

To: All Academic Advisors on West Lafayette Campus  
From: Chinese Language Program in FLL  
Date: April 14, 2011  
RE: Policies and Guidelines for Undergraduate Chinese Studies at Purdue

Recently, there has been some confusion on how to guide undergraduate students to take Chinese courses at Purdue. The confusion focuses primarily on the definitions of different groups of students, awarding of credits, the placement test, and what kind of students can or can not take what courses and so on. This memo intends to clear up such confusions and provide guidelines to advisors on our new courses for heritage students (CHNS 107 and 207). Following is a list of Asian countries/regions with their official languages, and the guidelines as to what courses can be taken by students from those regions. Please note that (Mandarin) Chinese is used throughout this document to identify it as the standard language form taught at Purdue.

### Asian countries and regions with their official languages

1. **The People's Republic of China:** official language--- (Mandarin) Chinese
2. **Taiwan:** official language--- (Mandarin) Chinese
3. **Hong Kong:** official language---Chinese (written: Mandarin; spoken: Cantonese)
4. **Indonesia:** official language---Indonesian
5. **Malaysia:** official language---Malay
6. **Singapore:** official language---English, Malay
7. **South Korea:** official language---Korean
8. **Japan:** official language---Japanese

### Definitions

#### *Native Speakers of Chinese*

Students from regions 1-2 are considered as native speakers of Chinese if they completed high school education in those regions with (Mandarin) Chinese as the primary language of instruction. Due to their native proficiency in the language, they are **not permitted** to take any **language** courses (100- to 400-level). **No credits for lower level courses (101-202) will be granted after they complete** any literature, culture and calligraphy courses numbered as CHNS 241, 280, 285, 305, 313, 341, 342, 490, 594.

### Students from Hong Kong

Although the official language in Hong Kong is (Mandarin) Chinese, there are substantial localized expressions/terminologies originating from Cantonese. In addition, Cantonese is spoken as a major vernacular in this region. Therefore, students who graduated from Hong Kong high schools are encouraged to take CHNS 313 (Advanced Reading and Writing in Chinese) to brush up their language skills in (Mandarin) Chinese. Moreover, they are required to take the first part of CHNS 107 (see course description on page 3) when the basic phonetics is taught. If for the reasons of scheduling conflict that students from Hong Kong are not able to take CHNS 107 for the first part, they are required to self-study the phonetics via on-line tutorials and be tested by any instructors of the Chinese Language Program. **No credits for lower level courses (101-202) will be granted after they complete CHNS 313.** Like students from regions 1-2, they are welcome to take our literature, culture and calligraphy courses.

### Non-native Speakers of Chinese

Students from regions 1-3 who have completed at least one year of American high schools where English is the primary language of instruction, are considered as non-native speakers of Chinese. They may take language courses, but before signing up for any of them, they must take the Placement Test to determine their current level in (Mandarin) Chinese.

If students from regions 1-3 have completed at least one year of American or English speaking Schools in regions 1-3, they are considered as non-native speakers of Chinese as well, and therefore may be allowed to take the Placement Test and Chinese language courses to satisfy foreign language or other requirements. Copies of high school diploma are required as proof of graduation of such schools.

Students from countries 4-8 are encouraged to take any language courses to fulfill their foreign language requirements. In addition, if they have Chinese language background from home or school, they may sign up for higher level courses after taking the Placement Test.

### Heritage Students

See definition on p. 3.

### **Placement Test**

The Chinese Placement Test is for non-native speakers of Chinese only and is given three times per academic year: August, October and March. Please call the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures, Professors Wei Hong or Daniel Hsieh for the date and location of the test. This test does not belong to the FLL central testing system such as Placement Tests for Spanish, French, German or Japanese. Therefore, please do not advise students to go to the FLL Placement Test, but rather to the **Chinese** Placement Test. We are also happy to give individual tests upon students' request, and appointments are required.

The Placement Test in Chinese does not grant credits to students who complete the test. It is a test for the faculty to determine the proficiency level of the students in order to place them into an advanced course.

### **Guidelines for CHNS 107 and CHNS 207**

The Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures is offering CHNS 107 in Fall 2007 and CHNS 207 in Spring 2008 to meet the demands of our increasing enrollment in Chinese with heritage students and to separate them from the true-beginning students in CHNS 101-202. Below are the guidelines for all advisors.

### **Definition of Heritage Students**

Previous research defines heritage Chinese students broadly as those language students who are raised in homes (outside of Chinese speaking countries/regions) where Chinese is spoken and who speak or at least understand one form of Chinese (Cantonese or Mandarin, etc) and are to some degree bilingual in Chinese and in English. More specifically, heritage students define Chinese with a particular family relevance and who are English-dominant with no or limited reading/writing ability in Chinese.

### **Course Descriptions**

#### **Chinese 107 Elementary Chinese for Heritage Students**

Semester 1, Class 5, Cr. 4

An elementary Chinese language course designed for students who have acquired some oral Mandarin Chinese from home or other sources. It capitalizes on students' heritage background to develop communication and comprehension skills, maintaining and vitalizing the linguistic and cultural proficiency already acquired.

#### **Chinese 207 Intermediate Chinese for Heritage Students**

Semester 2, Class 5, Cr. 4. Prerequisite: CHNS 107

An intermediate level Chinese language course which capitalizes on students' heritage background for further development of communication and comprehension skills. It maintains and further vitalizes the linguistic and cultural proficiency that has already been acquired.

### **Admission**

CHNS 107:

Advisors may enroll any student who has acquired some spoken Chinese from family environment into CHNS 107. Students may also take the Placement Test prior enrolling in the course.

CHNS 207:

Students who have successfully completed CHNS 107 are eligible to take this course. Students who have not completed CHNS 107 may be admitted to CHNS 207 by taking the Chinese Placement Test given three times annually (August, October and March) or by appointment with any of the Chinese faculty.

### **Equivalency of CHNS 107 and 207 to other courses in Chinese**

Successfully completing CHNS 207 is equivalent to completing CHNS 202. Similarly, completing CHNS 107 is equivalent to completing CHNS 102.

### **Credits**

CHNS 107: Students who successfully complete CHNS 107 will earn 4 graded credits for the course.

CHNS 207: Students who successfully complete CHNS 207 will earn 4 graded credits for the course.

Those who are placed into CHNS 207 by placement exam or instructor permission and complete this course with a grade of C or higher will earn 4 graded credits for the course and 4 departmental credits without a grade for CHNS 107. Students must ask their academic advisor to request credit for CHNS 107 from Professor Wei Hong who coordinates and teaches CHNS 107 and 207.

### **Course Sequence**

After successful completion of CHNS 207, students may enroll in CHNS 301. Thus, the sequence for heritage students is CHNS 107 – CHNS 207 – CHNS 301. Students may wish to continue the study of Chinese by taking 400 level courses. After completing CHNS 402, unless otherwise advised by the instructor and gaining his/her permission, students are recommended to take CHNS 305 or 313 before taking CHNS 241.

### **Additional Notes**

1. CHNS 107 and CHNS 207 are open only to heritage students of Chinese.

2. CHNS 107 and CHNS 207 - are not equal to ITAL 105 and PTGS 105. Therefore, completing CHNS 107 and CHNS 207 does not qualify students to request CHNS 101 and 201 credits.

Thank you very much for your understanding and cooperation. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the following faculty in their respective areas.

Professor Wei Hong ([hongwei@purdue.edu](mailto:hongwei@purdue.edu)): 100- to 400-level Chinese; Heritage Chinese.  
Professor Daniel Hsieh ([dhsieh@purdue.edu](mailto:dhsieh@purdue.edu)): classical Chinese language and literature;