**Course Form**

### I. Summary of Proposed Changes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dept / Program</th>
<th>Modern and Classical Languages and Literatures</th>
<th>Prefix and Course #</th>
<th>Currently MCLG 395; suggested new number: CHIN 388</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Course Title</td>
<td>Readings in Classical Chinese</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Short Title (max. 26 characters incl. spaces)**
Readings Classical Chinese

**Summarize the change(s) proposed**
This course has been taught twice with a 395 number and now I propose to establish it as a regular course.

### II. Endorsement / Approvals

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Please type / print name</th>
<th>Signature</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Requestor:</td>
<td>Timothy Bradstock</td>
<td>Timothy Bradstock</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Professor of Chinese</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phone/ email:</td>
<td><a href="mailto:timothy.bradstock@mso.umt.edu">timothy.bradstock@mso.umt.edu</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Program Chair/Director:</td>
<td>Professor Linda Gillison</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Chair, Dept. MCLL</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Other affected programs</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dean:</td>
<td>Dean Chris Comer</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>College of Arts and Sciences</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Are other departments/programs affected by this modification because of:
- (a) required courses incl. prerequisites or corequisites,
- (b) perceived overlap in content areas
- (c) cross-listing of coursework

Please obtain signature(s) from the Chair/Director of any such department/program (above) before submission.

### III. To Add a New Course

Common Course Numbering Review: Does an equivalent course exist elsewhere in the MUS? Do the proposed abbreviation, number, title and credits align with existing course(s)? Please indicate equivalent course/campus!

http://mus.edu/transfer/CCN/ccn_default.asp

- NO

**Exact entry to appear in the next catalog (Specify course abbreviation, level, number, title, credits, repeatability (if applicable), frequency of offering, prerequisites, and a brief description.)**

**CHIN 388 Readings in Classical Chinese.** Introduces the basic grammar, syntax, and vocabulary of Classical Chinese through the reading of selected short representative texts from the formative and mature periods of the language’s history. Prerequisite: Chinese 102 or approved equivalent.

**Justification:** How does the course fit with the existing curriculum? Why is it needed?
Around the fourth century B.C.E., the grammar, syntax and vocabulary of written and spoken Chinese were starting to diverge. While the spoken language continued to evolve, the written language, which we now generally call classical or literary Chinese, remained largely static. Prior to about 1915, all public and most private writing was done in classical Chinese, and although these days most texts are written in the vernacular, the influence of the classical language is still extremely strong in modern Chinese prose. Without a knowledge of classical Chinese, the learner is not only unable to read anything written prior to the 20th century but will have great difficulty with any formal or semi-formal pieces of modern writing. The Chinese program has hitherto focused mainly on the teaching of modern vernacular Chinese; this proposed course will complement our existing offerings and provide students with a more balanced grasp of the language, boosting their skills with reading and writing Chinese.

Are there curricular adjustments to accommodate teaching this course?

No

Complete for UG courses. (UG courses should be assigned a 400 number).
Describe graduate increment (Reference guidelines: http://www.umontreal.ca/facultysenate/GradUG.htm)

Fees may be requested only for courses meeting specific conditions determined by the Board of Regents. Please indicate whether this course will be considered for a fee.
If YES, what is the proposed amount of the fee?
Justification:

IV. To Delete or Change an Existing Course — check X all that apply

Deletion

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Deletion

Course Number Change
From: Level U, UG, G
To:

Description Change

Change in Credits
From:
To:

Repeatability

Cross Listing
(primary program initiates form)

Prerequisites

1. Current course information at it appears in catalog (http://www.umontreal.ca/catalog)
2. Full and exact entry (as proposed)
3. If cross-listed course: secondary program & course number
4. Is this a course with MUS Common Course Numbering? If yes, then will this change eliminate the course's common course status? Please explain below.
5. Graduate increment if level of course is changed to UG. Reference guidelines at: http://www.umontreal.ca/facultysenate/GradUG.htm (syllabus required in section V)

Have you reviewed the graduate increment guidelines? Please check (X) space provided.
6. Other programs affected by the change
7. Justification for proposed change

V. Syllabus/Assessment Information
Required for new courses and course change from U to UG. Paste syllabus in field below or attach and send digital copy with form.

The University of Montana
Department of Modern and Classical Languages and Literatures

CHIN 395: Readings in Classical Chinese

Course Syllabus

学而時習之，不亦說乎？ (Learning something and using it often – isn’t this a joy?)
-Confucius, The Analects

Instructor: Tim Bradstock, Professor of Chinese & Section Coordinator for Chinese Office: LA 319
Phone and Email: 243-2602 timothy.bradstock@mso.umt.edu
Office Hours: MWF 9-10 MTRF 12-1 and also by appointment.
Prerequisites: Chinese 102 or approved equivalent. Not open to native speakers of Chinese.

General Introduction:

The term Classical (sometimes “Literary”) Chinese (文言文, 古文), refers to a style of Chinese that evolved largely during the Warring States and Han periods (roughly 400 B.C.E.-200 C.E.), although its antecedents can be traced back at least another six centuries. The vernacular and written languages were similar or identical in early times, but had diverged considerably by around two thousand years ago, the written language remaining largely static for the next two millennia. Virtually all texts from before the twentieth century are in classical Chinese; use of the vernacular in public writing did not occur until about 1915, when writers like Lu Xun and Ba Jin began championing its use. Classical Chinese was also the written language used by some of the Asian states within China’s sphere of political and cultural influence, in particular Japan, Korea, and Vietnam.

Modern Chinese evolved from the classical language and still bears many of its features. People seldom actually converse in classical Chinese nowadays, but everyone uses classical phrases and expressions in daily conversation, especially in public and formal contexts. Classical Chinese remains part of the academic curriculum in schools throughout the Chinese-speaking world. Even today, all official or public writing is done in a style of Chinese that is heavily influenced by classical grammar, syntax, and vocabulary. This style is used in academic writing, media articles, business letters, contracts and legal documents, even instruction manuals. Classical Chinese is significantly more compact than the vernacular language, which partially accounts for its continued use in public writing. In respect to tone, it is formal-sounding, yet at the same time often more vivid and lively than the vernacular, drawing as it does upon a massive store of phrases, idioms and literary/historical allusions that have accreted over the centuries.

The materials used in this course will be selections from some of the great masterpieces of early classical literature, chosen for their importance in the development of this style. These will include excerpts from the official dynastic histories, famous prose essays, philosophical texts, verse, and fiction. Along the way we will learn the principle features of classical grammar, syntax, and word use; at times you may feel you are learning an entirely different language from the Chinese you are used to. Course materials will also include samples that are modern and current, written in a style that owes a debt to the classical language: our purpose here will be to develop skills in reading and understanding materials of a more functional and mundane nature (including letters, documents, newspaper articles, and official forms) that people will encounter on a daily basis in China.

A second objective is for students to take the first steps towards acquiring conversancy with China’s literary masterpieces in the original Chinese; some of you will have already encountered these texts in
English translation, but in this course you will develop the ability to comprehend and appreciate them at a new and deeper level.

Whether your main objective is to experience classical Chinese literature in the original language or to equip yourself for living and working in a Chinese-speaking environment, I am confident that this course will provide you with a rewarding, enjoyable, and mentally stimulating experience.

Requirements and Assessment:

*Attendance on a regular basis: anyone absent more than three times will fail the course.
*Demonstrated level of preparedness and performance in class discussions: worth 10% of course grade.
*Tests: held every two weeks: 40% of course grade.
*A final exam on the entire semester’s work: worth 50% of your course grade

Additional Points to Note:

1. Changing from a traditional grade to the CR/NCR option will only be considered in special circumstances, such as a medical emergency.

2. University regulations forbid taking final examinations prior to exam week: please remember this when making travel arrangements.

3. Anyone auditing the class must formally enroll as an auditor.

4. People with documented learning and/or medical disabilities should inform me of this fact at the beginning of the course if they are going to need special accommodations.

Outcomes:

After successfully completing this course, students will have developed a solid grasp of the principle features of classical Chinese, including its syntax, grammar, and vocabulary, acquiring at the same time a familiarity with many of the idioms and rhetorical devices characteristic of this style. The course materials, chosen from among China’s great literary works, will not only enhance language skills but also give students conversancy with a wide range of works from China’s literary heritage, opening new doors and broadening students’ intellectual and cultural horizons. Those who have only completed one year of Chinese will find themselves significantly better equipped to handle the more advanced levels, where the role of the classical style becomes more prominent and conspicuous, especially where the development of reading and writing skills are concerned. Students who wish to undertake graduate work in Chinese studies will have made major advances toward being able to work independently with texts written in classical Chinese. Those whose sights are set on business or some other professional career in China will be better positioned to read and compose in the modern language, since all writing regardless of field owes a massive debt to the classical style. All who take this course will have made progress with integrating classical idioms into their speech, elevating the tone of their language and endowing it with a liveliness and clarity normally associated with fluent native speakers.

Course Materials

Passages for reading, together with notes, glossaries, and background information, will be provided throughout the semester and there is no required text for purchase. Selections will be made from the classical texts listed below, although not necessarily in the stated order. The majority of our readings date from the Warring States and Han periods, during which time the principal elements of the classical style were being established.

Mengzi 孟子 (Mencius)
Lunyu 論語 (The Analects of Confucius)
Shuo yuan 說苑 (The Garden of Stories)
Han Feizi 管是非子 (Writings of the Legalist philosopher Master Han Fei)
Liezi 列子 (Master Lie: Prose Writings)
Lushi chunqiu呂氏春秋 (The Chronicles of Master Lu)
Zhan’guo Ce 戰國策 (The Records of the Warring States)
Zhuangzi莊子 (Master Zhuang – Daoist philosophy)
Laozi 老子 (Master Lao – Daoism)
Xinru 新序 (The New Preface: Prose)
Huainanzi淮南子 (The Huainan Court Scholars)
Lienu Zhuan烈女傳 (Biographies of Noted Women)
Shi Ji 史記 (Records of the Grand Historian)
Shi Jing 史經 (The Book of Odes)
Wen Xuan 文選 (Literary Selections)
Selected verse by major classical poets, including Tao Qian, Du Fu, Li Bo, Meng Haoran, Su Shi, and others
Liaozhai Zhiyi聊齋志異 (Strange Tales From A Make-do Studio)
San’guo Yanyi三國演義 (Novel: The Romance of the Three Kingdoms- a short portion)
Excerpts from Qing dynasty craft guild regulation codes and accounts of legal disputes.
Plus contemporary formal writings: selected passages from business letters, contracts, official documents, newspaper articles, lists of rules, instruction booklets, etc.

VI Department Summary (Required if several forms are submitted) in a separate document list course numbers, title, and proposed change for all proposals

VII Copies and Electronic Submission. After approval, submit original, one copy summary of proposals and electronic file to the Faculty Senate Office, UH 221, email to os@northumbria.ac.uk

Revised 11-2009