

## Na Li, Professor of Chinese

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*"I believe that teaching and learning are interconnected disciplines. A teacher is responsible for assisting students to develop the necessary skills on how to build on prior knowledge."*



Na Li is a professor in both the Chinese Flagship and Chinese major programs. In the Chinese Flagship program, she teaches the freshman level courses. In the Chinese major program, she teaches 300 and 400 level courses. She is passionate about student-centered teaching and creating a comfortable environment for her students to effectively learn Chinese.

She got her undergraduate and graduate degrees in China. In school, she majored in teaching Chinese to foreigners. After completing graduate school, she taught Chinese in South Korea for 2 years. She was then offered a job in the United States. Li met her husband in 2017 while teaching Chinese to elementary, middle, and high school students in the U.S. She started teaching part-time at WKU, in 2021 and she became a full-time faculty member in 2022.

Her teaching philosophy and approach towards teaching is student-centered teaching and spiral learning. She believes that learning should be collaborative between teachers and students. In her teaching, she emphasizes the importance of reviewing so that her students can fully understand each concept and build on everything they have learned. She focuses on instilling confidence in her students to help them succeed.

Outside of the classroom, Professor Li enjoys playing tennis with her husband and gardening. In her garden, she grows Chinese vegetables. She also has a one-year-old son who keeps her busy.

She hopes that she creates a relaxed learning environment. She wants her students to feel comfortable in her classes. She explains that the only way to learn is to speak freely,

allow yourself to make mistakes, and get feedback from your professors. Her advice for languages students is to relax and try not to worry about grades. She encourages students to speak and practice their language as much as possible and to be okay with making mistakes.

