

## PAAS 279/LING 261

### Introduction to Chinese Language and Linguistics

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*Note: This course is cross-listed between PAAS (Pacific and Asian Studies) and Linguistics and will be taught in English. **No knowledge of Chinese is required.** If you have questions about this course, please contact the instructor.*



#### Course description:

Have you wondered how different Mandarin Chinese is from English or other languages you know? Are you interested in how the Chinese language can serve as a useful window into the profound but changing cultures of the present-day Chinese societies? If so, then look no further—this course is right for you!

In this course, you will be taken on a journey that explores the basic concepts and key issues in Chinese linguistics. Come join and participate in the discussions on the relationship between language, culture and society through the lens of the Chinese language!

Below are some sample topics we will cover in this course:

- ✓ The relationship between Mandarin and other Chinese “dialects”
- ✓ Chinese writing script (including its history and global impact)
- ✓ Chinese sound system (consonants, vowels, tones, and syllables)
- ✓ Unique parts of speech (e.g., classifiers) and word order in Chinese
- ✓ Chinese-specific metaphors (related to animal, color, food, etc.)
- ✓ Issues of gender (e.g., sexism and gendered speech) in Chinese
- ✓ Strategies of politeness in Chinese language and culture
- ✓ Neologisms (newly coined words or expressions) and loanwords (words borrowed from other languages) in Chinese

#### Proposed assignments (subject to change):

- Attendance & participation: 15%
- Reading logs: 25%
- Writing assignments: 30%
- Review exam: 20%
- Group presentation: 10%