

TERM:	SPRING 2026	
COURSE TITLE:	Chinese Food Cultures	
COURSE NUMBER:	CHIN 4208.01 (for Chinese minors)	CRN: 71728
	MDLG 4998.03 (for everyone else)	CRN: 71758
SECTION TIMES/DAYS:	6:00-9:20 p.m.	W
INSTRUCTOR:	Prof. Yu Li	
CORE AREA (IF APPLICABLE):	INT: Interdisciplinary Connections	
FLAGS (IF APPLICABLE):	Engaged Learning	

COURSE DESCRIPTION/PRINCIPAL TOPICS

In this interdisciplinary course, students critically examine the traditions and transformations of Chinese culinary practices with thoughtful consideration of relevant historical, cultural, and global-local contexts. Readings and discussions make up the majority of the class time, but several class periods will be devoted to fieldtrips in LA's culinary communities and making and sharing of food.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

By the end of the course, students will be able to (1) describe the culinary diversity of traditional Chinese cuisine with reference to cultural geography, (2) evaluate and articulate the similarities and differences between Chinese cuisine and a non-Chinese food tradition that they are familiar with, (3) explain the philosophical perspectives reflected in Chinese culinary practices with specific examples, (4) outline the major developments in the history of Chinese-American food, (5) create one or two traditional or new Chinese dishes.

PREREQUISITES/RECOMMENDED BACKGROUND

CHIN 4208: CHIN 3605 or LMU Placement Exam

MDLG 4998.03: No prerequisite

REQUIRED TEXTS

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

COURSE WORK/EXPECTATIONS

Coursework includes readings, quizzes, discussions, homework assignments, midterm exams, and a final project. Chinese minors will complete some coursework in Chinese. Non-Chinese-minor students will do alternative work in English.

TERM:	SPRING 2026		
COURSE TITLE:	Chinese Calligraphy		
COURSE NUMBER:	CHIN 4212.01	CRN 71729	for Chinese minors
COURSE NUMBER:	MDLG 4998.02	CRN 71759	for everyone else
TIMES/DAYS:	6:00-9:20 p.m. M		
INSTRUCTOR:	Prof. Yu Li		
CORE AREA:	Creative Experience		

COURSE DESCRIPTION/ PRINCIPAL TOPICS

This course offers an interdisciplinary study and practicum of Chinese calligraphy in its artistic, historical, and sociocultural contexts. We will start by learning about Chinese calligraphy as a traditional art form and then go beyond the classically defined discipline to examine the aesthetic values, intellectual metaphors, and moral criteria that calligraphy embodies in China or East Asia. We will examine calligraphy's role in Confucian education and the Civil Service Examination, in Buddhist practices, as well as in modern political transactions. As well, we will learn about the development of Modernist Calligraphy and contemporary Chinese artists' use of character writing in avant-garde works. Throughout the semester, we will engage in systematic hands-on practice of brush writing in the Standard (*kǎishū* 楷书) style. Sustained practice will prepare you for the completion of a final art project at the end of the semester.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon successful completion of the required coursework, you will be able to (1) understand the fundamental concepts of Chinese calligraphy as a classical art form, (2) develop an appreciation of Chinese calligraphy with consideration of its intellectual traditions and sociocultural histories, (3) develop a basic understanding of traditional East Asian worldview from the perspective of calligraphy writing, (4) appreciate Chinese calligraphy as an evolving art form and a vital social practice in modern China, (5) be comfortable with writing Chinese characters using traditional tools and materials and critiquing calligraphy works in elementary terms, and (6) be able to read and understand with guidance text written in Chinese and converse confidently with a native speaker on the subject of Chinese calligraphy.

PREREQUISITES/RECOMMENDED BACKGROUND

CHIN 3105 or LMU Placement Exam for Chinese minors; none for everyone else

REQUIRED TEXTS

We will be reading book excerpts on a range of topics. These will be provided to you.

COURSEWORK/EXPECTATIONS

Regular attendance for class is essential. Coursework includes readings, quizzes, calligraphy writing, a mid-term presentation, and a final project.

TERM: SPRING 2026
COURSE TITLE: Senior Capstone Project

COURSE NUMBER: MDLG 4990.01 **CRN 71747**
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.

TERM: SPRING 2026
COURSE TITLE: Reading Multilingual Cities

COURSE NUMBER: MDLG 4998.01 **CRN: 71748**

SECTION TIMES/DAYS: 3:40-5:20 p.m. **MW**
INSTRUCTOR: Prof. Yu Li

CORE AREA (IF APPLICABLE): INT: Interdisciplinary Connections

COURSE DESCRIPTION/PRINCIPAL TOPICS

This course is a critical introduction to the interdisciplinary field of linguistic landscape (LL) studies. It explores the concept of the LL as the visual representation of languages in public spaces and examines the interplay of language, power, and identity within social, political, and historical contexts. The course emphasizes how linguistic landscapes reflect, maintain, and challenge systems of power, privilege, and oppression. Through critical analysis of class, race, gender and sexuality, religion, migration, and colonialism, students will develop a nuanced understanding of how language operates within these systems. Cross-cultural comparisons between multiple international cities aim to foster students' growth as "persons for others" and agents of change in a diverse and interconnected world.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

By the end of this course, students will be able to: (1) Define and critically analyze the role of linguistic landscapes in shaping and reflecting power structures. (2) Describe the relationship between language and social hierarchies, including class, race, gender and sexuality, migration, and colonialism. (3) Conduct fieldwork on linguistic landscapes in local contexts, gathering data and analyzing the ways in which language use in public spaces reflects or challenges systems of power. (4) Reflect on their own positionality in relation to power and privilege and engage in conversations about social justice through the lens of language. (5) Develop frameworks for action that promote equity, inclusivity, and linguistic justice in both local and global contexts.

PREREQUISITES/RECOMMENDED BACKGROUND

Prerequisite: None

REQUIRED TEXTS

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

COURSE WORK/EXPECTATIONS

Coursework includes readings, quizzes, discussions, visual diary, field trips and reflections, and a final research project.