

Mandarin Chinese FLAC Courses and the Chinese Curriculum Development: Potentials and Challenges

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Abstract

Emerged in the 1980s, FLAC (Foreign Language Across the Curriculum), LAC (Language Across the Curriculum), or CLAC (Cultures and Languages Across the Curriculum) later evolves into a curricular framework that “provides opportunities to develop and apply language and intercultural competence within all academic disciplines through the use of multilingual resources and the inclusion of multiple cultural perspectives.” (CLAC Consortium). In this presentation, the presenter will discuss the potentials and challenges of the FLAC/CLAC framework in developing interdisciplinary courses in a foreign language. Two Mandarin FLAC/CLAC courses (one on Global Health and the other on Environmental Studies) will be introduced as examples to illustrate the course design, community-based collaborations, and collaborations between faculties across disciplines. Following the introduction, the presenter will discuss the implications of the FLAC/CLAC framework for future Chinese curriculum development and propose some suggestions for future pedagogical collaborations between language faculty and faculties in other disciplines.

Bio

Dr. Yan Liu is an Assistant Professor of the Practice in the Department of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies at Duke University. She holds a Ph.D. degree in Second Language Acquisition (SLA) from Carnegie Mellon University. In recent years, Dr. Liu has been developing content-based interdisciplinary Chinese courses and integrating community-based learning/service learning, visual arts, and games into her teaching. Her main research interests include SLA in Chinese, Chinese pedagogy, and Chinese heritage language education.