

# CET Syllabus of Record



**Program:** Intensive Chinese Language in Beijing

**Course Title:** Intermediate High Chinese

**Course Code:** BJ/LANG 250

**Total Hours:** 280

**Recommended Credits:** 17

**Primary Discipline:** Chinese Language

**Language of Instruction:** Chinese

**Prerequisites/Requirements:** 3 terms of previous study

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## Description

This multi-faceted course is designed for non-native speakers of Chinese who have taken roughly a year and a half of college-level Chinese instruction, have gained basic control of the language's phonetics and sentence structures, and maintain a working vocabulary of about 1,500 commonly-used words. Entering students should be able to conduct basic conversation in Mandarin on day-to-day topics and on matters relating to vocabulary previously acquired.

The course comprises a variety of integrated classes which meet for a total of 20 hours per week, or 280 contact hours per semester. The component classes include: Morning Reading, Grammar and Vocabulary, Drill, Practicum and Report, Supplementary Instruction, One-on-One, and One-on-Two classes.

*Morning Reading:* For fifteen minutes every morning the instructor leads the class in guided reading of text and vocabulary. This exercise is designed to correct pronunciation problems, familiarize students with a text and prepare them for learning as quickly and efficiently as possible.

*Grammar and Vocabulary:* Materials used in this class present a broad wealth of subject matter and vocabulary. For this reason, it is important that students begin with a thorough understanding the text, which includes concrete vocabulary, commonly-encountered grammatical particles, grammar constructs, colloquialisms and proverbs. Additionally, students are expected to absorb grammar points (such as common grammar structures; sentence patterns; related terminology; complements; attributives; and adverbs) as they appear in the written material. Through mastering this material, students develop their abilities in all areas.

*Drill:* This task-based class complements grammar class. Students reinforce new vocabulary and structures through exercises such as sentence alteration, correction and completion. Students are required to not only use appropriate pronunciation, tone, cadence, word usage, sentence structure, and grammar in their speech, but also maintain a minimum speed and fluency of communication. Additionally, students apply skills learned in the grammar class to complete sentences of increasing complexity.

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*Practicum and Report:* This course was developed to help students integrate with Chinese society and have meaningful communication with locals. The teacher designs a set of tasks that must be completed outside the classroom with skills developed in class. Students share the results of their practicum with classmates upon return.

*Supplementary Instruction:* Accompanying the texts used in class, movies and recorded audio materials relating to Chinese history, culture, and contemporary social issues are introduced. These materials help the students round out their understanding of China and, simultaneously, improve their language skills in all areas.

*One-on-One:* 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.

*One-on-Two:* Two students work with one instructor to fine-tune pronunciation and increase fluency. The One-on-Two class uses materials (24 lessons total) developed by CET instructors that incorporate common phrases from student life so that participants may be able to apply them in context directly after practice.

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

The objective of this course is to dramatically elevate the students' working vocabulary, increasing it to an estimated 2,500 words by the end of the term.

Students develop their understanding of Chinese grammar, Chinese society, and their reading abilities. They learn to independently engage with written materials relating to daily life, study and society, and they begin to develop the ability to read more formal documents (*shumianyu*) such as and explanatory, narrative, and discursive essays.

By the end of this course, students demonstrate the ability to produce longer, more ordered verbal expression on given topics. They are also able to compose essays of up to 700 characters in length.

### Course Requirements

This is a high-intensity course. From Monday to Thursday, students complete a daily quiz. This is followed by a weekly test on Friday that evaluates students' written and oral progress. Each week, students are required to submit a written composition and prepare one or two oral reports. In addition to time spent in class, students are expected to spend between three and four hours a day reviewing that day's lessons, completing homework, listening to language CDs and answering content-based questions, practicing writing new vocabulary and preparing for the next day's instruction.

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Comprehensive midterm and final exams are also used to evaluate student progress.

## Methods of Evaluation

The final grade is determined as follows:

82% Core (Grammar and Vocabulary, Drill)  
18% Supplementary

### Core

20% General classroom performance  
10% Daily Quizzes  
10% Daily homework scores  
15% Weekly Quizzes  
20% Midterm examination  
25% Final examination

### Supplementary

30% One-on-One  
30% One-on-Two  
40% Group Class

## Primary Texts

*A New China*, Princeton University Press. (23 to 25 units)

Additional materials, created by CET faculty, based on *A New Chinese Course, Volumes 3 and 4*, Commercial Press. (13 Units)

## Supplementary Texts

Movies: 《爱情麻辣烫》 *Spicy Love Soup*; 《洗澡》 *Shower*; 《快乐东西》 *Happy Things*

Additional materials, created by CET faculty, that target reading (including *chengyu* reading) and listening skills

Discussion, role-plays and interviews

Ethnographic projects

Script composition and performance

## Pace and Textbook Lessons Covered

Beginning with the 20th unit in *A New China*, students cover one text lesson every day, or 3 to 4 lessons per week, for a total of 23 to 25 units. After completing *A New China*, they move onto materials created by CET faculty for 300-level students and cover 13 units.

Every Friday there is a brief review of material covered in the week's classes followed by separate written and oral evaluations.

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Starting in the 2<sup>nd</sup> week, students also work through 16 lessons of supplementary listening and reading (including *chengyu* reading) practice materials.