



CONNECTICUT COLLEGE

Nathan Cornell '11

*Chinese language and literature,
Government*



Q: How did you become interested in Chinese?

A: For almost six years I have had the unique opportunity to study the Chinese culture, history and

language. After my four years at boarding school I was committed to finding a college that had an academically challenging and well-known Chinese/East Asian program, which is why I ultimately chose Connecticut College.

Q: What was your favorite class?

A: As a sophomore I enrolled in what I consider to be the best class I have ever taken: "Classical Chinese Poetry and its American Legacies," taught by Professor Yibing Huang, who is widely known for his political works during China's Cultural Revolution. With only five other students we discussed both ancient and modern Chinese prose and its ability to transcend both time and culture as many Western writers and poets have turned to ancient Chinese verse for inspiration and context.

Q: Did you study abroad?

A: For the summer and fall of 2009, I studied abroad in both Beijing and Harbin, China. During my six months abroad I signed a language pledge vowing not to speak English, with the caveat that if I did, I would be sent home. And although my time abroad did have its frustrations and challenges, it proved to be the most exciting and greatest experience of my life. It not only helped expand my knowledge of the Chinese language, but also provided me the necessary experience to grow as a person.

Chinese Language and Literature

Overview

Connecticut College established a Chinese department in 1965, becoming one of the first liberal arts colleges to do so. Today Chinese, Japanese and Asian studies are united under the Department of East Asian Languages and Cultures. As a Chinese language and literature major, you will engage the culture through its linguistic characteristics and concepts. You will achieve advanced fluency in spoken Mandarin, an understanding of the cultural contexts shaping the language and a solid grounding in the Chinese literary tradition. You will be in a language-intensive environment from the moment you set foot on campus. You'll be able to practice your language in the classroom, in a language lab or over meals at our Chinese language table in Knowlton Language House's international dining room.

Interdisciplinary Opportunities

At this pivotal moment in China's history and in Sino-American relations, graduates with language proficiency and knowledge of China are in great demand. Your skills in Mandarin will open doors in government, international relations, information technology, business, finance, tourism, entertainment, human rights, international law, translation, teaching and much more. You will have the opportunity to participate in the student advisory board for the Department of East Asian Languages and Cultures, as well as in CCASA, the College's Asian/Asian-American Student Association.

Personalized Study

Be prepared for intensive, highly individualized interaction with your professors. You will have the constant attention of our faculty as you work through the major, from our rigorous year-long elementary Chinese course, to the cultural immersion of study abroad, to working under the close supervision of a thesis adviser in your senior year. You will have the opportunity to deepen your study of China through courses in its history, government, cinema, music and art. Connecticut College also houses the Chu-Griffis Asian Art Collection, a renowned collection of Chinese art.

Study Abroad and Internships

Eighty percent of Chinese language and literature majors study abroad, spending at least one semester in mainland China, Taiwan or Hong Kong. Opportunities

for study and internships abroad are available through the College's interdisciplinary centers and study abroad programs. Some of our courses have a short travel component. You might intern at an elementary school in Yunnan province, working with one of the area's ethnic minorities, or you might learn about traditional medicinal practices by interning in a Chinese hospital. We encourage and assist our students to apply for international programs such as the Freeman-Asia Awards and the Gilman International Scholarship.

Faculty

Amy Dooling, *Associate Professor of Chinese*

B.A., M.A., Ph.D., Columbia University
Modern and contemporary Chinese fiction; Chinese women's writing; history of the women's movement and feminism in China

Yibing Huang, *Associate Professor of Chinese; Chair of East Asian Languages and Cultures Department; Coordinator of Chinese Language Program*

B.A., M.A., Ph.D., Beijing University; Ph.D., University of California, Los Angeles
Modern and contemporary Chinese literature, cinema, popular culture; comparative studies of modernism and postmodernism in China and in the West; cultural translations between Chinese poetry and modern American poetry

Tek-wah King, *Senior Lecturer in Chinese*

B.A., National Taiwan University; M.A., Yale University; Ph.D. in progress, Yale University
Chinese syntax; Chinese language pedagogy

Qiang Ning, *Chu-Niblack Associate Professor of Art History; Curator of the Chu-Griffis Asian Art Collection*

B.A., Sichuan University; M.A., Ph.D., Harvard University
Chinese art and religion; gender in Chinese art and society

Sarah A. Queen, *Professor of History*

B.A., Wellesley College; M.A., Ph.D., Harvard University
Early Chinese cultural history; the spiritual and philosophical dimensions of Confucianism and Daoism; Confucianism and human rights; Confucianism and democratization; Confucianism and ecology

John Qunjian Tian, *Associate Professor of Government*

B.A., M.A., Nanjing University; M.A., Ph.D., Cornell University
Chinese political economy; East Asian political economy; international political economy; comparative political economy and politics

James Dale Wilson, *Assistant Professor of Music*

B.M., M.M., North Texas; M.A., Ph.D., Columbia University
Ethnomusicology; jazz; Guangdong ritual and ritual music; southeast Chinese perspectives on migration and transnationalism



What can you do with a major in Chinese language and literature?

Jenn Dinaburg '02

Master's candidate in environmental studies at Prescott College.

Managing a case study on value and awareness of Tibetan medicinal plants for the Center for Biodiversity and Indigenous Knowledge, a non-governmental organization in China. Writing a thesis on the community-based conservation strategies of a group of Tibetan doctors in the northwestern part of Yunnan province. Applying to Ph.D. programs in geography to continue her conservation studies in Yunnan.

Eric Schluessel '04

Ph.D candidate in central Eurasian studies at Indiana University, studying at Xinjiang Normal University in Xinjiang, China.

Studying Uyghur, a Turkic language spoken primarily in the Xinjiang region. His research focuses on questions of language and identity in ethnic minority areas of northern China. Previously earned a master's degree in linguistics at the School of Oriental and African Studies in London.

Selected Courses

Intensive Elementary Chinese; Intensive Intermediate Chinese; Introduction to Classical Chinese; Advanced Chinese: Topics on Contemporary Chinese Society and Culture; Peripheries and Differences: Re-Imagining Contemporary China; Fiction and Film in Modern China; Chinese Poetry and its American Legacies; Modern Chinese Women's Writing in Translation

About Connecticut College

Connecticut College is a highly selective residential liberal arts college with 1,900 students from all over the country and the world. The academic program offers more than 47 majors in the arts, sciences, social sciences and humanities as well as innovative interdisciplinary programs. Students engage with dedicated faculty and each other to create a vibrant social, cultural and intellectual community in which learning is valued for its own sake — and individuals' diverse perspectives enrich the experience of all.

For more information, visit
www.conncoll.edu/academics/