

CET Syllabus of Record



Program: Intensive Chinese Language in Beijing
Course Title: Intermediate Chinese
Course Code: BJ/LANG 200
Total Hours: 266
Recommended Credits: 17
Primary Discipline: Chinese Language
Language of Instruction: Chinese
Prerequisites/Requirements: 1 year of previous study

Description

This multi-faceted course is designed for non-native speakers of Chinese who have taken between six months and a year of language classes and possess a vocabulary of roughly 1,000 commonly-used Chinese words. Entering students should be able to maintain basic conversation on day-to-day topics.

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: The material covered in this class includes topics such as common, daily interactions; letter exchange; introductions to historical stories; and some aspects of Chinese culture. During class, the instructor uses a question and answer method to ensure students' understanding of the text and then builds from that platform by introducing useful vocabulary and patterns seen in the text. A large number of grammatical items (adverbs, measure words, prepositions, conjunctions, etc.) are introduced. Emphasis is placed on acquiring critical sentence structures and commonly-encountered colloquialisms, and general improvement of reading skills. In order to complete the lesson, students are required to produce an essay each week on a topic relating to the material covered.

Drill: This class reinforces the material covered in grammar class. This is a task-based class, and includes exercises such as phrase alteration, sentence correction and sentence completion. When completing these exercises, students are required to not only use appropriate pronunciation, tones, vocabulary and sentence patterns, but also maintain a minimum speed of fluency. Additionally, students are expected to use newly-acquired words to engage in pair work--simulated social interactions of increasing complexity designed by the teacher.

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In addition to 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.

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. 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

In this course, students increase their working Chinese vocabulary to a total of 2,000 items. The course also develops student facility with phrases, grammar structures, sentences and the rules of basic sentence composition as they appear in everyday life. Upon completion of this course, students should be able to meet the basic needs of common/academic social interaction.

By the end of this course, students demonstrate improved reading skills and a solid understanding of the aspects of Chinese society studied in class. They are also able to compose essays between 400 to 600 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,

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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

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 2, Cheng & Tsui. (20 Units)

A New China, Princeton University Press. (9 Units)

Supplementary Texts

Movies: 《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

It is expected that students will complete all of *Integrated Chinese level 2* in the first 11 weeks of the program. One chapter is covered every two days. Then, *A New China* is used for the remainder of the semester at the pace of one chapter per day. Students complete chapters 23 through 44.

There is a brief review of the material covered each week, followed by a written and oral evaluation each Friday.

Starting in the 2nd week, students also work through 12 lessons of supplementary listening and reading (including *chengyu* reading) practice materials.