

CET Syllabus of Record



Program: Intensive Chinese Language in Beijing
Course Title: Advanced Low Chinese
Course Code: BJ/LANG 300
Total Hours: 224
Recommended Credits: 14
Primary Discipline: Chinese Language
Language of Instruction: Chinese
Prerequisites/Requirements: 2 years of previous study

Description

This multi-faceted course is designed for non-native speakers of Chinese who have taken approximately two years of college-level Chinese instruction and have a good grasp of basic Chinese phonetics, the fundamentals of sentence structure, and a working vocabulary of at least 2,200 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 16 hours per week, or 224 contact hours per semester. The component classes include: Grammar and Vocabulary, Drill and Discussion, Practicum and Report, Supplementary Instruction and One-on-One classes.

Grammar and Vocabulary: Vocabulary development is a critical part of language training for students at the pre-advanced level because it allows them to further develop their abilities in understanding and expression. Consequently, this course emphasizes not only acquiring vocabulary from the text and related materials used in class, but also understanding associated synonyms, near-synonyms and antonyms. Additionally, students receive the specific instruction needed to understand and utilize difficult grammatical terms and structures (including common proverbs, colloquialisms, etc). In this class, students master textual elements such as: commonly encountered phrases and word groups; key vocabulary; complements; attributives; adverbs; complex predicates; and measure words.

Drill and Discussion: This task-based class complements grammar class and includes two sections. The drill section focuses primarily on reinforcing skills acquired in grammar class. During drill, the instructor expects the student to not only use appropriate pronunciation, tone, cadence, word usage, sentence structure, and grammar in their speech, but also maintain a minimum speed and level of fluency. The discussion section is an extension of this drill. The instructor selects a topic for conversation or debate related to the content covered in other classes. During discussion, the teacher pays attention to not only to appropriate use of vocabulary and grammar, but also logical thinking in Chinese and length and complexity of sentences. During discussion students also work on different styles of expression, such as formal, humorous, and emotional.

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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 and students conduct their own social research. These materials and activities 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.

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 vocabulary to a total of 3,200 items or more.

Students learn to independently read written communication and compositions relating to daily life, study and social interaction. Students also develop the skills to begin reading brief documents aimed at native speakers concerning China's society, history, economy, and culture.

Students are required to make use of vocabulary, grammatical structures, and increasingly complex sentence patterns that they have acquired in class. Upon completion of this course, students are able to express themselves verbally with good accuracy on a specific topic and compose essays of around 800 characters in length.

Students learn to write formally and casually.

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:

93% Core (Grammar and Vocabulary, Drill and Discussion)

7% Supplementary (Group Class, One-on-One)

Core

20% General classroom performance

10% Daily Quizzes

10% Daily homework scores

15% Weekly Quizzes

20% Midterm examination

25% Final examination

Supplementary

40% One-on-One

60% Group Class

Primary Texts

A New Chinese Course, 3 & 4, Beijing Language and Culture University Press. (9 Units)

Materials edited by CET faculty. (21 Units)

Supplementary Texts

Movies: 《洗澡》 Shower; 《大红灯笼高高挂》 Raise the Red

Lantern; 《一个都不能少》 Not One Less; 《塑料王国》 The Plastic China; 《喜宴》

Video: 《世界青年说》 A Bright World; 《中国》 China; 《北漂》 Beijing Floater

Music and Songs: 《一封家书》 A Letter Home; 《我爱中国菜》 I Love Chinese Cuisine; 《今天

你要嫁给我》 You Would Like to Marry Me Today; 《龙的传人》 Descendants of the

Dragon; 《十二生肖》 The 12 Chinese Zodiac Signs; 《月亮代表我的心》 The Moon

Represents My Heart; 《朋友》 Friends

Additional materials created by CET faculty, as target reading and listening regard to the content of the course, including Chengyu (idioms in Chinese) and Lunyu (The Analects of Confucius).

Debating practice and competition

Script composition and performance

Pace and Textbook Lessons Covered

Students complete one textbook lesson every one to two days, completing two to three lessons per week.

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

Students complete all of *A New Chinese Course* and 9 units of materials edited by CET faculty.

Starting in the 2nd week, students also work through 24 lessons of supplementary listening and reading (including *chengyu* reading) practice materials, covering approximately two lessons per week.