

YHU 2212

Classical Chinese
(文言文／古代漢語)

Semester 2, AY 2020-21

Instructor: Scott Cook 顧史考

Course Info	Tuesdays and Fridays 2:30–4:20, ERC-NAK-AUD (T) and ERC-ALR (F) Prerequisite: Two years modern Chinese or native equivalency
Instructor Info	Office Hours at Saga RC1-01-03C (6601-3584; scott.cook@yale-nus.edu.sg): Tuesdays 4:30–5:30, Fridays 10:30–11:30, and by appointment
Goals	<p>Learn the basic particles and grammatical structure of classical Chinese. Learn such skills as recognizing syntactic parallelism, the art of reading in context, and understanding rhetorical structures.</p> <p>「荃者所以在魚，得魚而忘荃；蹄者所以在兔，得兔而忘蹄；言者所以在意，得意而忘言。吾安得夫忘言之人而與之言哉！」</p> <p>Emphasis will be on learning to read and understand the texts, and not on memorizing grammatical terminology. Grammatical analysis will be treated only as a tool that may be “forgotten” once the language is learned.</p>
Text Book & Materials	<p>Harold Shadick & Ch’iao Chien, <i>A First Course in Literary Chinese</i>, vols. 1-3 <i>Illustrative sentences</i> (prepared by instructor) for study and memorization.</p> <p>Shadick’s textbook is arranged as follows:</p> <p>Vol 1: Texts, pp. 1-85 (core texts 1-22; additional texts 23-34) Exercises: pp. 87-156 pp. 89-135 <i>Wenyan</i>-English translation exercises pp. 137-156 English-<i>Wenyan</i> translation exercises</p> <p>Vol 2: Vocabularies for all texts</p> <p>Vol 3: Commentaries (syntactical analyses) to texts 1-34: pp. 495-681 Outline of Shadick’s grammar: pp. 683-878 Index of Particles: pp. 879-888</p>
Preparation	<p>Students are expected to have read, prior to class,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a) the assigned text (in vol. 1)b) vocabulary for the text (vol. 2)c) Shadick’s commentary to the text (vol. 3) <p>From early on, the students should try to read through each new text once (along with vocabulary) before looking at Shadick’s commentaries (but have everything read prior to class).</p> <p>Beginning in week three, students should also prepare about 5 or so of the illustrative sentences for memorization. We will not necessarily go over these in class, but they will appear on the tests.</p>

Students should also read Chapter 1 of the “Outline of Grammar” in volume three (“Principles Operative Throughout, pp. 685-701”) within the first week. The rest may be read or not as the student so chooses.

Additional Homework

Students will regularly be assigned translation exercises out of vol. 1, to be done at home and gone over in class (some exercises will also be done in class without advanced preparation).

Class Time

Classes will begin by reading through the text assigned for that day. Each student will first read through one or two lines in Chinese (strive for accurate pronunciation), and then translate them into English and/or modern Chinese. Mistakes will be corrected and patterns illustrated. Additional time will be devoted to going over homework; doing in-class translations and exercises; reading through illustrative sentences; and occasional sight-reading of additional texts.

Tests & Exams

There will be three tests over the course of the semester: Test 1, a late Midterm, and a Final Test (on last regular day of class). These will consist mostly of *wenyan* to English translation. The midterm and final will also include some English to *wenyan* translations, and there will be sections of filling-in-the-blanks with particles.

Grading and Policies

Attendance in class is mandatory. Except in emergency situations, you will be considered absent unless prior approval is granted, even in the case of routine sickness and other such events—though up to two days of absence will be allowed in the latter cases provided you make up all required readings and assignments prior to the next class. Every absence over two will result in the loss of one-third of a letter grade in your final grade (e.g., an A- with four absences would change to a B). If you arrive late for class three times, this will also count as an absence.

Only the tests/exams will be graded. Homework will be checked off as done, late, or not done (any homework of insufficient effort must be redone). Students regularly unprepared for class will have low participation grades.

Test 1	15%
Late Midterm Test	20%
Final Test	20%
Homework assignments	20%
Participation and preparation	25%
Total	100%

Class Tutor

For tutoring help in classical Chinese, please contact Amberly Yeo 楊亦彬: amberlyyeo@u.yale-nus.edu.sg

