalent of 35 St. Olaf credits through a combination of full-credit and fractional-credit courses to earn the Bachelor of Arts.

Visit the Chinese program webpage for more information.

Faculty

Program Director, 2024-2025

Ying Zhou

Associate Professor of Asian Studies
second language acquisition and language pedagogy

Hui Bi

Assistant Professor of Asian Studies
Chinese language instruction

Hsiang-Lin Shih

Associate Professor of Asian Studies

Chinese literature; classical and modern eras

Ka F. Wong

Professor of Asian Studies

language pedagogy; cultural studies; Asian American studies; visual culture