The Chinese Language: An Introduction to Chinese Linguistics

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CHIN 342
TTh
11:30-1:20 PM
TBA
SLN 12423
5 CREDITS
VLPA

CHIN 442
MTWTH
10:30-11:20 AM
TBA
SLN 12426
5 CREDITS
VLPA

CHIN 342
How different are the Chinese “dialects” from each other, and how much do they have in common? What are the principles underlying the structure of Chinese characters? What did spoken Chinese sound like thousands of years ago? What makes Chinese grammar so different from English grammar?

These questions belong to the field of Chinese linguistics, the subject of Chinese 342. Topics covered in this course include the linguistic features of modern standard Mandarin, the description and analysis of Chinese dialects, the history of Chinese, the origin and development of Chinese writing, and the relationship between Chinese language and culture. Many concepts and terms from general linguistics will be introduced as part of the framework used to carry out our investigation.

Prerequisite: At least one year of college-level Chinese language instruction, or permission of instructor. No prior knowledge of linguistics is required.

CHIN 442
This course is for graduate students and advanced undergraduates who are able to read academic Chinese. This course is for graduate students and advanced undergraduates who are able to read academic Chinese. Students enrolled in Chinese 442 will attend Chinese 342 classes and meet all Chinese 342 requirements; in addition, there will be a separate Friday class meeting to discuss advanced readings on course topics, and a short final paper assignment. If you are uncertain about whether you should take Chinese 342 or Chinese 442, please contact the instructor.

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