

CET Syllabus of Record



Program: Intensive Chinese Language in Beijing

Course Title: Beginning Chinese

Course Code: BJ/LANG 101

Total Hours: 160

Recommended Credits: 8

Primary Discipline: Chinese Language

Language of Instruction: Chinese

Prerequisites/Requirements: None

Description

This course is designed for non-native speakers of Chinese with no previous training in Mandarin. It enables them to gain basic communication skills both orally and in writing and to lay a solid foundation for future study of the language. The course comprises a variety of integrated classes which meet for a total of 20 hours per week. Following the ACTFL guidelines, component classes are all communicative and interactive, including larger sessions, smaller sessions, and one-on-one conversation sessions. Some supplementary instruction, such as Chinese movies and language practicum, is also included.

Larger Sessions: Larger sessions have a cap of 12 students and meet for two hours per day. By engaging with the instructor in interactive and meaningful communication, students grasp the fundamentals of the Pinyin system of Chinese Romanization (i.e. use of initials and finals, the four tones, tonal shift, the neutral tone, methods of pronunciation, the laws governing *erhuayin*, etc.), acquire basic grammatical structures (nouns, verbs, measure words, and locative terms that commonly occur in day-to-day communications) as well as some frequently used sentence patterns, and begin to communicate in interpretational, interpersonal, and presentational modes with appropriate cultural awareness. Although greater attention is paid to oral communication skills, Chinese character recognition and writing (both hand-writing and typewriting) are also taught, with emphasis on effective communication. Students are encouraged to practice their language skills outside of the classroom both in the real world and in the cyber world.

Smaller Sessions: Smaller sessions typically have five or fewer students. This task-based class meets for two hours per day and reinforces content covered in the larger sessions to ensure that each and every student masters the targeted communicative skills. Students are required to not only speak with appropriate sentence structure, pronunciation, tones and vocabulary, but also maintain a certain speed of communication indicative of a basic comfort with the target language. Furthermore, students are expected to use language skills developed in class to participate in role-plays, skits, discussions, etc.

Drill exercises and other task-based activities are designed for students to achieve full, active comprehension and mastery for accurate usage. Through questions and exercises, students learn not only *how* to say something, but also *what* to say in *which* conditions while speaking with *whom*. This is a comprehensive approach that maximizes efficiency and allows students to acquire a large breadth of usage in a short period of time.

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One-on-One: This class meets for at least 25 minutes each afternoon. Carefully-designed open-ended questions which cover the content taught in larger and smaller sessions are used to help students further develop their range of language and spontaneity and fluency in speech.

All classes are conducted in a Mandarin-only learning environment and place special emphasis on the functional nature of language. Full use is made of Beijing's positive cultural, linguistic, and geographical surroundings, allowing students to rapidly develop their language skills and accumulate a wide body of Chinese cultural knowledge.

Objectives

By completing this course, students will have basic oral and written communication skills.

More specifically, students learn the pinyin system of Chinese Romanization and develop a solid grasp of basic Chinese pronunciation, a platform on which later study may be built. Most of Mandarin's basic grammar structures for simple communication are covered, and student oral communication skills reach the equivalent of the Novice High of standard OPI or higher.

Students acquire 800 common Chinese words, phrases and structures and, by the end of the course, are able to engage in basic but effective interactions with Chinese speakers about the daily life topics covered in class. These topics include but are not limited to: introducing people, asking and answering questions, making simple statements, and comparing two people or things.

Students are also able to recognize about 600 most frequently used Chinese characters in context, read short passages similar to those used in class, and compose brief presentational papers in Chinese between 200 and 400 characters in length.

Course Requirements

This is a high-intensity course. Student requirements include:

- Memorizing new vocabulary for the next day's daily quiz
- Listening to the recording of the text that will be taught the next day
- Previewing the text of the new lesson
- Reviewing grammar notes to aid understanding of the text
- Working with Chinese roommates to complete speaking exercises
- Composing and completing written assignments
- Actively participating in all classroom activities
- Attending afternoon individual conversation sessions with a teacher
- Preparing for weekly written and oral tests
- Participating in language practicum

Classroom participation and performance, weekly written and oral tests, daily quizzes and comprehensive midterm and final exams are also used to evaluate student progress.

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Methods of Evaluation

The final grade is determined as follows:

General classroom performance 10%
Attendance 10%
Individual sessions 5%
Written homework 15%
Daily quizzes 10%
Weekly written tests 7.5%
Weekly oral tests 7.5%
Midterm written exam 7.5%
Midterm oral exam 7.5%
Final written exam 10%
Final oral exam 10% (5% as final oral proficiency interview score)

Primary Texts

Integrated Chinese, Level 1, Part 1, Cheng & Tsui. (10 units)

Integrated Chinese, Level 1, Part 2, Cheng & Tsui. (10 units)

Supplementary Texts

Supplementary Materials: *Post Office*, *Hometown*

Movie: *Sange Heshang* 《三个和尚》