

MLC310 Introduction to Chinese Linguistics

1st and 2nd quarters, Junior

Instructor	NAGAI TAKAHIRO
Style of Class	Lecture
Number of Credits	2
Day and Period	To be advised

Course Description

This course is an overview of the Chinese Linguistics, and students will study the background and structure of what they have already learned in their Chinese classes. They will learn the theoretical bases of the knowledge and linguistic phenomena they have studied previously in ways that will prove useful in their future study and research of the Chinese language. The course will center on the development of the common language of the Han people, the characteristics of Chinese in comparison with the Indo-European languages, traditional methods of researching the Chinese language, but students will also reinforce their understanding of the relevant cultural phenomena and the areas near the Chinese-speaking world.

Course Objectives

Understanding the historical processes that led to the formation of the common language of the Han people, the characteristics of the Chinese language, the standardization of the modern Chinese, and knowledge about traditional research about the Chinese language.

Prerequisites

Chinese I, II, III, IV

Class Materials

Textbook

Handouts will be distributed.

References

Chuugoku gogaku kenkyuukai (1969), *Chuugoku gogaku xin jiten* (New Dictionary of Chinese Linguistics), Koseikan.

Ota Tatsuo (1988), *Chuugokugo shi tsuukou* (Historical Account of the Chinese Language), Hakuteisha.

Zhongguo yuyanxue dacidian weiyuanhui (1991), *Zhongguo yuyan dacidian* (Large Dictionary of the Chinese Language), Jiangxi Jiaoyu Chubanshe.

Wang, Chuande and Shang (1996), Qingshuan, *Hanyushi* (History of the Chinese Language), Jinan Chubanshe.

Xiang, Xi (1998), *Jianming Hanyushi (shang-xia)* (A Simplified History of the Chinese Language, Volumes 1 and 2), Gaodeng Jiaoyu Chubanshe.

Shen, Xiaolong (2005), *Yuyanxue gangyao (An Outline of Linguistics)* Fudan University Press.

He, Jiuying (2006), *Zhongguo gudai yuyanxueshi (xinzengdingben)* (A History of Ancient Chinese Linguistics [new revised and expanded edition]), Peking University Press.

Yuwen Jiaoyu Chubanshe (ed.) (2011), *Yuyan wenzi guifan shouce* (Handbook of Language and Script Standards), Yuwen Jiaoyu Chubanshe.

Course Methods

This course will be conducted in a lecture format accompanied by slides, but on occasion, the students will be asked questions about the material prepared for the class session.

Evaluation/Assessment

Students will be evaluated on an overall basis with participation points and a final exam. The participation points will include attitude toward the class and state of preparedness.

Grading

Students will be graded on the basis of participation points (40%) and the final exam (60%)

Course Schedule

Week 1: Course Description, Summary of Research in Chinese Linguistics

There will be an orientation to class procedures and evaluation methods. In the remaining time, I will provide an overview of research about the Chinese language.

Week 2: Names for the Chinese Language (Names for Chinese, the Han People and the Chinese Language)

This lecture will deal with the names given to the Chinese language over time. In addition to the names used throughout history, students will learn more about the differences in names of Chinese language used in different regions. The lecture will also cover the Han people, the majority ethnic group in China, the principal speakers of *Hanyu* or Chinese.

Week 3: The Historical Periods of the Chinese Language

This lecture will deal with the historical periods as designated in research about the Chinese language. Students will learn about the current prevailing ideas and the theories promulgated in Japan and China throughout history.

Week 4: The Origin and Development of the Common Language of the Han People (Courtly Language and Literary Language)

This lecture will deal with the origin and development of the Chinese language, beginning in ancient times. The aim is to understand the origin and development of courtly language and literary language.

Week 5: The Origin and Development of the Common Language of the Han People (Old Mandarin, Early Modern Mandarin)

Continuing from Week 4, we will consider the origin and development of *Hanyu* (Chinese). The aim is to understand the origin and development of Old Mandarin and Early Modern Mandarin.

Week 6: The Origin and Development of the Common Language of the Han People (From Mandarin to Putonghua, Westerners and the Chinese Language)

Continuing from Week 5, we will consider the origin and development of *Hanyu* (Chinese). The aim is to understand the development of Modern Mandarin into *Putonghua* or “Common Language.” We will also look at the ways in which modern Westerners understood the Chinese language.

Week 7: The Characteristics of the Chinese Language

We will compare Modern Chinese with the Indo-European languages and consider its characteristics.

Week 8: The Syllable Structure and Phonology (Initials) of Chinese

This lecture will consider the characteristics of the structure and features of Chinese syllables that students did not learn about in detail in their earlier classes, as well as the features of the *pinyin* notation system. This Session will place particular focus on the initials.

Week 9: The Syllable Structure and Phonology (Finals) of Chinese

This lecture will consider the characteristics of the structure and features of Chinese syllables that students did not learn about in detail in their earlier classes, as well as the features of the *pinyin* notation system. This Session will place particular focus on the finals.

Week 10: The Syllable Structure and Phonology (Tones and Writing Systems) of Chinese

This lecture will consider the characteristics of the structure and features of Chinese syllables that students did not learn about in detail in their earlier classes, as well as the features of the *pinyin* notation system. This Session will place particular focus on the tones and writing systems.

Week 11: The Standardization of Modern Chinese (1)

This lecture will consider the standardization of Modern Chinese, which is essential for education and learning. The focus will be on the Common Language and Script Law of the People’s Republic of China.

Week 12: The Standardization of Modern Chinese (2)

This lecture will consider the standardization of Modern Chinese, which is essential for education and learning. The focus will be on the simplified characters, the standard list of characters, and regulations concerning reading pronunciations of characters.

Week 13: The Standardization of Modern Chinese

This lecture will consider the standardization of Modern Chinese, which is essential for education and learning. The focus will be on the standardization of *pinyin*.

Week 14: Traditional Research in Chinese Linguistics 1

This lecture will consider traditional linguistic research in China. It will also give students a better understanding of factors relevant to linguistic research, such as Confucianism and the national imperial examination system.

Week 15: Traditional Research in Chinese Linguistics 2

This lecture will consider traditional linguistic research in China, with a focus on phonological evolution.

Week 16: Final exam

Written exam with a time limit of 80 minutes

Preparation and Follow-up

Prepare by looking up the terminology used in the materials and not any points that are unclear. As follow-up, reinforce the knowledge you acquired during class and recheck the unclear points that you noted while preparing to make sure that you understand them now.