

CET Syllabus of Record



Program: Intensive Chinese Language in Beijing
Course Title: Advanced Beginning Chinese
Course Code: BJ/LANG 151
Total Hours: 160
Recommended Credits: 8
Primary Discipline: Chinese Language
Language of Instruction: Chinese
Prerequisites/Requirements: 1 term of previous study

Description

This course is designed for non-native learners of Chinese who have completed half a year of regularly paced, or one year of slowly paced, college-level Mandarin. 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 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 about the topic 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, 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, most of Mandarin's basic grammar structures for simple communication are covered, and students increase their working Chinese vocabulary to a total of 1,500 or more items. The course provides continued guidance of students' understanding of elementary Chinese vocabulary (both words and phrases) and ability to engage in straightforward practical/academic dialogues in Chinese. Participation in this level allows students to:

- comprehend and communicate in Mandarin Chinese at the integrated level
- handle tasks that require the skills to describe, narrate, explain and compare
- write compositions 300 and 500 characters in length
- develop and practice using language-learning strategies
- become independent and resourceful learners of Mandarin Chinese

By the end of this course, student communication skills reach the equivalent of a solid Novice High of a standard OPI and close to Intermediate Low.

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 quizzes, daily dictations and comprehensive midterm and final exams, are also used to evaluate student progress.

Methods of Evaluation

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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 8%
Weekly oral tests 7%
Midterm written exam 8%
Midterm oral exam 7%
Final written exam 10%
Final oral exam 10% (5% as final oral proficiency interview score)

Primary Texts

Integrated Chinese: Level 1, Part 2, Cheng & Tsui. (10 units)
Integrated Chinese: Level 2, Cheng & Tsui. (13 units)

Supplementary Texts

Movie: *Spicy Love Soup*

Pace and Textbook Lessons Covered

One textbook lesson is covered every day. Students complete *Integrated Chinese: Level 1, Part 2* at about the midway point of the semester. Following the midterm, Level 2 materials are used. Students learn approximately 40 new characters per lesson. There are oral and written examinations every Friday.

Students complete all of *Integrated Chinese: Level 1, Part 2* and approximately 13 out of 20 units of *Integrated Chinese: Level 2*.