CHN 461  76013  Introduction to Classical Chinese  
M W F 1:30 p.m.-2:20 p.m.  Moore Hall 254

Instructor:
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Tel: (808) 956-8780
Office hours: Tuesday 1:00-2:00, Friday 11:00-12:00 & by appointment
Office locations: Biomedical Tower T1114 and 388 Moore Hall

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course offers learners some of the basic tools for reading Classical (Literary)  
Chinese 文言文, the written language of China from the sixth century B.C.  
through the second century A.D. and well beyond. Students will read a range of  
authentic texts including philosophical writings, short literary and historical  
essays, and a sample of poems from the Tang dynasty (618-907). In addition to  
having the chance to read, translate, and discuss thought-provoking writings from  
over a thousand years ago, students will soon see ways that modern Chinese  
has been influenced by Classical Chinese. This awareness will result in gains in  
Modern Chinese in vocabulary acquisition, reading and writing ability, as well as  
 Improvements in professional or formal spoken language that incorporates  
elements of Classical or semi-Classical Chinese.

OBJECTIVES

• Acquire the ability to read and translate simple authentic Classical texts  
  without relying on notes or vocabulary lists.

• Gain an introduction to some key philosophical, literary, and historical texts  
  that have been (and still are) influential to understanding Chinese culture.

• Recognize the differences between Classical Chinese and Modern Chinese  
  and be able to identify elements of classical or literary Chinese that have  
  been incorporated into Modern Chinese.

• Demonstrate the ability to conduct independent and group research through  
  a student project to be presented in a public forum
TIPS FOR SUCCESS IN THIS COURSE

Class preparation and participation are critical in this class. In class students will be expected to work from clean copies of texts, some of which have been studied previously in class, some of which will require sight translation. Students will read the Chinese passage aloud in modern Chinese and then translate into English, sometimes very literally, and sometimes in a freer manner. Translations will reflect an understanding of basic grammatical features of 文言文, and will depend largely on word order, parallelism, context, and the function of particles (xuzi 虚字), which are the core of the Classical language. All students are expected to turn in homework assignments on time and to participate actively in class. Translations taken from those found on websites or other sources are not acceptable and will be considered plagiarism (see below).

There will be frequent short quizzes, which will help students determine how well they understand the materials. Quizzes and homework assignments will also help direct the pace and direction of the course, by giving important feedback to the instructor and to students. In addition to short quizzes, there will be three tests, a student-directed class project, and a final examination.

AND, another great part of this class is that students will memorize approximately one short poem a week. In addition, specific passages from our readings can be memorized for extra credit.

WHY memorization? Chinese students have had that part of their brains activated from a very early age. Although learners of Classical Chinese can seldom catch up to their Chinese peers, it is important to show that even Americans can manage to recall some poems and key phrases. In fact, this often makes the difference between clinching a business deal and not. It will be a little painful at first, but you will be surprised how, with practice, it will become easier and easier.

Toward the end of the semester there will be a student led project led called the Poetry Salon. This event is a good way for everyone to contextualize further what they have learned about poetry in the Tang dynasty and why it is so important for all students of Chinese language and culture. More details are forthcoming.

REQUIRED MATERIALS:

Course Reader, which will be available for purchase during the second week of the semester ---details forthcoming. Meanwhile everything is available on Lailima.
Kroll, with Boltz, Knechtges, Lien, Richter, Warner. *A Student’s Dictionary of Classical and Medieval Chinese* (Brill Academic Publisher, 2015) (Available for purchase as phone APP through PLEICO – Be sure to use the educational discount!

Additional handouts will either be given in class or posted on Laulima. It is your responsibility to check that site frequently.

**PLAGIARISM**

All material (text, images, and ideas) that is not your own creation should be cited appropriately. Failing to cite your sources is considered plagiarism, and will result in an F in the course. Please refer to the University policy on academic dishonesty for details.

**EVALUATION**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Attendance, participation &amp; performance, poem recitation, and homework assignments (30%)</th>
<th>Your attendance, punctuality, and active participation in class are crucial to the successful completion of this course. <strong>Regular class attendance is mandatory.</strong> If you must miss class due to illness, please notify your instructor as soon as possible. Your grade will be affected considerably after two absences. Coming to class well prepared is also essential to your learning. All the materials detailed in the syllabus for each class should be read in advance. If you have any questions about the class work, please ask your instructors. Homework assignments are important in this course so that you can get the most out of each class period. <strong>No late homework is accepted</strong></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Quizzes (20%)</td>
<td>There will be frequent quizzes. <strong>No make-ups will be given.</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Major tests and final project (30%)</td>
<td>Three hour-long tests will be given in this course throughout the course. <strong>No make-ups will be given.</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final exam (20%)</td>
<td><strong>No make-ups will be given.</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>TOTAL (100%)</td>
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In addition, the following EALL departmental SLOs (Student Learning Outcomes) and university-wide ILOs (Institutional Learning Objectives) apply, at least in part, to this course:

1. [SLO3: READING] Read and comprehend texts written in Chinese from a variety of genres and contexts.

2. [SLO5: RESEARCH] Conduct independent research on topics related to the study of Classical Chinese and effectively communicate the results.

3. [SLO9: LITERATURE & CULTURE] Analyze and interpret works of premodern Chinese poetry, prose, and read original Chinese using terms appropriate to each genre.

4. [ILO1 – Know - Breadth and Depth of Knowledge, 1.a] “General Education,” and “Specialized study in an academic field.”

5. [ILO2 – Do - Intellectual and Practical Skills, 2a Think critically and creatively; 2b Conduct research; 2.c] “Communicate and Report.”

6. [ILO3 – Value - Personal and Social responsibility, 3a Continuous learning and personal growth; 3.b] “Respect for people and cultures.”

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**Dates of dynasties**

It is important to know the general dates of the major dynasties in China’s history, and you will be quizzed on this information.

1. Here’s a song you can learn to keep them in order:


2. For a helpful site with a more precise timeline of China’s dynasties, see [http://www-chaos.umd.edu/history/time_line.html](http://www-chaos.umd.edu/history/time_line.html)

   However, for our purposes just focus on the following dynasties, with a couple of additions from the above website at the end of this chart:
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dynasty</th>
<th>Time Period</th>
<th>Events or Significant Actions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Shang Dynasty</td>
<td>1766-1122 B.C.</td>
<td>Writing on oracle bones tells of events and customs of the period. Wheeled chariots are introduced in warfare. Silk weaving is invented. Chinese writing develops.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zhou Dynasty</td>
<td>1122-221 B.C.</td>
<td>Iron casting is invented, as are the multiplication tables. Irrigation is introduced on a large scale. The great philosopher Confucius teaches a code of behavior that spreads widely.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Qin Dynasty</td>
<td>221 B.C.-206 B.C.</td>
<td>A warrior king unites much of China into one empire. A strict law code and tax system is designed. Writing, weights and measures are standardized. Building of the Great Wall begins.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Han Dynasty</td>
<td>206 B.C.-A.D. 220</td>
<td>Buddhism is brought to China from India. Trade routes to India and Persia are established. Paper is invented. For the next 370 years, warring kingdoms keep China in disorder.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sui Dynasty</td>
<td>A.D. 581-618</td>
<td>Powerful emperors reunite China. A great transportation network is built, including the Grand Canal linking the Huang and Chang rivers. Gunpowder is invented.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tang Dynasty</td>
<td>A.D. 618-907</td>
<td>Tang emperors extend China's control to neighboring areas. Height of Silk Road trade. A golden age of art and learning develops. A half-century of disorder follows.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Song Dynasty</td>
<td>A.D. 960-1279</td>
<td>Age of high culture: printing, poetry, calligraphy. Movable type and paper money are developed; invention of compass.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Yuan Dynasty</td>
<td>A.D. 1279-1368</td>
<td>Genghis Khan leads Mongols from the northwest in an attack on China. His grandson Kublai Khan founds the Yuan Dynasty. His elaborate court is visited and described by Marco Polo.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ming Dynasty</td>
<td>A.D. 1368-1644</td>
<td>European traders arrive. Commerce flourishes. Ming emperors build the Forbidden City in Beijing and extend the Great Wall.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Qing Dynasty</td>
<td>A.D. 1644-1912</td>
<td>Manchu invaders come from the north and set up the Qing Dynasty. Foreign trade and industry grow but nationalist uprisings bring on final collapse.</td>
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770-476 B.C. -- Spring and Autumn period

475-221 B.C. -- Warring States period

A.D. 1911-1949
Republic of China (Mainland)
A.D. 1911-
Republic of China (in Taiwan)

A.D. 1949-
People’s Republic of China

Learning objectives for Week 1:

- Be able to explain what the terms Classical and Literary Chinese refer to (and also the Chinese terms for this subject) and have an understanding of what makes it different from modern Chinese. Describe several ways that this course can be meaningful for you.
- Understand how to approach translating Classical Chinese texts into English;
- Know the dates of the main dynasties in China and understand why it is important to learn the dates of the dynasties;
- Understand how 也，者，之，與 function in Classical Chinese
- Read a Chinese poem—to be memorized for Monday!

Draft schedule for Week 1:

Assignment for Wednesday, August 23, 2017

I. “Characters to Distinguish” handout and on Laulima (directions are on the handout)
II. Browse through short article “Easily confused characters” (on Laulima)
III. Read ppt, homework—slide 3 and write out English translations for slides 12, 13, 14, 15, 16-- we will work on these and other phrases that are similar in class on Wed.
Poem to memorize: 春曉 (Translate in class on Friday 8/25/16; recite on Monday 8/28/16)

春曉
孟浩然

春眠不覺曉，
處處聞啼鳥。
夜來風雨聲，
花落知多少。

春眠不觉晓，
处处闻啼鸟。
夜来风雨声，
花落知多少。

【注釋】
(1) 不覺曉：不知不覺天就亮了。
(2) 啼鳥：鳥的啼叫聲。
(3) 知多少：不知有多少。

【作者簡介】
孟浩然（公元 689-740），是盛唐時期最有名的大詩人之一。他和王維一起合稱“王孟”，是唐代田園詩派代表人物。他的詩風格清淡、自然而又韻味深長，在唐詩中自成一家。