# Chinese 5383: The Chinese Writing System

**SPRING SEMESTER 2015**

**CHINESE 5383**  
The Chinese Writing System  

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Columbus, OH 43210  
U.S.A.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>COURSE:</th>
<th>Chinese 5383, The Chinese Writing System</th>
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<tr>
<td>Class No. &amp; Credit Hours:</td>
<td>30231 U  3 credits</td>
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<tr>
<td>Class No. &amp; Credit Hours:</td>
<td>32013 G  3 credits</td>
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**DAY & TIME**  
W F 12:45 - 2:05 PM

**PLACE:**  
028 University Hall (230 N Oval Mall)

**OFFICE HOURS:**  
F 11:30 - 12:30 p.m., or by appointment (Change effective Week 3)  
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


   **Note:** Six major chapters will be used from this textbook. It is available on 4-hour loan from Closed Reserves at Thompson Library, and is also available for borrowing from other OhioLINK libraries. Optionally purchase online from such online vendors as [amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com), or order directly from U.C. Berkeley’s [Institute of East Asian Studies](http://ieas.berkeley.edu/publications/ecp_qiu.html).

2. **Additional Readings**

   Additional readings are typically e-journal articles that will be available from [Carmen.osu.edu](http://carmen.osu.edu). They can also be retrieved directly from OSU Libraries’ online catalog. First, go to [Ohio State University Libraries](http://library.osu.edu), and under “Links” select the link to "Online Journals List" to find the
relevant e-journal title. Other readings, scanned to PDF format by Electronic Reserves, will be available for downloading from Carmen.osu.edu under the current course. Additional readings will be made available during the course.

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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, cultural aspects of the script, and dialect-writing. Topics that may also be covered include cognitive processing of Chinese characters, writing systems of minority languages of China, etc.

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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.

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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, and other topics.

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.

**Combined Classes:** Chinese 5383 will occasionally combine lectures and guest lectures with Professor Zhiguo Xie’s course, Chinese 4383 (The Chinese Language and its Script), which is held at the same time but in a larger classroom in 129 Mendenhall Laboratory (125 S. Oval Mall). Combined classes led by Professor Xie (ZX), Professor Chan (MC), or a guest speaker, will be marked in the Schedule.

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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 (each about 5 or 6 double-spaced pages, not counting tables, references, etc.). (These are written responses to specific questions from the instructor based on the readings and other resources. The assignments should be submitted in hardcopy format and in digital format (DOC(X) or PDF).
4. For the final project:
   a. In Week 11, turn in a one-page, double-spaced proposal of your term paper, plus select references. Also submit a digital copy of the proposal to the Dropbox in Carmen.osu.edu.
   b. Prepare a PowerPoint presentation of key ideas from the final project (upload the file to the Dropbox prior to class), and present your findings in class at the end of the semester.
   c. The main body of the term paper itself should be about 10 double-spaced pages for undergraduate students, and about 12 double-spaced pages for graduate students, not counting references (and appendices, if relevant). (There is no penalty for somewhat longer papers.)
   d. Submit the term paper in two formats: (1) hardcopy, to be placed in the instructor’s mailbox (398 Hagerty Hall) and (2) digital copy (DOC(X) or PDF) in the Dropbox in Carmen.osu.edu.

5. All course assignments in digital format are to be uploaded to the Dropbox in Carmen.osu.edu.

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**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 for Disability Services (http://www.ods.ohio-state.edu/) is located in 150 Pomerene Hall, 1760 Neil Avenue (Tel: 292.3307. TDD: 292.0901)

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**ACADEMIC INTEGRITY (ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT)**

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 (effective 18 June 2012) 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. 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. (PDF file). 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’s Center for the Study of Teaching and Writing (CSTW) provides a webpage of Handouts, which includes information on compiling references, citing of sources, definition of plagiarism, including information on using quotes versus paraphrasing, etc. Also, OSU Libraries’ Knowledge Bank has a set of short, online videos on Academic Misconduct and Plagiarism.]

**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 Wednesdays and Fridays.

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

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<tr>
<th>WK</th>
<th>WEDNESDAY</th>
<th>FRIDAY</th>
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| 1  | 1.14. Orientation & Introduction  
     *(Read ahead for next week.)* | 1.16. Background: Writing Systems of the World |
| 2  | 1.21. Development of Chinese Writing  
     Reading: Qiu (2000), Ch. 1 | 1.23. The Nature of Chinese Characters  
     Reading: Qiu (2000), Ch. 2 |
| 3  | 1.28. Origin of the Chinese Script  
     Reading: Qiu (2000), Ch. 3.1 | 1.30. Script Development: Main Changes  
     Reading: Qiu (2000), Ch. 3.2 |
| 4  | 2.04. Script Development: Pre-Qin  
     Reading: Qiu (2000), Ch. 4.1-4.3  
     **Due: Homework Assignment 1** | 2.06. Script Development: Qin Dynasty  
     Reading: Qiu (2000), Ch. 4.4-4.5 |
| 5  | 2.11. Script Development: Han Dynasty  
     Reading: Qiu (2000), Ch. 5.1-5.4 | 2.13. Script Development: Post-Han  
     Reading: Qiu (2000), Ch. 5.5-5.6 |
| 6  | 2.18. Classification of Characters  
     Reading: Qiu (2000), Ch. 6.1 | 2.20. Learning to Read  
     Reading: Tzeng (2002) |
| 7  | 2.25. Phonetic Script & Late Qing Reformers  
     Reading: Cheng (2001) | 2.28. Script Reform & A Call for Digraphia  
     Reading: Su (2001) |
| 8 | 3.04. Script Reform in the 20\textsuperscript{th} Century I  
Readings: Qiu (2000), Ch. 13; S. Zhao (2005)  
**Due: Homework Assignment 2** | 3.06. Script Reform in the 20\textsuperscript{th} Century II  
C4383 & C5383 (ZX)  
- 129 Mendenhall Lab  
Reading: Chen (1999), Ch. 11 |
| 9 | 3.11. Chinese Internet Language  
C4383 & C5383 (MC)  
- 129 Mendenhall Lab  
Reading: Liu (2012) |
| 10 | 3.16 - 3.20: Spring Break – No class |
| 11 | 3.25. Reading & Eye-Tracking I  
C4383 & C5383  
- 129 Mendenhall Lab  
Guest speaker: Seth Wiener (OSU)  
Readings: Perfetti & Liu (2006) - *skim*  
Feng (2006)  
**Due: One-Page Proposal** | 3.27. Reading & Eye-Tracking II  
C4383 & C5383  
- 129 Mendenhall Lab  
Guest speaker: Seth Wiener (OSU) |
| 12 | 4.01. The Chinese Script & Gender I  
Reading: Ettner (2002) | 4.03. The Chinese Script & Gender II  
C4383 & C5383 (ZX)  
- 129 Mendenhall Lab  
Reading: Ceccagno (2006) |
| 13 | 4.08. Dialect as Written Language  
Reading: Snow (1993)  
**Due: Homework Assignment 3** | 4.10. Modern Diglossia: The Hong Kong Case  
C4383 & C5383 (MC)  
- 129 Mendenhall Lab  
Reading: Snow (2010) |
| 14 | 4.15. Writing Systems of Minority Languages  
C4383 & C5383 (ZX)  
- 129 Mendenhall Lab  
C4383 & C5383 (MC)  
- 129 Mendenhall Lab  
Idema (2011), Part I  
Other activities:  
Video excerpts: (1) *Nüshu* documentary,  
(2) *Snow Flower and the Secret Fan* (2011), directed by Wayne Wang |
| 15 | 4.22. Student Presentations | 4.24. Student Presentations |
| 16 | *Final Exams Week – Term Paper due on Tuesday, 28 April 2015 @ 5:00 p.m.* |
**READINGS**


   Excerpts:
   
   Chapter 1. The Development of Writing
   Chapter 2. The Nature of Chinese Characters
   Chapter 3. The Origin and Development of Chinese Script
   Chapter 6. The Classification of Chinese Characters
   Chapter 13. The Systematization and Simplification of Chinese Script


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**SOME SUPPLEMENTARY READINGS AND REFERENCES**


36. 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 and Chinese language -- Writing, etc., for publications in Chinese, English, French, Japanese, and other languages.

Books/Software for Learning to Read and Write Chinese:


2. Wenlin 4.1. For PCs and Macs, Wenlin 4.1 has 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 4.1 - User’s Guide.


.... more to be added ...
SOME ONLINE RESOURCES

- Ohio State University:
  - Ohio State University Libraries. 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) (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.)
  d. Journal of East Asian Linguistics (online journal) (E-journal and hardcopy; no online index — Main (EAS): PL492J68)
  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 available online is: 《中國語文》1952.1—2001.6 目録, arranged chronologically.) Also check out CAOD below, for online access through OhioLINK to many digital versions of journals, including Zhongguo Yuwen 中国语文.

- Chinese Collection at OSU Libraries. This is part of the East Asian Collection that is currently housed in Ackerman Library. Ohio State has an extensive Chinese-language collection of books and periodicals to support teaching and research. Chinese-language audio-visual materials, including video and audiotapes and non-data CD-ROMs and DVDs, are one part of the Chinese collection that is kept on the main campus at the Sullivant (Main) Library.

- CNKI - China Academic Journals Database:
  - For Chinese Interface: http://gb.oversea.cnki.net
  - For English interface: http://oversea.cnki.net

  OhioLINK members now enjoy IP-authenticated subscription access to Series F (Literature/History/Philosophy) of the China Academic Journals Database (1994-2013) plus the China Century Journals Project (1915-1993).

  IP-authenticated access has been established for OSU to Series GHJ of the China Academic Journals Database from 1994 to date, as well to the Century Journals Project for Series GHJ back to 1915. The URLs are identical to OSU’s existing access via OhioLINK to CAJ+CJP Series F:

  For English interface: http://eng.oversea.cnki.net
  For Chinese interface: http://gb.oversea.cnki.net
The following websites are also useful online resources of articles, books, etc.:
- Internet Archive: http://archive.org
  . a great online resource for early Chinese dialect dictionaries, etc.
- i.ask Site (爱问共享资料): http://ishare.iask.sina.com.cn
- doc.in Site (豆丁网): http://www.docin.com
- duxiu Site (读秀中文学术搜索): http://www.duxiu.com (log-in required)

…… more online resources?

- **Hardcopy Chinese-language linguistics journal titles subscribed by OSU Libraries include:**
  a. Fangyan 方言. PL1501 .F33 (quarterly)
  b. Han zi wen hua 汉字文化. 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 中國语文 (Taipei, Taiwan) PL1004 .C5 (monthly)
  k. Zhongguo yu wen tong xun 中國语文通讯. PL1004 .C57 (bimonthly)

- **ISTOR** – Depository for back issues of various journals, including e-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.

- **net.TUTOR** (OSU Libraries’ set of online tutorials, such as developing research skills in using WWW and other Net resources)

- **Documenting Electronic Sources** (The Writing Lab and The OWL, Purdue University)


- **Wiley InterScience.** "In June 2008, Wiley InterScience incorporated the online content formerly hosted on Blackwell Synergy to provide access to over 3 million articles across 1400 journals."
This massive archive, combined with some 6000 OnlineBooks and major reference works." Access to abstracts and full-text (PDF files) also if OSU Libraries subscribes to a given e-journal.

- **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. (See Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative (CITI) web-based human research courses to satisfy this requirement for OSU researchers.) 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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Last update: 22 January 2015.

Photo of the Shang dynasty oracle bone inscriptions used as a logo for this webpage is Oracle Bone No.1 (see description) of the online display from the Oracle Bone Collection of United College Library, CUHK (Eng/Big5).

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