

CET Syllabus of Record



Program: January Term Intensive Chinese Language in Beijing

Course Title: Advanced Chinese

Course Code: BJ/LANG 402

Total Hours: 92

Recommended Credits: 5

Primary Discipline: Chinese Language

Language of Instruction: Chinese

Prerequisites/Requirements: Required for students with 6 terms of previous study

Description

This course is designed for Chinese language learners with approximately 6 terms of previous study. The January Term is an intensive immersion program that emphasizes the integration of language study and real world application. The program makes every use of the cultural and linguistic environment of Beijing, and students complete a high number of assignments that require them to use their language skills outside the classroom and off of the program's campus. Each week of classes focuses on a different level-appropriate theme. This theme guides the acquisition of new grammar and vocabulary and also links with outside practica activities and excursions.

Students take 25 hours of classes per week for a total of 100 contact hours over the course of the term. Classes comprise the following: Morning Reading sessions, Grammar sessions, Practice and Discussion sessions, Practicum and Reports, One-on-One sessions, One-on-Two sessions and Skits.

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: Building on a previously prepared text, the instructor uses interactive question and answer sessions to draw attention to important points of grammar and vocabulary. Through this, students develop textual understanding and facility with language structures.

Practice and Discussion: Targeting individual items of grammar and vocabulary essential to student development, the instructor provides generous linguistic background and has students repeatedly use new terms in controlled verbal exercises. The goal of these sessions is to have students make practiced application of acquired language skills. Then, the instructor gradually releases control of the language exchanges and provides the class with a selection of problems and activities (conversation, debate, role-play, etc.) that further allow students to practice using new words in a natural and spontaneous way.

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Practicum and Report: This class helps students integrate into 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. The tasks take advantage of a wealth of resources in Beijing and further acquaint students with their local environment. Students share the results of their practicum with classmates upon return in formal reports that make use of new vocabulary and grammar structures.

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 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.

Skits/Mini-Lectures: Each class performs a total of three skits and/or mini-lectures about topics related to their weekly theme. Students are encouraged to use new grammar and vocabulary, and present their performance to classmates, roommates and instructors. In order to further encourage exchange and increase student's knowledge about Chinese culture, Chinese roommates are asked to present mini-lectures to their CET counterparts. Through these lectures, students hear the language used in natural yet advanced, formal yet accessible ways.

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

During this course, students:

- Acquire approximately 160-180 new words and phrases each week
- Demonstrate ability to engage naturally and spontaneously in academic dialogues with native speakers
- Learn to use Chinese to satisfy all of their needs while living in Beijing—both day-to-day and long-term, including researching or querying new topics of interest
- Increase their spoken fluency and understanding so that they are well-equipped to continue their language study in an all-Chinese, intensive environment

Course Requirements

This intensive course requires maximum student participation and preparation. Students are expected to come to class having fully prepared to participate as actively and accurately as possible. In order to maintain a fast pace of acquisition, students are required to complete a high number of assignments on their own time. Assignments include:

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- Review of material covered that day
- Listening to recordings
- Reading texts aloud
- Responding to recorded questions about a text
- Memorizing new vocabulary (approximately 45 characters per lesson)
- Writing weekly essays
- Preparing 1 to 2 oral reports per week

In addition, students take daily dictation quizzes, weekly oral and written tests that test newly acquired material, and a comprehensive oral and written final examination.

Methods of Evaluation

The final grade is determined as follows:

60% Core (Grammar, Practice and Discussion)

40% Supplementary (Morning Reading, Practicum and Report, One-on-One, One-on-Two, Skits)

Core

30% Absence, Participation, Preparation (10 points assessed daily for each category)

10% Daily Quizzes (Dictation)

10% Homework (Written)

5% Take-home essay

15% Weekly Quizzes

30% Final Exam (Written 20%, oral 10%)

Supplementary

40% for attendance

30% for participation

30% for linguistic performance

Primary Texts

A New Chinese Coursebook, The Commercial Press

Supplementary Texts

Reading: Chinese festivals

Movie: 《甜蜜蜜》, 《喜宴》, various television news programs

Chinese idioms

Practica sites and activities: Purple Bamboo Park—interview elderly, the homes of roommates or teachers—act as guests, Confucian Temple—overview of Confucian thought, Countryside. Visit the Capital Museum to learn about Chinese culture and customs.

Pace and Textbook Lessons Covered

Students complete three lessons per week, or 11 lessons over the course of the term. They acquire

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approximately 45 new characters per lesson. Each week, students complete study of one film or short play, and reading of one authentic text meant for native speakers.

Weekly class themes are as follows:

- Contemporary Chinese Life
- Changes in contemporary Chinese families and the lives of the elderly
- Lives of young people in today's China
- Chinese customs
- Chinese history and topography