

CET Syllabus of Record



Program: Intensive Chinese Language in Beijing

Course Title: Novice Chinese

Course Code: BJ/LANG 100

Total Hours: 266

Recommended Credits: 17

Primary Discipline: Chinese Language

Language of Instruction: Chinese

Prerequisites/Requirements: None

Description

This multi-faceted course is designed for non-native speakers of Chinese with no previous training in Mandarin. 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, 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: First, students grasp the fundamentals of the Pinyin system of Chinese Romanization (i.e. use of initials and finals, the four tones, tonal shift, characteristics of the neutral tone, methods of pronunciation, and the laws governing *erhuayin*). Second, working from this base, students develop additional language abilities such as: the skill to handle vocabulary that appears in class texts, in particular those nouns, verbs, measure words, and locative terms that commonly occur in day-to-day interactions; and the facility to compose basic narrative, interrogative, and imperative sentences. Throughout the course, the instructor pays particular attention to cultivating appropriate pronunciation, word usage, and intonation in all students.

Drill: This class reinforces students' understanding of material covered in the grammar class. Students are required to not only use appropriate pronunciation, tones and vocabulary, but also to 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 simple, simulated social interactions as dictated by the instructor. This is a task-based class.

Each week, the teacher makes a collection of all Chinese characters written incorrectly in student homework, on dictation exercises and on tests. He/she then uses these materials instruct the class on Chinese character writing. Emphasis is placed on self-correction, proper stroke order, and recognition of radicals.

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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.

One-on-One: A teacher and a student work one-on-one to resolve that individual student's language problems.

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

In this course, 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.

Students acquire 800 common Chinese words, phrases and structures and by the end of the course are able to engage in basic interactions with Chinese speakers on topics covered in class. They are also able to read short passages similar to those used in class, and compose brief papers in Chinese between 200 and 400 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.

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

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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

- Integrated Chinese: Level 1, Part 1*, Cheng & Tsui. (10 units)
- Integrated Chinese: Level 1, Part 2*, Cheng & Tsui. (10 units)
- Integrated Chinese: Level 2*, Cheng & Tsui. (3 to 5 units)

Supplementary Texts

Movie: 《三个和尚》 *The Three Monks*

Additional materials, created by CET faculty, that target reading and listening skills

Pace and Textbook Lessons Covered

The first two days are used to learn the Pinyin Romanization system. After that, one textbook lesson is covered every two days. Every Friday there is a brief review of the week's material and a short oral/written examination.

Students complete all of *Integrated Chinese: Level 1, Part 1* and *Integrated Chinese: Level 1, Part 2*, and 3 to 5 units of *Integrated Chinese: Level 2*.