

School of Modern Languages

CHINESE 4021: Advanced Language, Popular Music & Culture Fall 2026 Syllabus

Class hours: TR 2:00-3:15 pm
Room: TBA

Instructor: [Paul B. Foster](#), Ph.D. 傅抱仁 (Fù Bàorén)
email: paul.foster@modlangs.gatech.edu;
office hours: See Canvas

OBJECTIVES:

Utilizing popular songs/videos as cultural texts, this 3 credit, proficiency based, advanced level language and culture course simultaneously continues the students' development skills of conversation/oral presentation, listening, reading, writing and web-based research in Chinese.

We will complete the online text, Chinese 4021: Music & Pop Culture 流行音乐与文化.
Assignments include (total of 100 pts possible):

- Class Participation: 参加分 30 pts
- Singing HW: 录音你所唱的歌词 15 pts
- Vocab Practice: 抄写生词 10 pts
- Song Content Q's: 内容问题 15 pts
- Interpretation Q's: 诠释题目 15 pts
- Semester KTV Research Report: 学期 KTV 研究报告 15 pts

Regular, punctual, positive participatory attendance is essential and strictly calculated in your participation grade.

- **Discussion Class** -- You're expected to explore through discussion, participation, testing out ideas, adjusting views, bringing in issues, challenging yourself, all while expanding Chinese communication skills.
- **Class Participation is 30 pts -- Easy to earn** -- be on time (scan QR code for time stamp, pro-rated for punctuality at the first level) and engaged for full credit.

Honor Code: You're trying to learn Chinese, so no artificial intelligence allowed for assignments or anything you're doing for this class. You may use a computer to type Chinese, however.

Pre-req: CHIN 3004 or equivalent (or permission of instructor)

Native speaker/reader note: Native speaker/readers have two additional expectations: 1. Add appropriately deeper content and analysis to their homework and project; and 2. Provide informal spoken Chinese practice/tutoring for a non-native speaker/reader classmate (in class and/or outside class)

TEXT:

Online Text/Courseware: [Paul. B. Foster 傅抱仁](#), 《高级汉语、流行音乐与文化》 *Gāojí Hànyǔ, liúxíng yīnyuè yǔ wénhuà* [Advanced Chinese, Popular Music and Culture], Chinese Materials Workshop. Georgia Tech School of Modern Languages; Spring 2025 update.

Open VPN: You may need VPN to access off campus

- **Access Courseware URL:** [Chinese Materials Workshop](#)
- **Account Login:** TBA (See Canvas)
- **First Week Password (honor code, do not share):** TBA (See Canvas)
- Cut and paste Account Login and PW
- **After First Week of the Semester the Login will change for security:** (honor code: do not share): **TBA**

DETAILED DESCRIPTION:

“**Advanced Chinese, Popular Music and Culture**” 《高级汉语、流行音乐与文化》 is a 3 credit course focusing on **learning higher intermediate/advanced Chinese language through popular music and culture**. The tasks associated with each of the popular songs that compose the “cultural texts” of this course are intended to enhance the student’s vocabulary, grammar, listening, speaking, reading, **online research** and writing skills. **This course is intended to engage the student in a range of language learning opportunities, centered on student engagement in authentic Chinese materials through web research of discussion questions.**

General song sections and the artists/groups whose songs form the cultural texts we use are as follows:

- **Mandopop 华语流行音乐:** 周杰伦, 庾澄庆, 邓丽君, 张惠妹, 任贤齐, 王光良, 张宇
- **Taiwan Hip-Hop 台湾嘻哈音乐:** MC HotDog 热狗, 卜学亮
- **Chinese Rock n Roll 中国摇滚音乐:** 崔健, 唐朝乐队
- **National Identity & Consciousness 国家认同与意识:** 刘德华, 王力宏, 刘欢《好汉歌》
- **Semester KTV Research Report 学期 KTV 研究报告**

Note: This course in advanced language learning through popular culture with music as a “text” will teach students (experientially) to navigate authentic Chinese pop culture websites with specific research and discussion questions to address. Reference the section titled [在线参考工具与参考链接网址 \[Online Reference Tools and Reference Links\]](#) and familiarize yourself with tools to use throughout the semester. At a minimum, students should be familiar with the following:

- [Mouseover Dictionary](#)

- [Convert between Simplified and Traditional Characters](#)
- [Baidu.com](#) [百度 Chinese search engine]
- [Wikipedia.org](#) [维基百科 Wikipedia Chinese search engine]
- [Tudou.com](#) [土豆网 Chinese movies]
- Pleco Dictionary [free app for smart phones]

In addition, you check out this for background as you study if you get the chance:

- [中国好声音](#) [The Voice of China 2016 Season, Episode 1 [Music variety show along the lines of NBC's The Voice: Current judges: Jay Chou, Harlem Yu

Typical Study Sequence:

- One Song Per Week [2 class days per song]: Assignments due via Canvas on Day 1 of next song
- Day 1: Sing, Survey, Singer Intro, Vocab, Analyze Lyrics, Presentations
- Day 2: Continue Survey, Presentations, Pop Culture Intersections, Content Q's & Interp. Q's

Grading (total 100 pts):

- **You earn points toward your grade for practicing, which is all in your favor!** Just make a sincere effort, be on time, and you're destined to get a satisfactory grade, which you can track on Canvas and/or in conversation with the instructor.
- **Class-participation: 30 points, easy to earn through positive participation. Scan the QR code to provide a time stamp, punctuality encouraged because your participation points are pro-rated for punctuality at the first level!**

Class Participation 参加分 (Scan QR code upon arrival for time stamp, pro-rated at first level)	30 pts
Singing HW: 录音你所唱的歌	15 pts
Vocab Practice: 抄写生词	10 pts
Song Content Q's: 内容问题	15 pts
Interpretation Q's: 诠释题目	15 pts
Semester KTV Research Report: 学期 KTV 研究报告	15 pts
Total	100 pts

Class Participation 参加 (30 pts ÷ 29 days = 1.034 points/day). Students are expected to come to class fully prepared to participate in class activities. Computers and phones may be used, but only for class related work, with deduction in the day's participation grade for outside usage. **Attendance by QR code for time stamp and student self-tracking of earned points!**

Earning these points are pro-rated for your punctuality since you can't participate if you are not present, so your day's participation grade is reduced by the proportion of class you attend. If you have regular difficulty making it to class on time due to transportation issues, please come see me to work out a make-up schedule.

Singing HW: 录音你所唱的歌 (15 pts ÷ 14 songs = 1.071 points/song): See online courseware.

Vocab Practice: 抄写生词 (10 pts ÷ 14 songs = 0.714 points/song): See online courseware.

Song Content Q's: 内容问题 (15 pts ÷ 14 songs = 1.071 points/song): Keep track of our analysis as we discuss the song in class for efficiency of finishing this homework. See online courseware.

Interpretation Q's: 诠释题目 (15 pts ÷ 14 songs = 1.071 points/song): Keep track of your impressions as we discuss the song in class. See online courseware. Try to think of some new/novel/original potential interpretations?!

4021 Semester KTV Research Report 学期 KTV 研究报告 (15 pts):

- **Template Provided!**
- This report consolidates your semester of study, i.e., put into practice your language skills by researching, presenting and teaching classmates a pop song of your own selection.
- This is an opportunity for you to explore up to date (or perhaps most unique and controversial) songs and the cultural phenomena associated with them.
- A template is provided for this ~30 minute written and oral report on a song of your own choice (with instructor approval) as a practical measure of your language acquisition.
- Write your report for 30 minutes presentation time, but actual presentation time will be adjusted up or down based on the number of students in class. It may be necessary to present your 30 minute report in 15-20 minutes, so you'll need to practice in advance to adjust and be efficient. Your powerpoint will be helpful for doing this adjustment.

- **Instructions:** Prepare and present a Mandarin Chinese KTV music video of your choice (selection pending instructor approval – no credit for a repetition of a previous semester's song). Please endeavor to choose up to date and interesting songs. For your synopsis/analysis you must:
 - (1) justify why you chose this song;
 - (2) mention the relationship between the lyrics and the video;
 - (3) point out some "interesting" translation problems;
 - (4) relate time, place and the singer
 - (5) comment on the "Chinese-ness" of the song
 - (6) integrate vocabulary and phrases indicated in the template

Grading is based on your preparation, presentation, and quality of overall effort. Presentations will be efficiently done in about 20-30 minutes and scheduled in the last day of class and Final Exam period (**mandatory attendance of Final Exam period**), adjusted based on the number of students taking the class.

Some Preparation and Presentation Format Notes:

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Outline. I will provide a template for this report. Here is the outline you will use for your report (minor alterations are allowed with approval of the instructor, but make sure to cover the items mentioned):

- Song Introduction:
 - Background: Block quote from Baidu or Chinese Wikipedia (or other source) with proper citation format with quotation marks and url
 - Your own words: Explain in a few sentences why you chose this song
- Singers/Group Introduction
 - Introduce the singers/group
 - Quote from Baidu or Chinese Wikipedia with proper citation format with quotation marks and url
 - Your own words: Briefly explain in a few sentences your impression of the singers/group
- Song Lyrics: Copy into the document
- Excerpt Vocabulary/Phrase List
 - Provide a vocabulary list of useful and/or difficult words/phrases
 - Minimum 20 two or two+ character vocabulary/phrases

- Grammar Highlights
 - Make a list of 4 grammar highlights for your story excerpt(s)
- Analysis Guidelines
 - Write a minimum 2 page analysis (14 point font; 1.5 spaced)
 - Justify why you chose song
 - Indicate the period background
 - Describe the cultural, social, political, and/or any historical issue addressed in the song
 - Point out some “interesting” translation problems (linguistic and cultural)
 - Creatively assess how the song critiques/addresses these issues
 - Go below the surface
 - Identify some symbolism
 - What do you like about the song and/or video?
 - What do you dislike?
 - What is the market for this song?
 - Comment on the “Chinese-ness” of the song
 - Research and identify intersections of this and other songs in current pop culture
 - Singers/Group intersections
 - Historical background intersections
 - Issue intersections
 - Survey your classmates, Q & A, and reaction
- Photo Gallery (URLs credited)
- List of Citations
- Powerpoint Presentation

Timing (in order to keep you on track, there are penalties for lateness):

- **Week 6:** Your song should be approved by the end of Week 6, Friday 5pm (-1.5 pts if late)
- **Week 10 (due Sunday end of Spring Break):** Submit “**Skeleton Draft**” (-1.5 pts if late) filled in with:
 - block quotes selected from Baidu or Chinese Wikipedia for introduction to song & singers/group (with url citation)
 - Complete song lyrics(available online at various places)
 - Draft vocabulary/phrase list
 - Draft Grammar Highlights
 - Draft Photo Gallery
- **Week 15:** Submit a “**Near Complete Draft**” by the last day of class for instructor feedback if your presentation is during the final exam period; --1.5 pts if late
- I will use Track Changes mode to provide feedback prior to your presentation. The earlier you provide the draft, the more detailed edits I can provide (adjust if you present during the last 2-3 weeks of class). Note the due date on Canvas
- **Final Clean Copy.** Incorporate Instructor’s edits if any from Near Complete Draft and submit to Canvas **BEFORE the First Reading Day**
- **Include** Research Report Checklist below as your last page
- Upload your **Powerpoint Presentation** to Canvas **BEFORE the First Reading Day**

Grading is based on your preparation, presentation, and quality of overall effort. Presentations will be efficiently done in 20-25 minutes and scheduled in the last week of class and the day of the final exam (adjusted based on the number of students taking the class). **Note: Final Exam period attendance is mandatory and you will get credit for your Semester Report only if you attend, and also submit your completed “Final Copy” electronic Word document and powerpoint!**

Make-up Policy:

Make-up is counted only for excused absences (verifiable illness, job interviews, etc.) and **must be completed within one week of return to class** (adjusted for contingencies such as longer term absences by email agreement between instructor and student). Timely email notification of

prearranged absence is expected if you want consideration for make-up. The student is responsible for providing verification and turning in work within this period **without prompting by instructor**. It is recommended that the student complete all assignments regardless of the status of an absence since assignments contribute to the student's overall skills base.

Required Info regarding Institute Approved Activities:

Students who are absent because of participation in approved Institute activities (e.g. field trips, athletic events) will be permitted to make up the work missed during their absences. Approval of such activities will be granted by the Student Academic and Financial Affairs Committee of the Academic Senate, and statements of the approved absence may be obtained from the Office of the Registrar. Please contact the Office of the Registrar for more information.

Academic Integrity:

Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. This includes cheating, lying about course matters, plagiarism, or helping others commit a violation of the Honor Code. Some exams (when specifically announced in class) allow the use of self-prepared supporting information (one sheet of paper, either typed or handwritten, could be double-sided); no other support materials are allowed at tests. Plagiarism includes reproducing the words of others without both the use of quotation marks and citation. Students are reminded of the obligations and expectations associated with the Georgia Tech Academic Honor Code and Student Code of Conduct, available online at www.honor.gatech.edu.

Grading Scale (total possible points 100): A: 100-90; B: 80-89; C: 70-79; D: 60-69; F: 0-59

NOTE: MINIMUM GRADE FOR "PASS" IF TAKING THIS CLASS PASS/FAIL IS 60 (D).

Grade Weighting: (effort based)

- Class Participation: 参加分 30 pts [30 points ÷ 29 days = 1.034 points/day]
- Singing HW: 录音你所唱的歌 15 pts [15 points ÷ 14 songs = 1.071 points/song]
- Vocab Practice: 抄写生词 10 pts [10 points ÷ 14 songs = 0.714 points/song]
- Song Content Q's: 内容问题 15 pts [15 points ÷ 14 songs = 1.071 points/song]
- Interpretation Q's: 诠释题目 15 pts [15 points ÷ 14 songs = 1.071 points/song]
- Sem. KTV Report: 学期 KTV 研究报告 15 pts [15 points]

29 Days of Class:

Week	Date	Day	Assignment	Class Reports/Discussion/Analysis
1	8/25	Tues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Syllabus 课程表 ○ Selected Online Tools 在线参考工具选 ○ Mandopop 华语流行音乐 华语流行音乐: 简介 ○ Start 周杰伦 《可爱女人》 	Introduction; Syllabus Performance, Presentations, Analysis & Discussion 1. Group Performance of Song 2. Singer Introduction 3. Introduce/Drill Vocabulary 4. Discuss Lyrics & Notes 5. Song & Video Survey
	8/27	Thurs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 周杰伦 《可爱女人》 	(Cont'd) Performance, Presentations, Analysis & Discussion 1. Continue Song & Video Survey 2. Presentations 3. Pop Culture Intersections 4. Content Questions

				5. Interpretive Questions
2	9/1	Tues	○ 周杰伦 《可爱女人》	(Cont'd) Performance, Presentations, Analysis & Discussion 1. Continue Song & Video Survey 2. Presentations 3. Pop Culture Intersections 4. Content Questions 5. Interpretive Questions
	9/3	Thurs	○ 庾澄庆 《情非得已》	Previous Song HW Due Performance, Presentations, Analysis & Discussion 1. Group Performance of Song 2. Singer Introduction 3. Introduce/Drill Vocabulary 4. Discuss Lyrics & Notes 5. Song & Video Survey
3	9/8	Tues	○ 庾澄庆 《情非得已》	(Cont'd) Performance, Presentations, Analysis & Discussion 1. Continue Song & Video Survey 2. Presentations 3. Pop Culture Intersections 4. Content Questions 5. Interpretive Questions
	9/10	Thurs	○ 邓丽君 《甜蜜蜜》	Previous Song HW Due Performance, Presentations, Analysis & Discussion 1. Group Performance of Song 2. Singer Introduction 3. Introduce/Drill Vocabulary 4. Discuss Lyrics & Notes 5. Song & Video Survey
4	9/15	Tues	○ 邓丽君 《甜蜜蜜》	(Cont'd) Performance, Presentations, Analysis & Discussion 1. Continue Song & Video Survey 2. Presentations 3. Pop Culture Intersections 4. Content Questions 5. Interpretive Questions
	9/17	Thurs	○ 张惠妹 《别在伤口洒盐》	Previous Song HW Due Performance, Presentations, Analysis & Discussion 1. Group Performance of Song 2. Singer Introduction 3. Introduce/Drill Vocabulary 4. Discuss Lyrics & Notes 5. Song & Video Survey
5	9/22	Tues	○ 张惠妹 《别在伤口洒盐》	(Cont'd) Performance, Presentations, Analysis & Discussion 1. Continue Song & Video Survey 2. Presentations 3. Pop Culture Intersections 4. Content Questions 5. Interpretive Questions
	9/24	Thurs	○ 任贤齐 《对面的女孩看过来》	Previous Song HW Due Performance, Presentations, Analysis & Discussion 1. Group Performance of Song 2. Singer Introduction 3. Introduce/Drill Vocabulary 4. Discuss Lyrics & Notes 5. Song & Video Survey
6	9/29	Tues	○ 任贤齐 《对面的女孩看过来》	(Cont'd) Performance, Presentations, Analysis & Discussion 1. Continue Song & Video Survey 2. Presentations

				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Pop Culture Intersections 4. Content Questions 5. Interpretive Questions
	10/1	Thurs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 王光良 《第一次》 	<p>Previous Song HW Due Performance, Presentations, Analysis & Discussion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Group Performance of Song 2. Singer Introduction 3. Introduce/Drill Vocabulary 4. Discuss Lyrics & Notes 5. Song & Video Survey
7	10/6	Tues	Fall Break	No Class
	10/8	Thurs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 王光良 《第一次》 ○ Approved song choice for Semester KTV Research Report due Friday! 	<p>(Cont'd) Performance, Presentations, Analysis & Discussion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Continue Song & Video Survey 2. Presentations 3. Pop Culture Intersections 4. Content Questions 5. Interpretive Questions
8	10/13	Tues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 张宇 《爱情条约》 	<p>Previous Song HW Due Performance, Presentations, Analysis & Discussion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Group Performance of Song 2. Singer Introduction 3. Introduce/Drill Vocabulary 4. Discuss Lyrics & Notes 5. Song & Video Survey
	10/15	Thurs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 张宇 《爱情条约》 	<p>(Cont'd) Performance, Presentations, Analysis & Discussion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Continue Song & Video Survey 2. Presentations 3. Pop Culture Intersections 4. Content Questions 5. Interpretive Questions
9	10/20	Tues	<p>Taiwan Hip-Hop 台湾嘻哈音乐</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 卜学亮 《子曰》 	<p>Previous Song HW Due Performance, Presentations, Analysis & Discussion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Group Performance of Song 2. Singer Introduction 3. Introduce/Drill Vocabulary 4. Discuss Lyrics & Notes 5. Song & Video Survey
	10/22	Thurs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 卜学亮 《子曰》 	<p>(Cont'd) Performance, Presentations, Analysis & Discussion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Continue Song & Video Survey 2. Presentations 3. Pop Culture Intersections 4. Content Questions 5. Interpretive Questions
10	10/27	Tues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ MC HotDog 热狗 《我爱台妹》 	<p>Previous Song HW Due Performance, Presentations, Analysis & Discussion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Group Performance of Song 2. Singer Introduction 3. Introduce/Drill Vocabulary 4. Discuss Lyrics & Notes 5. Song & Video Survey

	10/29	Thurs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MC HotDog 热狗 《我爱台妹》 	(Cont'd) Performance, Presentations, Analysis & Discussion 1. Continue Song & Video Survey 2. Presentations 3. Pop Culture Intersections 4. Content Questions 5. Interpretive Questions
11	11/3	Tues	Chinese Rock n Roll 中国摇滚音乐 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 崔健 《一无所有》 	Previous Song HW Due Performance, Presentations, Analysis & Discussion 1. Group Performance of Song 2. Singer Introduction 3. Introduce/Drill Vocabulary 4. Discuss Lyrics & Notes 5. Song & Video Survey
	11/5	Thurs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 崔健 《一无所有》 	(Cont'd) Performance, Presentations, Analysis & Discussion 1. Continue Song & Video Survey 2. Presentations 3. Pop Culture Intersections 4. Content Questions 5. Interpretive Questions
12	11/10	Tues	唐朝乐队 《太阳》	Previous Song HW Due Performance, Presentations, Analysis & Discussion 1. Group Performance of Song 2. Singer Introduction 3. Introduce/Drill Vocabulary 4. Discuss Lyrics & Notes 5. Song & Video Survey
	11/12	Thurs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 唐朝乐队 《太阳》 	(Cont'd) Performance, Presentations, Analysis & Discussion 1. Continue Song & Video Survey 2. Presentations 3. Pop Culture Intersections 4. Content Questions 5. Interpretive Questions
13	11/17	Tues	National Identity & Consciousness 国家认同与意识 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 刘德华 《中国人》 	Previous Song HW Due Performance, Presentations, Analysis & Discussion 1. Group Performance of Song 2. Singer Introduction 3. Introduce/Drill Vocabulary 4. Discuss Lyrics & Notes 5. Song & Video Survey
	11/19	Thurs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 刘德华 《中国人》 	(Cont'd) Performance, Presentations, Analysis & Discussion 1. Continue Song & Video Survey 2. Presentations 3. Pop Culture Intersections 4. Content Questions 5. Interpretive Questions
14	11/24	Tues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 王力宏 《龙的传人》 	Previous Song HW Due Performance, Presentations, Analysis & Discussion 1. Group Performance of Song 2. Singer Introduction 3. Introduce/Drill Vocabulary 4. Discuss Lyrics & Notes 5. Song & Video Survey
	11/26	Thurs	Thanksgiving Break	No Class
15	12/1	Tues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 王力宏 《龙的传人》 	(Cont'd) Performance, Presentations, Analysis & Discussion 1. Continue Song & Video Survey 2. Presentations

				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Pop Culture Intersections 4. Content Questions 5. Interpretive Questions
	12/3	Thurs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 刘欢《水浒传》电视剧的《好汉歌》 	<p>Previous Song HW Due</p> <p>Performance, Presentations, Analysis & Discussion</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Group Performance of Song 2. Singer Introduction 3. Introduce/Drill Vocabulary 4. Discuss Lyrics & Notes 5. Song & Video Survey <p>“Near Complete Draft” Semester KTV Research Report due</p>
16	12/8	Tues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 刘欢《水浒传》电视剧的《好汉歌》 <p>Final Instructional Day</p>	<p>(Cont'd) Performance, Presentations, Analysis & Discussion</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Continue Song & Video Survey 2. Presentations 3. Pop Culture Intersections 4. Content Questions 5. Interpretive Questions
	12/9	Wed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Last Song HW Due 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Last Song HW Due
Fin	12/?	TBA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Final Clean Copy” Semester KTV Research Report Due • Report Powerpoint Due 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Final Clean Copy” Semester KTV Research Report Due • Report Powerpoint Due • Final Presentations 学期 KTV 研究报告

The Ivan Allen College of Liberal Arts supports the Georgia Institute of Technology's commitment to creating a campus free of discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, or veteran status. We further affirm the importance of cultivating an intellectual climate that allows us to better understand the similarities and differences of those who constitute the Georgia Tech community, as well as the necessity of working against inequalities that may also manifest here as they do in the broader society.

Have a great semester in Advanced Chinese, Popular Music and Culture
《高级汉语、流行音乐与文化》！