

CET Syllabus of Record



Program: Intensive Chinese Language in Beijing
Course Title: Novice High Chinese
Course Code: BJ/LANG 150
Total Hours: 266
Recommended Credits: 17
Primary Discipline: Chinese Language
Language of Instruction: Chinese
Prerequisites/Requirements: 1 term of previous study

Description

This multi-faceted course is designed for non-native speakers of Chinese who have completed between three and six months of previous study and have a basic command of 600 commonly used Chinese words. Entering students should be able to conduct basic, everyday conversation in Chinese.

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: First, using the core textbook as a guide, this class introduces students to terms related to daily social and academic interactions. Critical nouns, verbs, adjectives, measure words, locative terms and prepositions are covered. Second, the class develops student command of basic Chinese sentence structures and eventually introduces more complex sentence structures of greater length.

Drill: This class reinforces concepts covered in the grammar class. Students are required to not only speak with appropriate inflection and grammar, but also maintain a base level of speed in all conversation consistent with a minimum level of comfort when communicating in the target language. Furthermore, students are expected to use language skills developed in class to complete an array of tasks as dictated by the instructor.

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 this material 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.

Supplementary Instruction: Using materials that complement subject matter covered in the main class (movies, newspapers, etc.), the teacher guides students in immersive activities designed to heighten their understanding and interest.

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 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 not only have basic day-to-day conversations with locals, but also initiate simple dialogues on study-related topics.

By the end of the course, students demonstrate elevated reading abilities and are able to write compositions between 300 and 500 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:

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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

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

Integrated Chinese: Level 2, Cheng & Tsui. (17 units)

Supplementary Texts

Movies: 《三个和尚》 *The Three Monks*; 《爱情麻辣烫》 *Spicy Love Soup*

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

Pace and Textbook Lessons Covered

One textbook lesson is covered every two days. Around the time of the midterm examination, students are expected to have completed *Integrated Chinese: Level 1, Part 2*. Following the midterm, Level 2 materials are used. Every Friday there is a short oral/written examination.

Students complete all of *Integrated Chinese: Level 1, Part 2* and 17 units of *Integrated Chinese: Level 2*.

Starting in the 2nd week, students also work through 13 lessons of supplementary listening and reading (including *chengyu* reading and reading of authentic materials), covering one lesson per week.