AUTUMN SEMESTER 2018

CHINESE 5383

The Chinese Writing System

Professor Marjorie K.M. Chan
Dept. of East Asian Langs. & Lits.
The Ohio State University
Columbus, OH 43210
U.S.A.

COURSE: Chinese 5383. The Chinese Writing System
Class No. & Credit Hours: 35006 G 3 credits
Class No. & Credit Hours: 35007 U 3 credits

DAY & TIME: M 2:15 - 5:00 PM

PLACE: 071 Hagerty Hall (1775 College Road)

OFFICE HOURS: R 4:00 - 5:30 p.m., or by appointment
Office: 362 Hagerty Hall
Tel: 292.3619 (Dept.: 292.5816)
E-mail: chan.9@osu.edu

HOME PAGE: http://u.osu.edu/chan.9/

COURSE PAGE: http://u.osu.edu/chan.9/c5383/

TEXTBOOKS & READINGS

There are no textbooks assigned to this course. Readings are book chapters and (e-)journal articles. E-journal articles and chapters from web e-books housed in the Ohio State University Libraries <library.osu.edu> can be retrieved directly from OSU Libraries’ online catalog. Additional readings will be made available during the course.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The Chinese writing system has been in continuous use for over three millennia, serving the longest, uninterrupted literary tradition in the world today. Moreover, up to about the end of the eighteenth century, over half of all the books published in the world were written in the Chinese script, a logographic, morpho-syllabic writing system. Against this backdrop, this course is a linguistic study of the Chinese writing system, covering the origin, classification, composition, and development of the Chinese script. Also covered are such related topics as language reform, dialect-writing, internet language, cultural and gender-linked aspects of the script, cognitive processing of Chinese characters, etc.
COURSE OBJECTIVES & EXPECTED OUTCOMES

This course aims to provide students with an overview of the history and development of the Chinese writing system. The course forms the foundation for further pedagogical and/or linguistic research.

Students are expected at the end of the course to have acquired a basic understanding of the history and development of the Chinese script, together with knowledge of related topics, and be challenged to explore and research further on some of the topics that were covered in the course.

COURSE CONTENT

The course surveys topics of relevance to the Chinese writing system. It covers the origin, classification, and development of the Chinese script. The course also studies the history of language reform in China, including simplification and phoneticization. Other topics covered may include gender-linked issues, dialect-writing, hybridized Chinese-alphabetic loanwords, psycholinguistic studies on reading and the processing of Chinese characters, etc.

The course will be conducted through lectures combined with class discussions of assigned readings, individual and small-group assignments in class, and students’ presentation of homework assignments and their individual final project.

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Read and reflect on all assigned readings prior to class lectures and discussion.
2. Attend class regularly, and participate actively in class discussions and individual/group activities.
3. Submit three homework assignments (digital format in Carmen.osu.edu, and hardcopy) to the instructor in class. Each homework assignment is about 7-8 pages double-spaced (or about 6-7 double-spaced pages for undergrads), not including references[1]. Be prepared to present your homework results to the class during the semester.
4. For the term paper project:
   o Turn in a one-page, double-spaced, term paper proposal with select references in Week 11. Submit a digital copy to the Assignment folder in Carmen.osu.edu.
   o Present an oral version of the term paper project at the end of the semester.[2]
   o Submit a term paper in hardcopy and digital format (about 12 pages (or about 10 pages for undergraduate students), double-spaced, not including references and images, if any).[3]
5. Upload all assignments in digital format in Carmen.osu.edu under Chinese 5383.

[1] These may be a combination of research-supported reactions papers and corpus-based, or experimental-design-based, written responses to specific questions from the instructor based on the readings. The assignments should be submitted in hardcopy format in class on the due date, in addition to submission of a digital copy (DOC(X) (MS Word) or PDF format) in Carmen.osu.edu.

[2] Prepare a digital file in PowerPoint format for submission in Carmen.osu.edu and for use in the class presentation. (Be sure to bring a backup copy of the file with you to class and upload a copy accessible in class. That is, be prepared and have Plan B and Plan C ready just in case.)

[3] Submit the term paper in hardcopy format and in digital format. (If some other digital format is used, be sure to discuss it with the instructor first.)
DISABILITY STATEMENT

Students with disabilities that have been certified by the Office for Disability Services will be appropriately accommodated and should inform the instructor as soon as possible of their needs. The Office of Student Life’s Disability Services (SLDS) is located in 098 Baker Hall (113 W. 12th Ave.); Tel: 614-292-3307, Fax: 614-292-4190, VRS: 614-429-1334; URL: http://slds.osu.edu/.

CODE OF STUDENT CONDUCT & ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Students are expected to conduct themselves in accordance with The Ohio State University’s Code of Student Conduct (revised 2 September 2016), which was established to foster and protect the core missions of the university. These are: to foster the scholarly and civic development of the university’s students in a safe and secure learning environment, and to protect the people, properties and processes that support the university and its missions. The core missions of the university are research, teaching and learning, and service. Preservation of academic freedom and free and open exchange of ideas and opinions for all members of the university are central to these missions.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY. Academic integrity is essential to maintaining an environment that fosters excellence in teaching, research, and other educational and scholarly activities. Failure to follow the rules and guidelines established in OSU’s Code of Student Conduct (revised 2 September 2016) may constitute “Academic Misconduct.” OSU’s Code of Student Conduct (section 3335-23-04 Prohibited conduct) defines as academic misconduct “[a]ny activity that tends to compromise the academic integrity of the university, or subvert the educational process.”

Examples of academic misconduct include (but are not limited to) plagiarism, collusion (unauthorized collaboration), copying the work of another student, possession of unauthorized materials during an examination, and submission of the same work for credit in two (or more) courses. Ignorance of the University’s Code of Student Conduct is never considered an “excuse” for academic misconduct; hence, be sure to review the sections dealing with academic misconduct in the Code of Student Conduct.

Be sure also to read the University’s Ten Suggestions for Preserving Academic Integrity and/or the Eight Cardinal Rules of Academic Integrity (from Northwestern U.). The University's policy on academic misconduct will be enforced in accordance with Faculty Rule 3335-5-54, and all alleged cases of academic misconduct will be reported to the Office of Academic Affairs’ Committee on Academic Misconduct (COAM) for resolution. In addition, graduate students should be familiar with the Graduate School’s Graduate Student Code of Research and Scholarly Conduct, which is included in the Graduate School Handbook. Students with questions concerning the University’s policies or questions concerning academic or research misconduct are encouraged to ask the instructor any time during the semester.

[Note: OSU Libraries provides information on plagiarism, as does The Writing Center on plagiarism, along with citation examples for citing of sources, including the use of direct quotes versus paraphrasing, etc. Also, OSU Libraries’ Knowledge Bank has a set of short, online videos on Academic Misconduct and Plagiarism.]
VIRTUAL CLASSES USING CARMENCONNECT

This course meets in the regular classroom during the semester. However, a virtual class meeting may replace a physical class meeting if needed; for example, if The Ohio State University cancels classes due to weather conditions or to safety concerns of its students stemming from Buckeye Alert emergency situations.

GRADING

There will be no midterm or final examination. Grading will be based on:

- Class discussions/participation: 30%
- Homework assignments (3): 30%
- Final project (all phases): 40%

100%

SCHEDULE

Classes are held on Mondays, beginning in Week 2, with each class day subdivided into two parts.

This is a preliminary schedule. Reading selections may be modified when the semester begins.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WEEK 2. BACKGROUND</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>8/27</strong> Part 1. Orientation and Introduction</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Course introduction, Carmen course management system, etc.</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Lecture on Writing Systems of the World</td>
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| **Part 2. In-class Reading & Discussions** |
| - In-class reading and discussion: |
| - Chan (2003); Chen (1999), Ch. 8; selections from Gu (2009); etc. |
| - Discussion: Chinese characters & some basics in Chinese computing |
| - Wenlin & other software, traditional vs. simplified characters, Unicode (Unicode 11.0.0; Unihan database) & other encoding systems (e.g., Guobiao (国标), Big5, HKSCS, etc.), fonts, input methods, etc. |
### WEEK 3. LABOR DAY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>9/3</th>
<th></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• No class</td>
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### WEEK 4. ORIGINS & DEVELOPMENT OF THE CHINESE SCRIPT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>9/10</th>
<th>Part 1. Reading</th>
<th>Part 2. cont’d</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Norman (1988), Ch. 3</td>
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### WEEK 5. CLASSIFICATION OF CHINESE CHARACTERS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>9/17</th>
<th>Part 1. Reading</th>
<th>Part 2. cont’d</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Qiu (2000), Ch. 6</td>
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### WEEK 6. SCRIPT REFORM: SIMPLIFICATION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>9/24</th>
<th>Part 1. Reading</th>
<th>Part 2. Reading</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Chen (1999), Ch. 9</td>
<td>• Zhao &amp; Baldauf (2008), Ch. 1</td>
<td><strong>Due: Homework Assignment 1.</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### WEEK 7. SCRIPT REFORM: PHONETICIZATION & DIGRAPHIA

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>10/1</th>
<th>Part 1. Reading</th>
<th>Part 2. Reading</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Chen (1999), Ch. 10</td>
<td>• P. Su (2001)</td>
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</table>
### WEEK 8. READING & ORTHOGRAPHY

**10/8**  Part 1. Reading  
- Tzeng (2002)

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<th>Part 2. Reading</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Feng (2006)</td>
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### WEEK 9. LANGUAGE, CULTURE & THE SEMANTIC COMPONENT

**10/15**  Part 1. Reading  
- T'sou (1981)  
- Chan & Lin (forthcoming) – *read the subsection on gender & script*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Part 2. Class Discussion &amp; Exploration of the 214 Semantic Radicals</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Serruys (1984) – <em>skim for reference</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Due: Homework Assignment 2.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### WEEK 10. BUCKEYE EAST ASIAN LINGUISTICS FORUM 3

**10/22**  Attendance at BEAL Forum 3  
- BEAL Forum 3  
  Mershon Center  
  Room 120 & Lounge  
  1501 Neil Avenue  
  URL: [http://u.osu.edu/beal/beal-forum/](http://u.osu.edu/beal/beal-forum/)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Home assignment reading</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chen (1999), Ch. 7</td>
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<tr>
<td><em>to be discussed in Week 11</em></td>
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### WEEK 11. DIALECT WRITING

**10/29**  Part 1. Readings:  
- Chen (1999), Ch. 7 (*from Week 10*)  
- Snow (1993)

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<tr>
<th>Part 2. Reading</th>
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<tr>
<td>Li (2000)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Due: One-page project proposal and select references.</td>
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</table>
### WEEK 12. DEVIANT WRITING & THE INTERNET

**11/5** Part 1. Reading  

**Part 2. Reading**  
- Liu (2011)  
  Due: Homework Assignment 3.

### WEEK 13. VETERANS DAY (*Observed*)

**11/12**  
- No class

### WEEK 14. WOMEN’S SCRIPT: Nüshu (女書/女书)

**11/19** Part 1. Reading  
- Zhao (1998)  
- Idema (2011), Part I

**Part 2. Other class activities**  
- Graduating seniors presentations  
- Documentary clips, etc.

### WEEK 15. STUDENT PRESENTATIONS

**11/26** Student Presentations  
*cont’d*

### WEEK 16. LAST DAY OF CLASS

**12/3** Lecture by M. Chan  
- *tba*

**Part 2. Other class activities**  
- Graduating seniors:  
  - Term Paper due today.

- Rest of the class:  
  - Term Paper due on 12/5 (W) at 5:00 p.m.  
    (Digital copy on Carmen due by 9:00 p.m.)
READINGS


   Excerpts:
   - Chapter 7. Dialect writing
   - Chapter 8. Basic features of the Chinese writing system
   - Chapter 9. Simplification of the traditional writing system
   - Chapter 10. Phoneticization of Chinese


   URL: https://ebookcentral-proquest-com.proxy.lib.ohio-state.edu/lib/ohiostate-ebooks/detail.action?docID=3440408
   Excerpts:
   - Chapter 5. Early forms of pen, ink, and paper
   - Chapter 7. Block printing and moveable type
   - Chapter 8. The Chinese typewriter

   URL: http://muse.jhu.edu.proxy.lib.ohio-state.edu/books/9780295800110


SOME SUPPLEMENTARY READINGS AND REFERENCES


38. Logan, Robert K. 1986. The Alphabet Effect: The Impact of the Phonetic Alphabet on the Development of Western Civilization. New York: William Morrow & Co., Inc. (Passages from the book include: “Chinese writing has evolved so little from its pictographic origins that contemporary Chinese are able to read texts 3,500 years old.” (p.43).)


.... more to be added ...

Also see OSU Libraries’ collection of works on Xu Shen’s *Shuowen Jiezi*, and OSU Libraries’ online catalogue subject searches for [Chinese characters -- History](https://library.ohio-state.edu/content/dam/libraries/online-catalog/books/online-catalog-books-by-subject/Chinese-characters--History/) and [Chinese language -- Writing](https://library.ohio-state.edu/content/dam/libraries/online-catalog/books/online-catalog-books-by-subject/Chinese-language--Writing/), etc., for publications in Chinese, English, French, Japanese, and other languages.

**Books/Software/Apps for Chinese Dictionaries and Learning to Read and Write Chinese:**


2. *Wenlin* <wenlin.com>. Software for MS-Windows and Mac OS X, *Wenlin 4.2* has the complete Unicode 6.2 CJK (Unihan) character set support, with approximately 85,000 CDL descriptions, including over 75,000 Chinese characters, which include Chinese characters in Big5+ (Taiwan), Cantonese dialect characters used in Hong Kong, etc., etc. In addition to containing an electronic version of new *ABC English-Chinese/Chinese-English Dictionary* (2010), edited by John DeFrancis and Zhang Yanyin, it also includes a new electronic edition of the Han dynasty dictionary, the *Shuowen Jiezi* (说文解字). Users now have direct access to Wenlin’s CDL technology, including the ability to edit/create an unlimited number of custom Chinese characters. The *User’s Guide* in online at Wenlin Software for Learning Chinese, *Version 4.2 - User’s Guide*. Wenlin has a freely downloadable edition containing three dictionaries with a total of 1,367 dictionary entries, etc.

3. *Pleco* <pleco.com>. App for Android and iOS handheld devices with many dictionaries to purchase (plus several free dictionaries) to add to the app. The app also has utilities (some free, some for purchasing) for learning Chinese. Pleco has a freely downloadable basic version.


.... more to be added ...

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**SOME ONLINE RESOURCES**

- **Ohio State University:**
  - [Ohio State University Libraries](http://www.library.osu.edu), Ohio State’s online catalogues, as well as links to OhioLINK Catalog, WorldCat, etc. Search the Online catalogue for books, journals, e-journals, books and other materials reserved for a course, etc.
  - Online Indices of Some Chinese Linguistics Journals:
    a. *Fangyan 方言* (Dialect) -- Online Index (1979-1998, arranged by author, following Pinyin romanization) — DOC file (1979 - 2003.3, arranged chronologically – no longer available online) (Also see CNKI.COM’s online database for 方言, for browsing the table of contents for each separate issue of the journal. Also check out CAOD below, for online access through OhioLINK to many digital versions of journals, including *Fangyan 方言*.)
    c. *Journal of the Chinese Language Teachers Association* -- [JCLTA Index Online](http://www.jclta.org/index.html) (1966-; searchable index). Note: The journal has in recent years been renamed *Chinese as a Second Language* (漢語教學研究—美國中文教師學會學報)
    d. *Journal of East Asian Linguistics* (online journal) (E-journal and hardcopy; no online index — Main (EAS): PL492J68)
    e. *Yuyan Jiaoxue Yu Yanjiu 语言教学与研究* [English title: Language Teaching and Linguistic Studies] (No online indices — Main (EAS): PL1004 .Y827)
    f. *Yuyan Yanjiu 语言研究*: Table of Contents Index. (Eng./GB) (1981- ); (No online indices — Main: PL1004 .Y84)
    g. *Zhongguo Yuwen 中国语文*. Also check out CAOD below, for online access through OhioLINK to many digital versions of journals, including *Zhongguo Yuwen 中国语文*.

- **Chinese Studies Resources at OSU Libraries**, Ohio State has an extensive Chinese-language collection of books and periodicals to support teaching and research, as well as multimedia materials.

- Hardcopy Chinese-language linguistics journal titles subscribed by OSU Libraries include:
  a. *Fangyan 方言*. PL1501 .F33 (quarterly)
  b. *Han zi wen hua 漢字文化*. PL1281 .H365 (quarterly)
  c. *Hanyu xuexi 汉语学习*. PL1004 .H35 (bimonthly)
  d. *Yuwen jiaoxue tongxun 语文教学通讯*. PL1004 .Y74 (monthly)
  e. *Yu wen jian she tong xun 語文建設通訊* (Hong Kong). PL1175 .A1 H35Y8 (quarterly)
  g. *Yuwen xuexi 语文学习* (Shanghai Shifan Daxue) PL1004 Y824 (monthly)
h. Yuwenyuekan 语文月刊. PL1004 .Y8267 (monthly)
i. Zhongguo yu wen 中国语文 (Renmin Jiaoyu Chubanshe) PL1004 .C44 (bimonthly)
j. Zhongguo yu wen 中國語文 (Taipei, Taiwan) PL1004 .C5 (monthly)
k. Zhongguo yu wen tong xun 中國語文通訊. PL1004 .C57 (bimonthly)

- **ISTOR** – Depository for back issues of various journals, available for OSU users.
- **ProQuest Dissertations & Theses.** Proquest’s database contains citations for dissertations and theses done at U.S., Canadian and some foreign institutions. Free PDFs of all dissertations published since 1997. (Licensed for OSU academic use only.)
- **Center for the Study and Teaching of Writing (CSTW).** Excellent resources, “handouts,” tutorials, etc., to assist undergraduate students — and those for whom English is a second (or third) foreign language — in their research and writing.
- **Linguist List: Master Index of LINGUIST Issues.** Browse by year and month, or by topic for some linguistic journals, as well as book reviews, etc. The site also has a Google search engine.
- **Google:**
  - **Google Scholar.** Search Google Scholar for books and online articles.
  - **Google Book Search.** Search for books by entering a keyword or phrase. Clicking on a book title provides some basic information about the book, and potentially a few snippets (i.e., a few sentences containing your keyword or phrase in context) or full pages, or the entire book, if it is out of copyright. A search can also be conducted within the original search to further refine the search. Explore the website for further features.
  - **Google Video.** Search for videos and video excerpts.
- **OSU Office of Responsible Research Practices (ORRP).** The Institutional Review Board (IRB), administered under the ORRP, oversees research activities at OSU, including research involving Human Subjects. "All research activities involving human subjects must be reviewed and approved by an IRB unless the Office of Responsible Research Practices prospectively determines that the research falls into a category of exemption established by federal regulation."
  In addition, all investigators and key personnel who participate in the design, conduct, or reporting of human subjects research (including exempt research) must be appropriately trained in the protection of human subjects. The ORRP holds regular workshops for faculty and graduate students, including those aimed specifically at students.
- **OSU College of Arts and Sciences.** Information on undergraduate / graduate student funding opportunities, faculty, departments and units in the College, etc.

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<http://u.osu.edu/chan.9/c5383/> [Accessed <DATE>]

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Photo of the Shang dynasty oracle bone inscriptions used as a logo for this webpage is Oracle Bone No.1 (description no longer available online) from the Oracle Bone Collection of United College Library, CUHK.

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**URL:** http://u.osu.edu/chan.9/c5383/