

# CHIN: 313 Classical Chinese Language & Literature

School of Asian & European Languages & Cultures

Trimester 1/2 2008

24 Points

## STAFF

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Hours: 9:45 am-4:30pm

The lecturers will be available for consultation during normal working hours.

Students are encouraged to watch the Chinese Programme Notice Board (7<sup>th</sup> Floor, von Zedlitz Building) for information on courses, programme changes, as well as Chinese Culture Club activities.

## CLASS TIMES AND ROOMS

Lectures:

Mon	4-5	KP22 104
Fri	4-5	KP22 104

## AIMS AND CONTENT OF THE COURSE

For the two millennia prior to the early decades of this century, Classical Chinese was the medium of most written communication in China (and to some extent throughout the rest of East Asia), from the inscriptions found on the oracle bones to memorials to the emperor, from the classics of Confucianism and Taoism to personal letters and colophons on paintings, from the great historical works of the Han dynasty to the poetry of the high Tang period and beyond. To study Classical Chinese is to acquire an invaluable tool for an understanding of the literary, artistic and philosophical traditions of one of the great civilisations of the world. All students intending to pursue advanced studies in any field of traditional Sinology (Chinese Studies) are required to have a good reading knowledge of the language. Mastery of Classical Chinese serves also to enhance a student's understanding of the contemporary form of the language.

Chin 313 is an introductory paper in this classical language which assumes that by this stage in their study of Chinese, students will have a sound command of modern Chinese grammar, an active knowledge of approximately 1500 Chinese Characters, and be well versed in the techniques of character memorisation and dictionary consultation. By the conclusion of the paper, students will be expected to:

- Be able to work with a range of primary Classical Chinese language materials, and to have developed the skills of literary translation, Chinese to English.
- Mastered the use of a range of basic Sinological bibliographical and reference tools.
- To have become familiar with a range of issues, both theoretical & methodological, pertaining to Chinese Studies.

- And to have applied these various skills and methodologies to a specific topic in the field of Chinese Studies.

In time-honoured fashion, the method of tuition will be inductive; in class, students will read extracts from some of the most important classical works, both prose and poetry, dating from the pre-Qin period onwards. Over time, students will be expected to develop an understanding of the particular syntax of the language and the specific grammatical functions of a number of the most important particles.

Course Material:

Students should acquire from the Student Notes Office the following course materials:

- *CHIN 313: Introduction to Classical Chinese Language & Literature: Texts* [\$8.20]
- *CHIN 313: Introduction to Classical Chinese Language & Literature: Reference Materials* [\$17.80]

Background Reference Works:

- Pulleyblank, E.G. *Outline of Classical Chinese Grammar* (Vancouver, British Columbia: University of British Columbia Press, 1995)
- Loewe, M., ed. *Early Chinese Texts: A Bibliographical Guide* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1993)
- Nienhauser, W.H., ed. *The Indiana Companion to Traditional Chinese Literature*, 2 vols. (Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1986 & 1998)

## ASSESSMENT REQUIREMENTS

This paper is entirely internally assessed. Assessment is based on a combination of translation assignments, an essay and a final test. This mixture is felt to be most appropriate to the nature of a paper that seeks both to teach the classical language and to introduce students to the traditional Chinese world of letters. Assessment is weighted in the following manner:

### 1. Translation Assignments: [50%]

Five short equally weighted translation assignments, due:

- 28 March
- 2 May
- 30 May
- 18 July
- 19 September

Assignments to be submitted two weeks after being set and will be marked and returned within two weeks of the due date.

### 2. Essay: [20%]

- Due 23 May

Essay topics to be given out in May. In consultation with their lecturers, students may present an essay on a topic of their own devising. Word Limit: 1500-2000 words

### 3. Final Test: [30%]

- 10 October (50 minutes)

Lateness:

The late submission of assignments and/or essays must be negotiated with the lecturer concerned before the due date and, depending upon circumstances, may be penalised.

## WORKLOAD AND ATTENDANCE REQUIREMENTS

Faculty workload guidelines suggest that students should devote a total of 9 hours a week to this paper for its duration in order to maintain satisfactory progress.

Students are required to attend two lectures per week and attendance should be at least 80% of all classes offered.

## STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES AND STUDENT EVALUATIONS

In the second week of lectures, staff will facilitate the election of a class representative. Student reps are a valuable means of communication between teaching staff and students. Each trimester student reps of SAELC courses will meet together with the Head of School. At the end of the course all students will be asked to fill out questionnaires prepared by the University's Teaching and Development Centre in order to evaluate individual lecturers' performance and/or the course as a whole.

## GENERAL ADVICE

**Contact Person:**

**Students with Disabilities**

**Maori and Pacific Students**

Dr Rick Millington vZ613 Phone 383 7852 Email: [Rick.Millington@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:Rick.Millington@vuw.ac.nz)

## ACADEMIC INTEGRITY AND PLAGIARISM

Academic integrity is about honesty – put simply it means *no cheating*. All members of the University community are responsible for upholding academic integrity, which means staff and students are expected to behave honestly, fairly and with respect for others at all times.

Plagiarism is a form of cheating which undermines academic integrity. The University defines plagiarism as follows:

*The presentation of the work of another person or other persons as if it were one's own, whether intended or not. This includes published or unpublished work, material on the Internet and the work of other students or staff.*

It is still plagiarism even if you re-structure the material or present it in your own style or words.

*Note: It is however, perfectly acceptable to include the work of others as long as that is acknowledged by appropriate referencing.*

Plagiarism is prohibited at Victoria and is not worth the risk. Any enrolled student found guilty of plagiarism will be subject to disciplinary procedures under the Statute on Student Conduct and may be penalized severely. Consequences of being found guilty of plagiarism can include:

- an oral or written warning
- cancellation of your mark for an assessment or a fail grade for the course
- suspension from the course or the University.

Find out more about plagiarism, and how to avoid it, on the University's website:

<http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/plagiarism.aspx>

## GENERAL UNIVERSITY REQUIREMENTS, POLICIES AND STATUTES

Students should familiarise themselves with the University's policies and statutes, particularly the Assessment Statute, the Personal Courses of Study Statute, the Statute on Student Conduct and any statutes relating to the particular qualifications being studied; see the *Victoria University Calendar* available in hardcopy or under "about Victoria" on the Victoria homepage at:

[http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about\\_victoria/calendar\\_intro.html](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about_victoria/calendar_intro.html)

Information on the following topics is available electronically under "Course Outline General Information" at:

<http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/newspubs/universitypubs.aspx#general>

- Academic Grievances
- Student and Staff Conduct
- Meeting the Needs of Students with Impairments
- Student Support