

Chinese Language History: Phonology

中國歷史音韻學

tun ʔk^wik ʔrak srə-q ʔəm G^wən-s ʔg^wak

W 2:30-5:00 @ Moore 224

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“Cauldron of Duke Mao” (9th cent. B.C.)
Inscribed ritual bronze vessel from Western Zhou dynasty

This course concerns the phonology part of Chinese language history from the first millennium B.C. to the 6th century A.D., which is generally divided into two periods called Old Chinese and Middle Chinese. We will discuss (a) how sources of different natures - written attestations or living dialects and archaeologically excavated or transmitted texts - are used to make phonetic reconstructions for OC and MC phonological systems and (b) how knowledge of historical phonology is applied to textual studies of early Chinese literature. Through these discussions we will be touching upon topics such as the early development of the Chinese writing system and phonological issues in readings of the recently excavated bamboo manuscript versions of Classical Chinese texts. Students of all disciplines are welcome.

Please contact the instructor for permission to register without prerequisite (Elementary Chinese)