

CET Syllabus of Record



Program: Chinese Studies and Internship in Beijing

Course Title: Pre-Advanced Chinese (Summer)

Course Code: CL311

Total Hours: 88

Recommended Credits: 5

Suggested Cross Listings: Chinese Language

Language of Instruction: Chinese

Prerequisites/Requirements: 2 years of previous study

Description

This course is designed for non-native speakers of Chinese who have taken approximately two years of college-level Chinese instruction and have a good grasp of basic Chinese phonetics, the fundamentals of sentence structure, and a working vocabulary of at least 2,200 commonly used words. Entering students should be able to conduct basic conversation in Mandarin on day-to-day topics and on matters relating to previously acquired vocabulary. The course comprises a variety of integrated classes which meet for a total of 6 hours per week, or 48 contact hours per semester. The component classes include: Grammar and Vocabulary, Drill and Discussion, Supplementary Instruction, and One-on-One classes.

Grammar and Vocabulary: Vocabulary development is a critical part of language training for students at the pre-advanced level because it allows them to further develop their abilities in understanding and expression. Consequently, this course emphasizes not only acquiring vocabulary from the text and related materials used in class, but also understanding associated synonyms, near-synonyms and antonyms. Additionally, students receive the specific instruction needed to understand and utilize difficult grammatical terms and structures (including common proverbs, colloquialisms, etc). In this class, students master textual elements such as: commonly encountered phrases and word groups; key vocabulary; complements; attributives; adverbs; complex predicates; and measure words. Emphasis is placed on gaining a full understanding of not only the lesson text but also the issue that the text describes so that students are able to engage in informed discussion on the topic.

Drill and Discussion: This task-based class complements grammar class and includes two sections. The drill section focuses primarily on reinforcing skills acquired in grammar class. During drill, the instructor uses techniques such as phrase alteration, sentence correction and sentence completion, and expects the student to not only use appropriate pronunciation, tone, cadence, word usage, sentence structure, and grammar in their speech, but also maintain a minimum speed and level of fluency. The discussion section is an extension of this drill. Emphasis is placed on sentence complexity and paragraph-length communication as students debate the larger topic covered in the text lesson.

One-on-One: Once per week, a teacher and a student work one-on-one to resolve that individual student's language problems. Students at appropriate levels may, alternatively, choose a topic of interest that matches his or her skill level and make a free report to the instructor. This exercise is designed to foster the student's ability to use language fluently at length.

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Objectives

In this course, students increase their vocabulary to a total of 2,750 items or more.

Students learn to independently, or with limited assistance, read written communication and compositions relating to daily life, study and social interaction. Students also develop the skills to begin reading some brief documents aimed at native speakers concerning China's society and culture.

Students are required to make use of vocabulary, grammatical structures, and increasingly complex sentence patterns that they have acquired in class. Upon completion of this course, students are able to express themselves verbally with good accuracy on a specific topic and compose essays of up to 550 characters in length.

Course Requirements

Students can expect at least 1 hour of homework or preparation for every hour spent in class. They complete daily and weekly quizzes, weekly compositions and frequent oral reports. Before attending class, students are expected to review the previous day's material, complete all homework assignments, listen to language CD's from the new lesson text, review the new lesson text and memorize all vocabulary, review grammar notes in the textbook, etc. Comprehensive final exams are also used to evaluate student progress.

Methods of Evaluation

The final grade is determined as follows:

General classroom performance	20%
Daily quiz grades	10%
Daily homework scores	10%
Bi-weekly test grades	30%
Final examination	30%

Primary Texts

A New Chinese Reader, Part 2, Commercial Press. (14 Units)

Pace and Textbook Lessons Covered

Students complete one textbook lesson every three or four class periods, completing one or more lessons per week. Every two weeks, there is a brief review of material followed by separate written and oral evaluations. Students complete 14 Units of *A New Chinese Reader, Part 2*.