

TERM: Spring 2025
COURSE TITLE: Linguistics

COURSE NUMBER: MDLG 3400.01 CRN 70571
SECTION TIMES/DAYS: 3:40-5:20 p.m. MW
INSTRUCTOR: Prof. Yu Li

CORE AREA: **EXPLORATIONS: Understanding Human Behavior**



COURSE DESCRIPTION/PRINCIPAL TOPICS

Linguistics is the scientific study of language. In this introductory course, we will study several of its foundational sub-fields – phonetics, phonology, morphology, and syntax – and expand into several related areas: second-language acquisition, sociolinguistics, writing systems, and sign languages. Languages from various linguistic families will be analyzed and compared throughout the course in order to build your linguistic knowledge and raise your metalinguistic awareness.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon successful completion of the required coursework, you will be able to

- recognize the linguistic universals shared by human languages;
- identify the distinctive features among different languages;
- conduct simple analyses of a variety of linguistic data;
- critically examine and evaluate the linguistic beliefs and attitudes of your own and of others.

PREREQUISITES/RECOMMENDED BACKGROUND

2000-level in 2 languages or consent of instructor.

REQUIRED TEXT

O’Grady, W., J. Archibald, M. Aronoff, & J. Rees-Miller. (2017). Contemporary linguistics: An introduction. 7th edition & Boston: Bedford/St. Martin’s. ISBN-10: 1-319-03977-4.

RECOMMENDED TEXT

O’Grady, W., J. Archibald, M. Aronoff, & J. Rees-Miller. (2017). Study guide to contemporary linguistics: An introduction. 7th edition & Boston: Bedford/St. Martin’s. ISBN-13: 978-1-319-03977-6.

COURSE WORK/EXPECTATIONS

Course work consists of preview assignments, review homework, midterm exams and a final project.

TERM: Spring 2025
COURSE TITLE: Chinese in Linguistic Landscapes

COURSE NUMBER: CHIN 4208.01 (for Chinese minors) CRN 72692
MDLG 4998.01 (everyone else) CRN 72697

SECTION TIMES/DAYS: 6:00-7:40 p.m. MW
INSTRUCTOR: Prof. Yu Li

CORE AREA: INT: Interdisciplinary Connections
FLAGS: Engaged Learning

COURSE DESCRIPTION/PRINCIPAL TOPICS

This introductory course explores the interdisciplinary field of linguistic landscape studies with a focus on the presence and role of Chinese text in public spaces. Students will examine how written Chinese, in both monolingual and multilingual contexts, shapes and reflects social, cultural, and political dynamics in various regions, including Greater China and Chinese diasporic communities. Through analyzing signage, advertisements, posters, banners, and other public texts, the course investigates issues such as power, race, identity, religion, colonialism, migration, and globalization. Students will also engage in fieldwork to critically assess how Chinese text in public spaces interacts with linguistic diversity and socio-political contexts.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon successful completion of the required coursework, students will be able to

- Define and critically analyze the role of Chinese in linguistic landscapes in shaping and reflecting power structures.
- Describe the relationship between the Chinese language and social hierarchies, relating to power, race, identity, religion, colonialism, migration, and globalization.
- Conduct fieldwork on Chinese in linguistic landscapes in local contexts, gathering data and analyzing the ways in which the use of the Chinese text in public spaces reflects or challenges systems of power.
- Reflect on their own positionality in relation to power and privilege and engage in conversations about social justice through the lens of language.
- Develop frameworks for action that promote equity, inclusivity, and linguistic justice in both local and global contexts.

PREREQUISITES/RECOMMENDED BACKGROUND

For CHIN 4208.01: CHIN 3105 or LMU Placement Exam or Instructor Permission

For MDLG 4998.01: No prerequisites

REQUIRED TEXT

No textbook required. Electronic reading materials will be made available on Brightspace.

COURSE WORK/EXPECTATIONS

Course work includes readings, presentations, discussions, fieldwork, a midterm collaborative project, and a final individual project.

TERM: SPRING 2025
COURSE TITLE: Senior Capstone Project

COURSE NUMBER: MDLG 4990.01 CRN 70572
SECTION TIMES/DAYS TBD
INSTRUCTOR: Prof. Yu Li

COURSE DESCRIPTION/PRINCIPAL TOPICS

The Senior Capstone Project requires students to construct a professional-quality portfolio of representative works generated during their MDLG major course of study. These include (1) a carefully selected variety of corrected written, visual, and/or recorded materials created during the required courses (MDLG 3400 and MDLG 4400 / FNLT 4200, or their equivalents) and courses taken in both language concentrations (A and B); (2) an original reflective essay on the University's mission, among other considerations; and (3) a description of extracurricular activities connected to the MDLG major. Students give a presentation of their portfolio and answer questions from a faculty panel at the oral defense. This course is graded CR/NC.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

By completing the Senior Capstone Project, students will be able to demonstrate

- Knowledge of the principal aspects of two additional languages and cultures;
- Proficiency to speak, understand, write, and linguistically analyze the two languages;
- Ability to read a variety of texts in the two languages and discuss their contents, techniques, and cultural significance;
- Ability to analyze a variety of cultural productions (e.g., literature, art, social practices, and media) in the two cultures;
- Clear appreciation of multilingualism and multiculturalism and robust intercultural awareness

PREREQUISITES/RECOMMENDED BACKGROUND

- Senior status;
- Completion of or in progress with all courses required for the MDLG major;
- Instructor's consent to enroll is required.

REQUIRED TEXTS

- No textbooks required.

COURSE WORK/EXPECTATIONS

- Three to five meetings during the semester;
- Construction and timely submission of (1) an original Reflective Essay, 6-8 pages in length, (2) a Cover Sheet, (3) a Table of Contents, and (4) an annotated List of Extracurricular Activities for the portfolio;
- Oral presentation of portfolio and responses to questions in English and target languages at oral defense.

NOTE: The portfolio must be submitted at least three weeks in advance of the oral defense. Failure to submit the portfolio by the due date and/or failure to participate in the oral presentation will result in a grade of NC.