

Classical Chinese Training at the Leiden University China Studies Program
as part of the BA in China Studies and the (Research) MA in Asian Studies

This document surveys Classical Chinese training (both wenyan and early baihua) in language courses, mostly taught by the China Studies Program's traditional China section. Co-taught courses feature intervision among instructors. Contact hours are per week, with approximately 13 weeks per term and two terms per academic year (fall & spring). EC = European Credit. Unless otherwise noted, all courses are compulsory and 1 contact hour requires circa 1 hour of preparation. Learning objectives do not take into account any command of Chinese that students may have prior to entering the program.

YEAR	objectives	course details	pedagogy & teaching material
BA1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ recognition of Classical words ▪ grounding in Classical grammar and structure ▪ efficiency in reading, understanding & translating short Classical texts ▪ proficiency quantified: vocabulary: circa 400 words (excluding compound lexical items) written in traditional characters 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Classical Chinese 1 (4h, spring only): 5 EC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ emphasis on word classes, syntax, sentence-building and analysis ▪ parallel group size: maximally 17 students per group, according to faculty policy; in reality, groups can total more ▪ materials: Paul van Els, <i>Van orakelbot tot weblog: Lesboek Klassiek Chinees</i>, Deel 1 (Leiden University Press, 2011); locally developed complementary material; short texts at the discretion of the instructors; other illustrative material
			Comments

YEAR	Objectives	course details	pedagogy & teaching material
BA2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ expanding knowledge of Classical words ▪ deepening knowledge of Classical grammar and structure ▪ intermediate command of reading, understanding & translating short Classical texts from various historical periods and literary genres ▪ efficiency in use of dictionaries ▪ proficiency quantified: vocabulary: circa 800 words (excluding compound lexical items) written in traditional characters 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Classical Chinese 2a (2h, fall term): 3 EC ▪ Classical Chinese 2b (2h, spring term): 3 EC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ grammatical analysis and translation from Classical Chinese to Dutch ▪ group size: max 17 (or larger – see above) ▪ materials: Paul van Els, <i>Van orakelbot tot weblog: Lesboek Klassiek Chinees</i>, Deel 2 (Leiden University Press, 2011); locally developed complementary material; short texts at the discretion of the instructors; other illustrative material
			Comments

Nota bene: The majority of students un-enrol after BA2 and spend the next academic year studying in TCFL programs at top-class universities in China and Taiwan, with intensive language acquisition as their primary aim, as beneficiaries of international scholarship programs. Subsequently, they re-enrol at Leiden for BA3. They may or may not have taken additional courses in wenyān, but these courses rarely include the translation of texts into a Western target language

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BA3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ expansion from years 1 & 2 ▪ familiarity with varying registers, styles and fields of Classical Chinese (<i>wenyān</i> and early <i>baihua</i>) ▪ development of independent strategies to read texts and solve problems of interpretation ▪ efficient use of Chinese-Chinese dictionaries ▪ command of some specialized vocabulary 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Elective: Classical Chinese 3a (2h): 5 EC ▪ Elective: Classical Chinese 3b (2h): 5 EC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ translation from Classical Chinese to Dutch/English (in class work and minor prepared assignments) ▪ group size: max 17 (or larger – see above) ▪ authentic reading material presented as readers (selected and guided by instructors) ▪ other reference materials (specified by instructors)
			<p style="text-align: center;">comments</p> <p><i>Students' active and passive command of traditional and simplified characters varies, depending on individual trajectories: extensive in situ experience in (1) China or (2) Taiwan, or (3) no such experience.</i></p>

YEAR	objectives	course details	pedagogy & teaching material
MA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ good command of reading (development of speed and strategy) in <i>wenyān</i> and/or early <i>baihua</i> ▪ ability to read and digest large amounts of authentic material on specific topics: linked to individual research interests if possible 	<p><i>fall (MA & rMA):</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Advanced Readings in Classical Chinese (2h): 5 EC <p><i>spring (MA):</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Topical Readings in Classical Chinese (2h): 10 EC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ translation from Chinese to Dutch/English (classwork and minor prepared assignments) ▪ group size: max 17 (or larger – see above) ▪ material: authentic reading material
			<p style="text-align: center;">comments</p> <p><i>MA = MA Asian Studies (60 EC): East Asian Studies MA Asian Studies (120 EC): Chinese Studies rMA = Research MA</i></p>