PAAS 452: Acquisition of Chinese as an Additional Language

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Note: In Fall 2020, this course will be taught in English. If you are interested in this course but haven’t completed PAAS-318, please contact the instructor to obtain the approval to waive the prerequisites.

Course description:

Are you currently learning Chinese and curious about what other learners’ experiences are like? Are you a native speaker of Chinese interested in working with learners to improve their Chinese proficiency? If you say yes to either of those questions, then look no further—this course is right for you!

Throughout this course, we will demystify the process of learning Chinese as an additional language, drawing on theories and research in the fields of linguistics, education, psychology and other relevant disciplines.

Below are some sample questions we will address in this course:

- Why do people choose to learn Chinese? How do heritage speakers (e.g., Chinese-born Canadians who speak some Chinese dialect at home) differ from non-heritage speakers in terms of their motivations?
- What aspects of the Chinese language are most challenging for learners (whose native language is English, in particular) and why?
- What language skills and cultural knowledge do the learners acquire when studying abroad in a Chinese-speaking environment?
- How can technology (including apps, e-gaming and social media) make Chinese learning/teaching more engaging and effective?

Proposed assignments (subject to change):

- Attendance & participation: 10%
- Discussion posts: 30%
- Writing assignments: 15%
- Midterm exam: 20%
- Group presentation: 10%
- Learning/tutoring log: 15%
Proposed reading list (partial):


