

ASIAN STUDIES MAJOR, B.A.– CHINESE CONCENTRATION

Contact Information

Department of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies

Visit Program Website (<http://asianstudies.unc.edu>)

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Chinese, a member of the Sino-Tibetan family of languages, is the most widely spoken language and the language with the longest continuous written history in the world. Modern standard Chinese (Putonghua/Guoyu) is a standardized form of spoken Chinese, based on the Beijing dialect of Mandarin Chinese. One of only six official languages of the United Nations, Chinese is spoken not only in China, Taiwan, and Singapore, but also throughout Southeast Asia, North America, Europe, and elsewhere in the Chinese diaspora. Chinese is also one of the languages considered critical to U.S. national security, according to the State Department.

A major in Chinese combines language proficiency with deep cultural knowledge, providing students with linguistic and cultural competencies for graduate studies or jobs in public policy, health, business, journalism, law, diplomacy, science, technology, and education.

Department Programs

Majors

- Asian Studies Major, B.A.–Interdisciplinary Concentration (<http://catalog.unc.edu/undergraduate/programs-study/asian-studies-major-ba-general-concentration/>)
- Asian Studies Major, B.A.–Arab Cultures Concentration (<http://catalog.unc.edu/undergraduate/programs-study/asian-studies-major-ba-arab-cultures-concentration/>)
- Asian Studies Major, B.A.–Chinese Concentration (p. 1)
- Asian Studies Major, B.A.–Japanese Concentration (<http://catalog.unc.edu/undergraduate/programs-study/asian-studies-major-ba-japanese-concentration/>)
- Asian Studies Major, B.A.–Korean Studies Concentration (<http://catalog.unc.edu/undergraduate/programs-study/asian-studies-major-ba-korean-concentration/>)
- Asian Studies Major, B.A.–South Asian Studies Concentration (<http://catalog.unc.edu/undergraduate/programs-study/asian-studies-major-ba-south-asian-studies-concentration/>)

Minors

- Arabic Minor (<http://catalog.unc.edu/undergraduate/programs-study/arabic-minor/>)
- Asian Studies Minor (<http://catalog.unc.edu/undergraduate/programs-study/asian-studies-minor/>)
- Chinese Minor (<http://catalog.unc.edu/undergraduate/programs-study/chinese-minor/>)
- Modern Hebrew Minor (<http://catalog.unc.edu/undergraduate/programs-study/modern-hebrew-minor/>)
- Hindi-Urdu Minor (<http://catalog.unc.edu/undergraduate/programs-study/hindi-urdu-minor/>)
- Japanese Minor (<http://catalog.unc.edu/undergraduate/programs-study/japanese-minor/>)
- Korean Minor (<http://catalog.unc.edu/undergraduate/programs-study/korean-minor/>)
- Middle Eastern Languages Minor (<http://catalog.unc.edu/undergraduate/programs-study/middle-eastern-languages-minor/>)
- Persian Minor (<http://catalog.unc.edu/undergraduate/programs-study/persian-minor/>)

Graduate Programs

- M.A. in Asian and Middle Eastern Studies (<http://catalog.unc.edu/graduate/schools-departments/asian-studies/>)

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of the Asian studies program, students should be able to:

- Identify or analyze significant aspects of the target cultures by interpreting texts and media
- Demonstrate proficiency in listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills in the target language
- Demonstrate experience in the use of the target language outside the language classroom

Requirements

In addition to the program requirements, students must

- earn a minimum final cumulative GPA of 2.000
- complete a minimum of 45 academic credit hours earned from UNC–Chapel Hill courses
- take at least half of their major core requirements (courses and credit hours) at UNC–Chapel Hill
- earn a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.000 in the major core requirements. Some programs may require higher standards for major or specific courses.

For more information, please consult the degree requirements section of the catalog (<http://catalog.unc.edu/undergraduate/general-education-curriculum-degree-requirements/#degreerequirementstext>).

The concentration in Chinese can be pursued along one of two tracks, depending on the student's initial Chinese language placement. Both tracks require eight courses. Students whose initial language placement is above CHIN 305 or CHIN 313 should consult the department.

- Track A (p. 2) is for students who have completed CHIN 204
- Track B (p. 2) is for students who have completed CHIN 212

Track A

Code	Title	Hours
Core Requirements		
At least four language courses above CHIN 204, chosen from:		12
CHIN 305	Advanced Chinese I	
CHIN 306	Advanced Chinese II	
CHIN 407	Readings in Modern Chinese I	
CHIN 408	Readings in Modern Chinese II	
CHIN 441	Chinese-English Translation and Interpreting	
CHIN 443	Business Communication in Chinese	
CHIN 445	Chinese Tea Culture and Its Changing Landscape	
CHIN 490	Topics in Chinese Literature and Language	
CHIN 510	Introduction to Classical Chinese	
CHIN 521	Chinese History in Chinese	
CHIN 525	Ancient Philosophers and Their Modern Reincarnation	
CHIN 590	Advanced Topics in Chinese Literature and Language	
CHIN 624	Chinese Internet Literature	
CHIN 631	Writing Chinese (in) America: Advanced Studies of a Foreign Literature from United States Homeland	
At least two culture courses (chosen from list below)		6
Two more courses that may be from either the language list or the culture list		6
Additional Requirements		
Chinese through level 4 ¹		4
Total Hours		28

¹ The first three levels of Chinese (CHIN) can count toward the General Education Foundations requirement and have not been included as additional hours for the major.

Culture Courses

Code	Title	Hours
ASIA 52	First-Year Seminar: Food in Chinese Culture	3
ASIA 55	First-Year Seminar: Kung-Fu: The Concept of Heroism in Chinese Culture	3
ASIA/WGST 56	First-Year Seminar: Writing Women in Modern China ^H	3
ASIA 65	First-Year Seminar: Philosophy on Bamboo: Rethinking Early Chinese Thought	3
CHIN 150	Introduction to Chinese Civilization	3
CHIN 242	Chinese Qin Music	3
CHIN 244	Introduction to Modern Chinese Culture through Cinema	3
CHIN 252	Introduction to Chinese Culture through Narrative	3
CHIN 253	Chinese Language and Society	3
CHIN 255	Bandit or Hero: Outlawry in Chinese Literature and Films	3
CHIN 346	History as Fiction or Fiction as History? Early Chinese History in Film and Literature	3
CHIN 356	Chinese Environmental Literature	3
CHIN 361	Chinese Traditional Theater	3
CHIN 367	Illustration and the Animation of Text	3
ASIA 453	Global Shangri-La: Tibet in the Modern World	3

CHIN 463	Narrative Ethics in Modern China	3
CHIN 464	The City in Modern Chinese Literature and Film	3
CHIN 545	Chinese Science Fiction	3
CHIN 551	Chinese Poetry in Translation	3
CHIN 552	Chinese Prose in Translation	3
CHIN 562	Contemporary Chinese Urban Culture and Arts	3
ASIA 692H	Senior Honors Thesis II	3

^H Honors version available. An honors course fulfills the same requirements as the nonhonors version of that course. Enrollment and GPA restrictions may apply.

Track B

Code	Title	Hours
Core Requirements		
At least four language courses above CHIN 212, chosen from:		12
CHIN 313	Advanced Written Chinese	
CHIN 441	Chinese-English Translation and Interpreting	
CHIN 443	Business Communication in Chinese	
CHIN 445	Chinese Tea Culture and Its Changing Landscape	
CHIN 490	Topics in Chinese Literature and Language	
CHIN 510	Introduction to Classical Chinese	
CHIN 521	Chinese History in Chinese	
CHIN 525	Ancient Philosophers and Their Modern Reincarnation	
CHIN 590	Advanced Topics in Chinese Literature and Language	
CHIN 624	Chinese Internet Literature	
CHIN 631	Writing Chinese (in) America: Advanced Studies of a Foreign Literature from United States Homeland	
At least two culture courses (chosen from list below)		6
Two more courses that may be from either the language list or the culture list		6
Additional Requirements		
CHIN 111 and CHIN 212 ¹		0
Total Hours		24

¹ The first two courses on track B in Chinese (CHIN 111 and CHIN 212) can count toward the General Education Foundations requirement and have not been included as additional hours for the major.

Culture Courses

Code	Title	Hours
ASIA 52	First-Year Seminar: Food in Chinese Culture	3
ASIA 55	First-Year Seminar: Kung-Fu: The Concept of Heroism in Chinese Culture	3
ASIA/WGST 56	First-Year Seminar: Writing Women in Modern China ^H	3
ASIA 65	First-Year Seminar: Philosophy on Bamboo: Rethinking Early Chinese Thought	3
CHIN 150	Introduction to Chinese Civilization	3
CHIN 242	Chinese Qin Music	3
CHIN 244	Introduction to Modern Chinese Culture through Cinema	3
CHIN 252	Introduction to Chinese Culture through Narrative	3

CHIN 253	Chinese Language and Society	3
CHIN 255	Bandit or Hero: Outlawry in Chinese Literature and Films	3
CHIN 346	History as Fiction or Fiction as History? Early Chinese History in Film and Literature	3
CHIN 356	Chinese Environmental Literature	3
CHIN 361	Chinese Traditional Theater	3
ASIA 453	Global Shangri-La: Tibet in the Modern World	3
CHIN 367	Illustration and the Animation of Text	3
CHIN 463	Narrative Ethics in Modern China	3
CHIN 464	The City in Modern Chinese Literature and Film	3
CHIN 545	Chinese Science Fiction	3
CHIN 551	Chinese Poetry in Translation	3
CHIN 552	Chinese Prose in Translation	3
CHIN 562	Contemporary Chinese Urban Culture and Arts	3
ASIA 692H	Senior Honors Thesis II	3

H Honors version available. An honors course fulfills the same requirements as the nonhonors version of that course. Enrollment and GPA restrictions may apply.

Additional Notes for Both Tracks

Approved language courses taken in UNC–Chapel Hill-sponsored study abroad programs may count in the concentration. However, study abroad courses may not substitute for any of the culture courses, which must be taken in the Department of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies. No more than one first-year seminar or senior honors thesis course may be included among the culture courses.

Placement credit (PL) may not be used to meet core requirements for the concentration.

With the approval of the associate chair of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies, a student may count a course in directed readings (ASIA 496 or CHIN 496) in the concentration in Chinese. To register for ASIA 496 or CHIN 496, a student must obtain the approval of the associate chair and the faculty member who will supervise the project.

Of the eight courses in the concentration in Chinese, at least six must be passed with a grade of C (not C-) or better.

Sample Plan of Study

Sample plans can be used as a guide to identify the courses required to complete the major and other requirements needed for degree completion within the expected eight semesters. The actual degree plan may differ depending on the course of study selected (second major, minor, etc.). Students should meet with their academic advisor to create a degree plan that is specific and unique to their interests. The sample plans represented in this catalog are intended for first-year students entering UNC–Chapel Hill in the fall term. Some courses may not be offered every term.

The Department of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies requires that *all* students with prior knowledge of Chinese take a placement test. Their beginning language course at UNC is decided by the placement result (not by test credit or transfer credit). That initial placement also determines which track the student will be on; the Chinese language program has two tracks, A (regular) and B (heritage).

A student's initial placement is the most important determinant of how long it will take to complete the major. It's also important to be aware that almost all Chinese language courses are only offered in fall or spring, but not both.

Sample Plan One

This plan is for a student who either is a beginner in Chinese, or has some background but has placed into CHIN 101.

First Year		Hours
CHIN 101	Elementary Chinese I (fall only)	4
CHIN 102	Elementary Chinese II (spring only)	4
Major FYS or other culture course		3
Hours		11
Sophomore Year		
CHIN 203	Intermediate Chinese I (fall only)	4
CHIN 204	Intermediate Chinese II (spring only)	4
Major culture course		3
Hours		11
Junior Year		
CHIN 305	Advanced Chinese I (fall only)	3
CHIN 306	Advanced Chinese II (spring only)	3
Major culture course		3
Hours		9
Senior Year		
CHIN 407	Readings in Modern Chinese I (fall only)	3
CHIN 408	Readings in Modern Chinese II (spring only)	3
Major culture course		3
Hours		9
Total Hours		40

Sample Plan Two

This plan is for a student who has placed into CHIN 203.

First Year		Hours
CHIN 203	Intermediate Chinese I (fall only)	4
CHIN 204	Intermediate Chinese II (spring only)	4
Major FYS or other culture course		3
Hours		11
Sophomore Year		
CHIN 305	Advanced Chinese I (fall only)	3
CHIN 306	Advanced Chinese II (spring only)	3
Major culture course		3
Hours		9
Junior Year		
CHIN 407	Readings in Modern Chinese I (fall only)	3
CHIN 408	Readings in Modern Chinese II (spring only)	3
Hours		6
Senior Year		
Select two courses from the following:		6
CHIN 441	Chinese-English Translation and Interpreting	
CHIN 443	Business Communication in Chinese	
CHIN 445	Chinese Tea Culture and Its Changing Landscape	
CHIN 490	Topics in Chinese Literature and Language	

CHIN 510	Introduction to Classical Chinese	
Major culture course		
Hours		6
Total Hours		32

Sample Plan Three

This plan is for a student who has placed into CHIN 111 (first course on the heritage track).

First Year		Hours
CHIN 111	Elementary Written Chinese (fall only)	3
CHIN 212	Intermediate Written Chinese (spring only)	3
Major FYS or other culture course		3
Hours		9

Sophomore Year

CHIN 313	Advanced Written Chinese (fall only)	3
One of the following courses (spring only):		3
CHIN 441	Chinese-English Translation and Interpreting	
CHIN 443	Business Communication in Chinese	
CHIN 445	Chinese Tea Culture and Its Changing Landscape	
CHIN 490	Topics in Chinese Literature and Language	
CHIN 510	Introduction to Classical Chinese	
CHIN 521	Chinese History in Chinese	
CHIN 525	Ancient Philosophers and Their Modern Reincarnation	
CHIN 590	Advanced Topics in Chinese Literature and Language	
Major culture course		3
Hours		9

Junior Year

Select two courses from the following list:		6
CHIN 441	Chinese-English Translation and Interpreting	
CHIN 443	Business Communication in Chinese	
CHIN 445	Chinese Tea Culture and Its Changing Landscape	
CHIN 490	Topics in Chinese Literature and Language	
CHIN 510	Introduction to Classical Chinese	
CHIN 521	Chinese History in Chinese	
CHIN 525	Ancient Philosophers and Their Modern Reincarnation	
CHIN 590	Advanced Topics in Chinese Literature and Language	
CHIN 624	Chinese Internet Literature	
CHIN 631	Writing Chinese (in) America: Advanced Studies of a Foreign Literature from United States Homeland	
Hours		6

Senior Year

Select two courses from the following list:		6
CHIN 441	Chinese-English Translation and Interpreting	
CHIN 443	Business Communication in Chinese	
CHIN 445	Chinese Tea Culture and Its Changing Landscape	
CHIN 490	Topics in Chinese Literature and Language	
CHIN 510	Introduction to Classical Chinese	
CHIN 521	Chinese History in Chinese	

CHIN 525	Ancient Philosophers and Their Modern Reincarnation	
CHIN 590	Advanced Topics in Chinese Literature and Language	
CHIN 624	Chinese Internet Literature	
CHIN 631	Writing Chinese (in) America: Advanced Studies of a Foreign Literature from United States Homeland	
Major culture course		
Hours		6
Total Hours		30

Sample Plan Four

This plan is for a student who has placed into CHIN 313 (third semester on the heritage track).

First Year		Hours
CHIN 313	Advanced Written Chinese (fall only)	3
One of the following courses (spring):		3
CHIN 441	Chinese-English Translation and Interpreting	
CHIN 443	Business Communication in Chinese	
CHIN 445	Chinese Tea Culture and Its Changing Landscape	
CHIN 490	Topics in Chinese Literature and Language	
CHIN 510	Introduction to Classical Chinese	
CHIN 521	Chinese History in Chinese	
CHIN 525	Ancient Philosophers and Their Modern Reincarnation	
CHIN 590	Advanced Topics in Chinese Literature and Language	
Major FYS or other culture course		3
Hours		9

Sophomore Year

Select two courses from the following list:		6
CHIN 441	Chinese-English Translation and Interpreting	
CHIN 443	Business Communication in Chinese	
CHIN 445	Chinese Tea Culture and Its Changing Landscape	
CHIN 490	Topics in Chinese Literature and Language	
CHIN 510	Introduction to Classical Chinese	
CHIN 521	Chinese History in Chinese	
CHIN 525	Ancient Philosophers and Their Modern Reincarnation	
CHIN 590	Advanced Topics in Chinese Literature and Language	
CHIN 624	Chinese Internet Literature	
CHIN 631	Writing Chinese (in) America: Advanced Studies of a Foreign Literature from United States Homeland	
Major culture course		3
Hours		9

Junior Year

Select one course from the following list:		3
CHIN 441	Chinese-English Translation and Interpreting	
CHIN 443	Business Communication in Chinese	
CHIN 445	Chinese Tea Culture and Its Changing Landscape	
CHIN 490	Topics in Chinese Literature and Language	
CHIN 510	Introduction to Classical Chinese	

CHIN 521	Chinese History in Chinese	
CHIN 525	Ancient Philosophers and Their Modern Reincarnation	
CHIN 590	Advanced Topics in Chinese Literature and Language	
CHIN 624	Chinese Internet Literature	
CHIN 631	Writing Chinese (in) America: Advanced Studies of a Foreign Literature from United States Homeland	
Major culture course		
Hours		3
Senior Year		
Select one course from the following list:		3
CHIN 441	Chinese-English Translation and Interpreting	
CHIN 443	Business Communication in Chinese	
CHIN 445	Chinese Tea Culture and Its Changing Landscape	
CHIN 490	Topics in Chinese Literature and Language	
CHIN 510	Introduction to Classical Chinese	
CHIN 525	Ancient Philosophers and Their Modern Reincarnation	
CHIN 590	Advanced Topics in Chinese Literature and Language	
CHIN 624	Chinese Internet Literature	
CHIN 631	Writing Chinese (in) America: Advanced Studies of a Foreign Literature from United States Homeland	
Major culture course		
Hours		3
Total Hours		24

Special Opportunities in Asian Studies

Honors in Asian Studies

A candidate for honors in Asian studies will write a substantial paper under the guidance of a faculty member. While researching and writing the honors paper, the student will enroll in ASIA 691H and ASIA 692H. ASIA 692H may count as one of the interdisciplinary courses for the major; ASIA 691H will count for elective credit only. In the case of the concentrations in Arab cultures, Chinese, Japanese, Korean studies, and South Asian studies, ASIA 692H may count toward the major in the concentration.

A committee composed of at least two faculty members will examine the candidate. To be accepted as an honors candidate, a student must meet the University's requirement of a minimum overall grade point average of 3.3, secure the consent of a faculty member in the Asian studies field to act as advisor for the project, and submit a proposal to the associate chair of Asian studies for approval.

Departmental Involvement

The department sponsors a variety of cultural events — lectures, film series, performances, and more — as well as social and informational events where students can get to know each other and faculty members in an informal setting. Faculty members in the department serve as advisors to some of the many Asia-related student organizations on campus, such as the Japan Club, Chinese Conversation Club, Hebrew Table, and more.

Languages across the Curriculum

The department participates in the Languages across the Curriculum (LAC) program, offering a one-credit-hour discussion section that is conducted in Arabic, Chinese, or Hindi-Urdu but associated with a variety of courses offered in English, both in Asian studies and in such other departments as history or religious studies. This LAC recitation section offers students the opportunity to use their Arabic, Chinese, or Hindi-Urdu language skills in a broader intellectual context.

Libraries

The University has rich collections of books and periodicals on Asia in the relevant Asian languages, as well as in English and other Western languages. Experts in the collection development department for Davis Library are available to help students locate the materials they need. The University also has an outstanding collection of Asian films and other audiovisual materials, housed in the Media Resource Center at House Library.

Speaker Series

The department sponsors an annual speaker series. These events include lectures by prominent artists, scholars, and writers and are often cosponsored by other units on campus.

Study Abroad

UNC–Chapel Hill sponsors several study programs (summer, semester, and yearlong) in China, Egypt, India, Israel, Japan, Jordan, Korea, Mongolia, Morocco, Nepal, Oman, Singapore, Taiwan, Thailand, Turkey, and Vietnam. Asian studies majors are strongly encouraged to take advantage of these opportunities to live and study in an Asian setting; UNC-approved study abroad programs also satisfy the experiential education requirement. For further information on these programs and other study abroad opportunities in Asia, contact the UNC Study Abroad Office.

Undergraduate Research

The department actively encourages undergraduate student research. Through classes, advising, and office hours, faculty members guide students toward defining areas of interest, conceptualizing research questions, identifying sources, and writing academic papers. Students may pursue research through independent studies, the senior honors thesis, and study abroad research opportunities such as the Burch Fellowship. Asian studies students have received a variety of competitive research support and travel awards, won regional contests for undergraduate papers, published papers in academic journals, and presented their work at such events as the Senior Colloquium in Asian Studies and the campuswide Annual Celebration of Undergraduate Research in the spring.