CHINESE (CHN)

CHN 101 | BASIC CHINESE I | 4 quarter hours
(Undergraduate)
This course is an introduction to the study of standard modern Chinese, often referred to as Mandarin. It adopts the modern Chinese phonetic system, hanyupinyin, using simplified characters. This course aims at functional proficiency by developing the four aspects of communicative capabilities – listening, speaking, reading, and writing – through intensive practice. It also strives to improve students' structural accuracy, which in turn will increase functional proficiency, by dealing with the grammatical rules in such a way that students can internalize them. As language and culture interact with each other, this course will also help students gain insights into the Chinese people, their life, culture, customs and habits.

CHN 101S | BASIC CHINESE I FOR SUMMER | 6 quarter hours
(Undergraduate)
(Covers the equivalent of CHN 101 and the first half of CHN 102.) The first half of beginning Chinese (Mandarin). Listening to, speaking, reading, and writing Chinese in a cultural context for the beginning student.

CHN 102 | BASIC CHINESE II | 4 quarter hours
(Undergraduate)
This course is the second part of the three-quarter sequence on Basic Chinese. It helps students develop basic conversation skills as well as modern Chinese literacy. The dialect to be taught in the course is Mandarin. Simplified Chinese characters are mainly used in reading and writing although students are also exposed to the traditional form of Chinese characters throughout the course.

CHN 103 | BASIC CHINESE III | 4 quarter hours
(Undergraduate)
This course continues to broaden and strengthen the foundation of Chinese language in both written and spoken formats. Based on knowledge gained in Basic Chinese I and II in terms of the origin and the elements of Chinese characters, the course expands students' collection of Chinese words and phrases to apply in both reading and writing. With the understanding of the phonetic systems of spoken Chinese as well as the structure of Chinese characters, students will continue to reflect on their learning and will share methods used to retain what they have learned in the class. The course combines language study with the exploration of Chinese culture and history.

CHN 103S | BASIC CHINESE III FOR SUMMER | 6 quarter hours
(Undergraduate)
(Covers the equivalent of the second half of CHN 102 and all of CHN 103.)
The second half of beginning Chinese (Mandarin). Further work on the basic elements of the Chinese language, spoken as well as written, with due regard to the cultural context of Chinese expression. CHN 101S or equivalent is recommended.

CHN 104 | INTERMEDIATE CHINESE I | 4 quarter hours
(Undergraduate)
This course is the first part of the three-quarter course in Intermediate Chinese. It is offered to help students develop higher-level conversation skills as well as modern Chinese literacy. The dialect to be taught in the course is Mandarin. Simplified Chinese characters are mainly used in reading and writing, although students are also exposed to the traditional form of Chinese characters throughout the course. CHN 103 or equivalent, including placement test or permission of instructor, is recommended.

CHN 105 | INTERMEDIATE CHINESE II | 4 quarter hours
(Undergraduate)
This course is the second part of the three-quarter course in Intermediate Chinese. It is offered to help students develop higher-level conversation skills as well as modern Chinese literacy. The dialect to be taught in the course is Mandarin Chinese. Simplified Chinese characters are mainly used in reading and writing, although students are also exposed to the traditional form of Chinese characters throughout the course. CHN 104 or equivalent, including placement test or permission of instructor, is recommended.

CHN 106 | INTERMEDIATE CHINESE III | 4 quarter hours
(Undergraduate)
This course is the third part of the three-quarter course in Intermediate Chinese. It is offered to help students develop higher-level conversation skills as well as modern Chinese literacy. The dialect to be taught in the course is Mandarin. Simplified Chinese characters are mainly used in reading and writing, although students are also exposed to the traditional form of Chinese characters throughout the course. CHN 105 or equivalent, including placement test or permission of instructor, is recommended.

CHN 110 | INTENSIVE BASIC CHINESE I (FOR PARTICIPANTS IN STARTALK PROGRAM) | 4 quarter hours
(Undergraduate)
An intensive introduction to reading, writing, and speaking Mandarin in a cultural context for the beginning student. For participants in the STARTALK Program.

CHN 111 | INTENSIVE BASIC CHINESE II (FOR PARTICIPANTS IN STARTALK PROGRAM) | 6 quarter hours
(Undergraduate)
An intensive introduction to reading, writing, and speaking Mandarin in a cultural context for the beginning student; continues CHN 110. For participants in the STARTALK Program.

CHN 117 | INTENSIVE BASIC CHINESE I | 6 quarter hours
(Undergraduate)
This is part I of a two-course sequence of hybrid Basic Chinese which is equivalent to the 1st-year sequence CHN101-102-103. The hybrid course is offered in two modules: Online Learning Module (OLM) in which students learn the online content on our course website and finish online assignments during the weekdays and the Face-to-Face Module (FtFM) in which you take tests and have conversational practices in a weekly class meeting every Friday afternoon. The class will focus on developing students' basic conversational and literary proficiency in Mandarin Chinese.

CHN 118 | INTENSIVE BASIC CHINESE II | 6 quarter hours
(Undergraduate)
This is part II of a two-course sequence of hybrid Basic Chinese which is equivalent to the 1st-year sequence CHN101-102-103. The hybrid course is offered in two modules: Online Learning Module (OLM) in which students learn the online content on the course website and finish online assignments during the weekdays and the Face-to-Face Module (FtFM) in which you take tests and have conversational practices in a weekly class meeting. The class will focus on developing students' basic conversational and literary proficiency in Mandarin Chinese. CHN 117 or equivalent, including placement test or permission of instructor, is recommended.
CHN 130 | MOLILSAP STUDY ABROAD | 2 quarter hours  
(Undergraduate)  
This course is specially designed to complement the Modern Language Introductory Languages Study Abroad programs, linked to the third quarter of the first year language program. The course will be taught abroad.

CHN 141 | INTENSIVE CHINESE | 4 quarter hours  
(Undergraduate)  
Students will be encouraged to engage in primary research and field work, visiting local Asian American communities and community-based organizations. While the course will provide students with an introduction to issues linked to community-rooted research in Chicago, it will also enhance an awareness of the challenges of integrating: media or popular representations with reality; theory with practice, and "objective" research with social advocacy. Gaining new perspectives, students will be empowered to apply such knowledge and research skills in conducting a study of any community, particularly those that are least understood, such as the Asian American communities. Through such studies, students will take active roles in bringing such communities from the margins to the center of investigation, contributing to academic and popular interests.

CHN 197 | SPECIAL TOPICS IN CHINESE | 4 quarter hours  
(Undergraduate)  
See schedule for current offerings.

CHN 198 | STUDY ABROAD | 1-8 quarter hours  
(Undergraduate)  
Variable credit.

CHN 199 | INDEPENDENT STUDY | 0.5-8 quarter hours  
(Undergraduate)  
Variable credit.

CHN 201 | ADVANCED CHINESE I | 4 quarter hours  
(Undergraduate)  
This is the first course of third-year Chinese. Students will improve their communicative competence in all four areas of listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Emphasis will be on expansion of vocabulary, the mastery of more complex structural patterns and grammatical concepts, as well as the students' ability to apply in actual communication what they have learned in the classroom. CHN 106 or equivalent, including placement test or permission of instructor, is recommended.

CHN 202 | ADVANCED CHINESE II | 4 quarter hours  
(Undergraduate)  
This course is offered to help students develop higher-level conversation skills as well as modern Chinese literacy. The dialect to be taught in the course is Mandarin. Simplified Chinese characters are mainly used in reading and writing, although students are also exposed to the traditional form of Chinese characters throughout the course. CHN 106 or equivalent, including placement test or permission of instructor, is recommended.

CHN 203 | ADVANCED CHINESE III | 4 quarter hours  
(Undergraduate)  
This course is the third part of the three-quarter sequence in Advanced Chinese. It is offered to help students develop higher-level conversation skills as well as modern Chinese literacy. The dialect to be taught in the course is Mandarin. Simplified Chinese characters are mainly used in reading and writing, although students are also exposed to the traditional form of Chinese characters throughout the course. CHN 106 or equivalent, including placement test or permission of instructor, is recommended.

CHN 208E | CHINA'S CULTURAL SOFT POWER AND ITS FUTURE | 4 quarter hours  
(Undergraduate)  
TAUGHT IN ENGLISH. Soft power is a political term coined by Joseph Nye in the 1980s to refer to a country's ability to attract and persuade other countries without coercion. According to certain metrics, a country's soft power can be measured by the quality of a country's political institutions, the extent of their cultural appeal, the strength of their diplomatic network, the global reputation of their higher education system, the attractiveness of their economic model, and a country's digital engagement with the world. Within three decades, China has transformed from an impoverished and self-secluded nation into a global powerhouse challenging the world's status quo. This course will explore China's soft power by analyzing multiple aspects of Chinese culture and its contemporary society and understand the prospects of China in the next generation. We will focus on the dramatic social cultural changes in China in the past decades that reflect its soft power or lack thereof and explore its long-term impact on the rest of the world. The readings and class discussions will engage topics on China's historical dynamics, unique cultural traditions, politics, economy, and international relations. Students will be exposed to and analyze comparative views analyzing and predicting China's future.

CHN 209E | CHINESE YOUTH CULTURES | 4 quarter hours  
(Undergraduate)  
TAUGHT IN ENGLISH. As China's economic and political influence grows on the world stage, it has become increasingly important to understand China's youth who as the next generation of leaders and workers will unquestionably shape the country's trajectory, and ultimately the world’s geopolitical, economic, and cultural landscape. It is well documented that China's millennials and their younger siblings have witnessed greater and faster socioeconomic and demographic changes than previous generations. This course is designed to help students understand and analyze what it means to be young in such a fast-changing country that is ruled by one Party but continuously exposed to intense globalization.

CHN 211 | LANGUAGE AND SOCIETY IN MODERN CHINA | 4 quarter hours  
(Undergraduate)  
This course explores contemporary society and culture through readings and discussions about the features and history of languages spoken in Mainland China, Taiwan, and Hong Kong. The course explores the mutual influence between language and cultural traditions including, social practices and values; the recent economic boom, the Internet; and English. The course is designed as a companion course to the intensive Chinese language study in the Chinese Summer Abroad program in Shanghai. The pre-travel portion of the course helps prepare students for their stay in Shanghai by introducing them to the general features of the society, culture and history. The on-site and post-travel portions will engage students in reflection, analysis and understanding of the experience. CHN 106 or equivalent, including placement test or permission of instructor, is recommended.

CHN 248E | CHINESE CALLIGRAPHY | 4 quarter hours  
(Undergraduate)  
TAUGHT IN ENGLISH. This course provides an introduction to the art of Chinese calligraphy. Hands-on practice as well as history and theory of the art. This course is open to students with no background in Chinese calligraphy, language, literature, or culture.
CHN 250E | CHINESE CINEMA -- A WINDOW ON CHINA | 4 quarter hours (Undergraduate)
TAUGHT IN ENGLISH. This course studies Chinese cinema, the visualized artistic reflection of Chinese society, ideology, and culture from four perspectives: Historical, directorial, thematic, and artistic. It will cover the history of Chinese cinema, from the birth of the first Chinese film through the Silent Age, 1st Golden Age, 2nd Golden Age, Pre- and Post-War Era, Pre- and Post "Cultural Revolution" Period, and the Fifth Generation up to the emerging Sixth generation and beyond. Through substantial exposure and analysis of selected movie classics and subsequent classroom discussions, students will be well informed about the major developments and trends of each period in the history of Chinese cinema. Students will also explore the historical backgrounds, artistic characteristics, and key directors and stars of important Chinese movies as well as cinematic terminologies, the formation of Chinese cinematic theories, and innovative cinematic techniques.

CHN 252 | INTRODUCTION TO COMMERCIAL CHINESE | 4 quarter hours (Undergraduate)
This course will help students develop basic interpretive, presentational, and interactive skills that are needed in business-related Chinese social contexts. Students will learn pertinent vocabulary, idiomatic expressions, cultural information and etiquette in four conversational contexts as presented in four units in this course. Mandarin Chinese is used in the majority of instruction, although English is also employed to explain certain cultural information and relevant business etiquette. CHN 106 or equivalent, including placement test or permission of instructor, is recommended.

CHN 297 | SPECIAL TOPICS IN CHINESE | 4 quarter hours (Undergraduate)
See schedule for current offerings.

CHN 298 | STUDY ABROAD | 1-8 quarter hours (Undergraduate)
Variable credit.

CHN 299 | INDEPENDENT STUDY | 0.5-8 quarter hours (Undergraduate)
Variable credit.

CHN 301 | ADVANCED SPEAKING | 4 quarter hours (Undergraduate)
This course is designed to help post-intermediate students of Chinese develop advanced-level Mandarin speaking skills. Students will acquire new vocabulary, structural patterns and language registers that will allow students to comprehend and discuss issues in Chinese in various social contexts. As this is an advanced level course, Chinese is the medium of instruction and is the focus of all class activities. Minimal English is expected in class communication. CHN 106 or equivalent, including placement test or permission of instructor, is recommended.

CHN 302 | ADVANCED READING | 4 quarter hours (Undergraduate)
This course is designed to help post-intermediate students of Chinese to develop reading and writing skills in standard (Mandarin) Chinese, dealing with intermediate to advanced texts with carefully designed exercises to guide comprehension and strengthen reading and writing strategies. As this is an advanced level course, Chinese is the medium of instruction and is the focus of all class activities. Minimal English is expected in class communication. CHN 106 or equivalent, including placement test or permission of instructor, is recommended.

CHN 303 | ADVANCED WRITING | 4 quarter hours (Undergraduate)
This course is the third section of the fourth-year Chinese sequence with the aim of helping students develop advanced-level reading and writing skills in standard (Mandarin) Chinese. This course will focus on developing students' writing skills on formal and abstract topics. Students will also be exposed to various genres of written Chinese such as newspaper, magazines, and contemporary novels. As this is an advanced level course, Chinese is the medium of instruction and is the focus of all class activities. Minimal English is expected in class communication. CHN 106 or equivalent, including placement test or permission of instructor, is recommended.

CHN 305 | TANG DYNASTY LITERATURE AND CULTURE | 4 quarter hours (Undergraduate)
This is an introductory course to the history, art and interpretation of Tang Poetry, the zenith of classical Chinese poetry. Introductory readings are in English, and original poems in simplified and traditional Chinese will be selected for reading and discussion. Attention will also be given to the rewriting of Chinese literature in the age of globalization. CHN 106 or equivalent, including placement test or permission of instructor, is recommended.

CHN 319 | CONTEMPORARY CHINESE LITERATURE | 4 quarter hours (Undergraduate)
This is a survey course of Chinese literary history of the past seven decades in the contexts of Chinese historical and cultural circumstances. Students will examine representative works of the major literary genres such as poetry, novel (in excerpt), short story, drama (in excerpt), and the most recent online forms, such as blog essay. CHN 106 or equivalent, including placement test or permission of instructor, is recommended.

CHN 320 | CHINESE FOR BUSINESS | 4 quarter hours (Undergraduate)
This course is designed to help students who have finished at least three years of Chinese language learning to develop advanced-level Mandarin Chinese skills and cultural knowledge that are needed in Chinese-speaking business contexts. The focus will be on international business activities that involve Chinese-speaking professionals. You will develop relevant vocabulary, oral and literate skills, cultural information and etiquette that are needed when conducting business tasks in Chinese-speaking contexts. Mandarin Chinese is used as the primary language in class although English may be occasionally employed. CHN 106 or equivalent, including placement test or permission of instructor, is recommended.

CHN 321 | TRANSLATION | 4 quarter hours (Undergraduate)
Boosted by globalization and the Internet, the demand for translators is on the rise. This demand creates career opportunities for people with the knowledge of a second language. Chinese 321 - Translation Practice and Theories - is designed to help Chinese-language students grasp the skills and theories needed to render Chinese-to-English and English-to-Chinese translations. Through hands-on practice, a survey of major theories of translation, group and class discussions, and lectures, this course will teach students how to comprehend source texts accurately and deeply from both linguistic and cultural perspectives; how to express faithfully, fully, and coherently in the target language the idea of a source text; how to apply grammatical rules, rhetorical devices, diction, etc. in translation; how to use editing skills to enhance translation results; and how to use different language styles to render different materials. CHN 106 or equivalent, including placement test or permission of instructor, is recommended.
CHN 330 | MODERN CHINESE LITERATURE: 1919 - 1949 | 4 quarter hours
(Undergraduate)
This course studies some of the highlights of modern Chinese literature since the May 4th Movement in 1919 to the pre-Mao era in 1949—literature produced during a period of unprecedented historical upheavals and that itself has been an arena for political, cultural, and aesthetic conflicts. Through a close study of some of the significant fiction, drama, and poetry students will not only gain a keen understanding of the central themes of modern Chinese but also a better understanding of modern Chinese society. CHN 106 or equivalent, including placement test or permission of instructor, is recommended.

CHN 331 | CHINESE CLASSIC FICTION: JOURNEY TO THE WEST | 4 quarter hours
(Undergraduate)
Conceived and cultivated by the essence of nature for millions of years, out of a rock on the east subcontinent sprang a stone egg, which then turned into a monkey. This monkey, with miraculous fighting skills he had learned from a mysterious master, later became the disciple of a famous Buddhist monk and guarded him, with two other disciples in the incarnation of a pig-man and a water-man, through a long-and-danger-ridden journey to the West to seek sutra. What is hidden behind the mission of the journey? What is the purpose of this magic fiction? We will answer all these questions in this course. This course is designed for students with native-like Mandarin Chinese proficiency to develop deeper understanding of Chinese culture and critical literary analysis skills needed to appreciate one of the best-known Chinese classic literature.

CHN 354 | INTRODUCTION TO CHINESE LINGUISTICS | 4 quarter hours
(Undergraduate)
This course is aimed to introduce students to modern Mandarin Chinese linguistics. Students will explore the historical evolution of Chinese and understand the basic characteristics of Mandarin. CHN 106 or equivalent recommended. Cross-listed with CHN 454.

CHN 360 | CHINESE POPULAR CULTURE AND SOCIAL MEDIA | 4 quarter hours
(Undergraduate)
The course aims to survey contemporary Chinese pop culture in city life as well as social, cultural, and political dynamics shaped by and reflected in Chinese social media. Print and online media reports, excerpts from popular TV shows, films, documentaries, and literature will be used as reading and class discussion materials. Language use in various media genres will be discussed as well. Students are expected to use Mandarin Chinese as the primary language in the classroom. CHN 106 or equivalent, including placement test or permission of instructor, is recommended.

CHN 370 | CHINESE CULTURE THROUGH FILM | 4 quarter hours
(Undergraduate)
This course is a survey course in which a selection of films from the internationally acclaimed “new Chinese cinema” are used to help students better understand the history, politics, society and economy of China in different decades of the twentieth century. Students will place each film in its historical context, considering both its aesthetic form and sociopolitical content. Although both English and Mandarin will be used in class, students need to have good command of the Chinese language to understand and discuss sociolinguistic issues in certain films. CHN 106 or equivalent, including placement test or permission of instructor, is recommended.

CHN 395 | FOREIGN LANGUAGES ACROSS THE CURRICULUM | 2 quarter hours
(Undergraduate)
The two credit FLAC course allows students to enrich their experience in the co-required course through added reading, writing, listening and speaking activities in Chinese. Students must have the equivalent of 106 or higher ability in Chinese to take this two credit component. Please contact the Department of Modern Languages if you have questions about this course or about language placement.

CHN 397 | SPECIAL TOPICS IN CHINESE | 4 quarter hours
(Undergraduate)
See schedule for current offerings.

CHN 398 | STUDY ABROAD | 1-8 quarter hours
(Undergraduate)
Variable credit.

CHN 399 | INDEPENDENT STUDY | 0.5-8 quarter hours
(Undergraduate)
Variable credit.

CHN 401 | ADVANCED SPEAKING | 4 quarter hours
(Graduate)
Advanced practice of speaking skills in Mandarin, focusing on expanding vocabulary and information needed for the discussion of topics in the target language. Three years of college study or equivalent knowledge recommended.

CHN 402 | ADVANCED READING | 4 quarter hours
(Graduate)
Advanced practice of reading skills in Mandarin, focusing on increasing vocabulary and reinforcement of grammatical knowledge, using textual clues to find the meanings of unknown words.

CHN 403 | ADVANCED WRITING | 4 quarter hours
(Graduate)
Advanced practice of writing skills in Mandarin, focusing on standardized formal writing practices ranging from the writing of letters to the writing of essays, including both descriptive and expository styles. Students in this course will develop vocabulary, expressions, and reading and writing strategies through working with historical texts. They are also expected to develop deeper understanding of the content, as well as the special historical and cultural contexts, of the selected texts. All assignments will be submitted in Mandarin Chinese.

CHN 405 | TANG DYNASTY LITERATURE AND CULTURE | 4 quarter hours
(Graduate)
This is an introductory course to the history, art and interpretation of Tang Poetry, the zenith of classical Chinese poetry. All the introductory readings are in English, and original poems in simplified and traditional Chinese will be selected for reading and discussion. Attention will also be given to the rewriting of Chinese literature in the age of globalization.

CHN 419 | CONTEMPORARY CHINESE LITERATURE | 4 quarter hours
(Graduate)
This is a survey course to the Chinese literary history of the past seven decades in the contexts of Chinese historical and cultural circumstances. Students will examine representative works of the major literary genres such as poetry, novel, short story, drama, and the most recent online forms, such as blog essay.

CHN 420 | CHINESE FOR BUSINESS | 4 quarter hours
(Graduate)
This course aims to develop advanced-level oral and literary skills that are needed in business-related Chinese social contexts. Cultural information will be covered as an integral part of business communication.
Boosted by globalization and the Internet, the demand for translators is on the rise. This demand creates career opportunities for people with the knowledge of a second language. Chinese 421 - Translation Practice and Theories is designed to help Chinese-language students grasp the skills and theories needed to render Chinese-to-English and English-to-Chinese translations. Through hands-on practice, a survey of major theories of translation, group and class discussions, and lectures, this course will teach students how to comprehend source texts accurately and deeply from both linguistic and cultural perspectives; how to express faithfully, fully, and coherently in the target language the idea of a source text; how to apply grammatical rules, rhetorical devices, diction, etc. in translation; how to use editing skills to enhance translation results; and how to use different language styles to render different materials.

This course studies some of the highlights of modern Chinese literature since the May 4th Movement in 1919 to the pre-Mao era in 1949—literature produced during a period of unprecedented historical upheavals and that itself has been an arena for political, cultural, and aesthetic conflicts. Through a close study of some of the significant fiction, drama, and poetry, students will not only gain a keen understanding of the central themes of modern Chinese but also a better understanding of modern Chinese society.

This course introduces students to modern Mandarin Chinese linguistics. Students will explore the historical evolution of Chinese and understand the basic characteristics of Mandarin.

The course aims to survey contemporary Chinese pop culture in city life as well as social, cultural, and political dynamics shaped by and reflected in Chinese social media. Print and online media reports, excerpts from popular TV shows, films, documentaries, and literature will be used as reading and class discussion materials. Language use in various media genres will be discussed as well. Students are expected to use Mandarin Chinese as the primary language in the classroom.

Survey of major twentieth-century Chinese films illustrating the history, politics, society and economy of modern China, with special attention to the continuity between tradition and modernity.

Supervised practice in language instruction, paired with a mentor instructor in a beginning or intermediate language course. Students observe a class, teach a lesson or lessons, assist in assessment and lesson planning, and complete individualized assignments to develop their skills as classroom language instructors. Repeatable.

See schedule for current offerings.

Variable credit.