

General Studies Request Form

New permanent numbered courses must be submitted to the workflow in [Kuali CM](#) before a General Studies request is submitted here. The General Studies Council will not review requests ahead of the new course proposal being reviewed by the Senate.

More detailed information about requesting General Studies designations is found [here](#).

Proposal Contact Information

Submitter Name	Submitter Email	Submitter Phone Number
Young Oh	youngoh@asu.edu	480-440-0779

College/School	Department/School
The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences (CLA)	School of International Letters and Cultures (CLAN-LIT)

Submission Information

Type of submission:

Mandatory Review (Course or topic currently holds this designation and is undergoing 5-year review)

What is Mandatory Review?

Courses and topics previously approved for General Studies must be reviewed every five years by the General Studies Council to verify requirements are still met.

ASU Request

Is this request for a permanent course or a topic?

Topic

Subject Code	Course Number	Units/Credit Hours
CHI	294	3

Topic Information

If your request is approved:

1. Topics on [omnibus courses](#) only carry designations for three consecutive semesters (excluding summer), *whether or not they are scheduled*. Once expired, a new request must be submitted.
2. Topics on **permanent courses** require mandatory review every five years.

Topic Title

Common Chinese Characters: Hanzi, Kanji, Hanja

Topic Description

In this class students learn 250 most basic and frequently-used Chinese characters that are used in China, Japan, and Korea. The evolution of each character (Oracle Bone Inscription, Bronze Inscription, Seal Script, and the modern, Clerical Script) will be reviewed, followed by its Chinese, Japanese, and Korean pronunciations, as well as three example compounds which are shared by Chinese, Japanese, and Korean.

If this topic exists on any other courses and the sections will be combined in the schedule, please list those courses here.

SLC 294

General Studies

Requested Designation

HU - Humanities, Arts and Design

HU: Humanities, Arts and Design

Rationale and Objectives

The humanities disciplines are concerned with questions of human existence and meaning, the nature of thinking and knowing, with moral and aesthetic experience. The humanities develop values of all kinds by making the human mind more supple, critical, and expansive. They are concerned with the study of the textual and artistic traditions of diverse cultures, including traditions in literature, philosophy, religion, ethics, history, and aesthetics. In sum, these disciplines explore the range of human thought and its application to the past and present human environment. They deepen awareness of the diversity of the human heritage and its traditions and histories, and they may also promote the application of this knowledge to contemporary societies.

The study of the arts and design, like the humanities, deepens the student's awareness of the diversity of human societies and cultures. The arts have as their primary purpose the creation and study of objects, installations, performances, and other means of expressing or conveying aesthetic concepts and ideas. Design study concerns itself with material objects, images and spaces, their historical development, and their significance in society and culture. Disciplines in the arts and design employ modes of thought and communication that are often nonverbal, which means that courses in these areas tend to focus on objects, images, and structures and/or on the practical techniques and historical development of artistic and design traditions. The past and present accomplishments of artists and designers help form the student's ability to perceive aesthetic qualities of artwork and design.

The Humanities, Arts and Design are an important part of the General Studies program, for they provide an opportunity for students to study intellectual and imaginative traditions and to observe and/or learn the production of artwork and design. The knowledge acquired in courses fulfilling the Humanities, Arts and Design requirement may encourage students to investigate their own personal philosophies or beliefs and to understand better their own social experience. In sum, the Humanities, Arts and Design core area enables students to broaden and deepen their consideration of the variety of human experience.

[Revised March 2021]

Note: The following types of courses are **excluded** from the "HU" designation, even though they might give some consideration to the humanities, arts and design:

1. Courses devoted primarily to developing skill in the use of a language.
2. Courses devoted primarily to the acquisition of quantitative or experimental methods.
3. Courses devoted primarily to teaching skills.

"HU" courses must meet *either* 1, 2, or 3 *and* at least one of the criteria under 4 in such a way as to make the satisfaction of these criteria **a central and substantial portion** of the course content.

Select which "HU" criteria this course meets.

1. Emphasizes the study of values; the development of philosophies, religions, ethics or belief systems; and/or aesthetic experience.

2. Concerns the interpretation, critical analysis, or creation of written, aural, or visual texts; and/or the critical analysis (not summary or memorization) of historical development of textual traditions.

"HU" Criteria 1

Emphasizes the study of values; the development of philosophies, religions, ethics or belief systems; and/or aesthetic experience.

Identify the submitted documentation that provides evidence.

Syllabus, sample handout

How does this course meet the spirit of this criteria?

This course examines the fundamental values, ideas, and signification systems represented by the most commonly-used Chinese characters shared by East Asian cultures. In that sense, this is NOT a language class to memorize words but a class that invites students into the cultural foundation of the Sinitic East Asia, although it would help students who are or plan to learn Chinese, Japanese, and/or Korean (as well as Vietnamese, to a certain degree) languages. To use an analogy, it is comparable to learn Romance world through Latin roots.

Please provide detailed evidence of how this course meets this criteria (i.e. where in the syllabus or other course materials).

The syllabus ("Course Description" "Expected Outcome") states the cultural and philosophical import of Chinese characters to the past and present of East Asian communities. By learning through individual characters the concepts that are prescribed and productive in the formation of cultural, philosophical, and religious notions, students will access the core of the Sinitic mind.

"HU" Criteria 2

Concerns the interpretation, **critical analysis**, or creation of written, aural, or visual texts; and/or the **critical analysis (not summary or memorization)** of historical development of textual traditions.

Identify the submitted documentation that provides evidence.

Syllabus, sample handout

How does this course meet the spirit of this criteria?

The course focuses on the Chinese writing system that have constitute the foundation and common ground of the East Asian scribal (i.e., written) and calligraphic (i.e., visual) texts, which have been the units of the historical development of textual tradition. Memorization of characters and their derivative words in East Asian languages is a part of the grading (quizzes and exams), but the class lecture and discussion are predominantly on the cultural, philosophical, and visual analyses. The characters are categorically arranged (Things, Time, Space, Self, and Family and Society) for this reason: the class is modulated to focus on different aspects of the culture. In addition to learning existing characters, students are also assigned to work on a special project to create a new character on their own for a new concept of choice, using the graphic and linguistic principles, graphemes (radicals and graphs), followed by a five-page essay explaining and justifying their coinage. This was experimented in Fall 2022 as an extra assignment, which proved to be an excellent way to apply their knowledge to cultural, linguistic, and visual analyses.

Please provide detailed evidence of how this course meets this criteria (i.e. where in the syllabus or other course materials).

As described in the syllabus ("Course description," "Expected Outcome") and exemplified in the sample handout, the course reviews the patterns behind the formation of each Chinese character. The "Course Schedule" shows how the course content is modulated into different cultural aspects. The sample handout shows, through delineating how characters evolved from the initial Oracle Bone Inscription forms to Bronze

Inscription, and to Seal Script and the current Clerical Script forms, the class discusses the idea of text and literacy underlying the Sinitic tradition. Through a special project, students can apply their learning of fundamental patterns to conceptualizing a new character that reflects the cultural, visual, and linguistic values.

"HU" Criteria 4

In addition, an "HU" course must meet one or more of the following requirements. Select all that apply.

a. Concerns the development of human thought, with emphasis on demonstrable critical analysis of philosophical and/or religious systems of thought.

"HU" Criteria 4A Information

Concerns the development of human thought, with emphasis on **demonstrable critical analysis** of philosophical and/or religious systems of thought.

Identify the submitted documentation that provides evidence.

Syllabus, sample handout

How does this course meet the spirit of this criteria?

The course concerns the visual interpretation of material objects and actions reflected in the Chinese characters and their semantic development that consists the very core of East Asian philosophical, religious, and societal systems of thought.

Please provide detailed evidence of how this course meets this criteria (i.e. where in the syllabus or other course materials).

As the "Course Description" and "Expected Outcome" of the syllabus states and the sample handout illustrates, the class surveys the historical development of the visual ideation of material objects and physical entities in Chinese characters, extension of concrete concepts to abstract ideas, and their expansion in philosophical, religious, and cultural thoughts. (E.g., How a character depicting a child carrying on his back an old man with a cane--which itself became a character for "old"--came to mean "filial." See Character #199 of the sample handout. Students are required to demonstrate their critical skills through a special project ("Assignments and Grading") to create a new character with an essay.

Attach a sample syllabus for this course or topic, including the list of any required readings.

[GS-HU_Syllabus_CHI-SLC294_rev.pdf](#)

Attach the table of contents from any required textbook(s).

[GS-HU_Sample Handout_CHI:SLC294.pdf](#)

Attach any other materials that would be relevant or helpful in the review of this request.

[raymond chang_chinese writing.pdf](#)

Form Submission - Proposer

Submitted for Approval | Proposer

Young Oh - October 31, 2022 at 9:54 PM (America/Phoenix)

Department Approval

Approved

Mike Tueller - November 1, 2022 at 8:04 PM (America/Phoenix)

Provost's Office Review

Approved

April Randall - November 2, 2022 at 4:20 PM (America/Phoenix)

Humanities, Arts and Design Mandatory Review

Acknowledge Cancelled

Bertha Manninen - November 21, 2022 at 10:07 AM (America/Phoenix)

We recommend a revise and resubmit.

Even though this course already has the HU designation (it's a mandatory review), we are requesting a revise and resubmit. The class seems more devoted to learning the Chinese language than engaging in critical analysis of Chinese literature or symbols. The assignments also do not clearly require the students to engage in any critical analysis or creative works. The assignments are more about learning vocabulary, pronunciation, and meaning of Chinese characters. It would be good if the syllabus could demonstrate how the students critically engage with and connect the readings and assignments to (quoting from the course description) "the core of the development of literature, art, philosophy, and religion, and thus a key component to the Sinitic mind"; "the Confucian, Buddhist, and Daoist traditions, as well as the systems of government, statecraft, and rites"; and "cultural and linguistic understanding of East Asia." We recommend that the professor revise the application with a focus on how the course requires students to engage in critical analysis rather than memorization and mastery of the Chinese symbols.

Michelle Saint

Mina Suk

Peter Schmidt

General Studies Council Meeting

Sent Back

April Randall - December 2, 2022 at 9:51 AM (America/Phoenix)

Your request was not approved. The HU subcommittee invites you to revise and resubmit this request. They provided the following rationale: "The class seems more devoted to learning the Chinese language than engaging in critical analysis of Chinese literature or symbols. The assignments also do not clearly require the students to engage in any critical analysis or creative works. The assignments are more about learning vocabulary, pronunciation, and meaning of Chinese characters. It would be good if the syllabus could demonstrate how the students critically engage with and connect the readings and assignments

to (quoting from the course description) “the core of the development of literature, art, philosophy, and religion, and thus a key component to the Sinitic mind”; “the Confucian, Buddhist, and Daoist traditions, as well as the systems of government, statecraft, and rites”; and “cultural and linguistic understanding of East Asia.” We recommend that the professor revise the application with a focus on how the course requires students to engage in critical analysis rather than memorization and mastery of the Chinese symbols.”

Form Submission - Proposer

Submitted for Approval | Proposer

Young Oh - March 24, 2023 at 9:08 PM (America/Phoenix)

Department Approval

Approved

Mike Tueller - March 27, 2023 at 8:45 AM (America/Phoenix)

Provost's Office Review

Approved

April Randall - March 31, 2023 at 11:02 AM (America/Phoenix)

Joni Lochtefeld

Humanities, Arts and Design Mandatory Review

Acknowledgement Requested

Bertha Manninen - April 24, 2023 at 10:31 AM (America/Phoenix)

Revise and resubmit. Although the professor says that this isn't a class to learn Chinese characters, it does seem that this is one major component of the course. In the course description, it says students will “study the fundamental components that are culturally and linguistically important to the entire East Asian civilization.” That has the potential to count as an HU component. But then right after in Expected Outcomes it says that students will learn “approximately 250 Chinese characters,” which means that at least a good portion of the class is devoted to language acquisition. The weekly quizzes “test writing characters”, as well as the Midterm and Final Exams. The Special Project is to “create your own Chinese character.” This does involve a five page narrative “explaining and justifying the linguistic, literary, and cultural significance of the character you're creating.” This also has the potential to satisfy the HU requirements, but this doesn't constitute at least half the class assignments. Because the professor says it's not a language course, and because there are some assignments that MIGHT lend itself to a HU, we are willing to consider a revise and resubmit. The professor has to say more about how the students engage in critical thinking and critical analysis in their assignments and class content, and this has to constitute at least half the class in order to get the HU.

Michelle Saint

Mina Suk

Peter Schmidt

General Studies Council Meeting

Waiting for Approval

April Randall

Proposer Notification

Notification

Young Oh

Mandatory Review Topic Notification

Notification

Leticia Mayer

Peggy Boivin
