

Premodern Chinese Training in the Leiden University Department of Chinese Studies
as part of the BA & MA in Chinese Studies and the MPhil in Asian Studies / Chinese track

This document surveys premodern Chinese training (both wenyan and early baihua) in language courses, mostly taught by the Department's traditional China section. Co-taught courses feature intervision among instructors. Contact hours are per week, with appr 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 appr 1 hour of preparation. Electives in BA3 are examples from the academic year 2005-2006. 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 traditional characters in premodern occurrences ▪ grounding in <i>wenyan</i> grammar/structures ▪ efficiency in reading, understanding & translating short <i>wenyan</i> texts ▪ proficiency quantified: vocabulary: 400 traditional characters (excluding compound lexical items) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Premodern Chinese I (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>Lesboek Klassiek Chinees</i> - Deel 1; 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"> ▪ deepening knowledge of <i>wenyan</i> grammar and structure ▪ intermediate command of reading, understanding & translating short texts of early Chinese history, philosophy & literature ▪ efficient (guided) use of dictionaries ▪ proficiency quantified: vocabulary: ca. 500 traditional characters (excluding compound lexical items) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Premodern Chinese II (2h): 6 EC (one year) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ grammatical analysis and translation from Chinese to Dutch/English ▪ group size: max 17 (or larger – see above) ▪ materials: Paul van Els, <i>Lesboek Klassiek Chinees</i> - Deel 2; locally developed complementary material; short texts at the discretion of the instructors 	
			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

YEAR	objectives	course details	pedagogy & teaching material
BA3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ expansion from years 1 & 2 ▪ familiarity with varying registers, styles and fields of premodern 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: Premodern Chinese III (2h): 3 EC per semester 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ translation from 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
MA2 & MPhil1	<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 (MA2 & MPhil):</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Premodern Chinese IV (<i>wenyān</i>) (2h): 5 EC <p><i>spring (MA2 only):</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Premodern Chinese IV (<i>wenyān/baihua</i>) (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 by Coursework in Chinese Studies</i> <i>MPhil = MA by Research in Asian Studies / Chinese track</i> <i>During MA1 (not specified here), students do intensive language training at a university in China or Taiwan, unless they have done so no longer than three years before entering the program; the latter holds for many of our BA graduates. Enrolment to study in the traditional China section requires MA2 and MPhil students to have a level of premodern Chinese that suffices for the successful completion of graduate studies.</i></p>