

CET Syllabus of Record



Program: Intensive Chinese Language in Beijing

Course Title: Classical Chinese or Classical Chinese II

Course Code: BJ/LANG 416 or BJ/LANG 516

Total Hours: 56

Recommended Credits: 3

Primary Discipline: Chinese Language

Language of Instruction: Chinese

Prerequisites/Requirements: Open to students in BJ/LANG 400 or BJ/LANG 500

Description

This course is designed for non-native speakers with 3 years of previous training in Chinese who possess strong reading and speaking skills.

The course includes an introduction to Chinese culture, and traditional Chinese philosophy and literary works. Students glean a general understanding of Chinese history, prominent historical figures and their ideas, important Chinese cultural phenomena, etc. Students are guided in reading and comprehending the classical Chinese (*guwen*) course materials, and in using modern Chinese to express the content and tone of the texts. Particular emphasis is placed on classical Chinese words, grammatical terms and sentence structures that are still being used today.

Objectives

In this course, students:

- Gain an understanding of traditional Chinese culture, history and society, laying a foundation for future study of Chinese language and culture
- Learn the basic structure and grammar of classical Chinese and master the basic content phrases, function words and sentences typically found in classical texts
- Cultivate their ability to read upper-level modern Chinese texts, such as the newspaper or literary works, that draw on classical Chinese conventions
- Gain a foundation in the etymology of many compounds and phrases seen in modern Chinese, thereby developing their ability to communicate in Chinese on formal occasions

Course Requirements

Classes are highly interactive and student-centered. Students are expected to come to class having thoroughly prepared the passages or articles assigned. Active participation is required.

The instructor provides a background to the selected text—an overview of relevant parts of traditional Chinese history, society, etc. The instructor then guides the students through the classical text so that key content and function words are understood. Students translate the passage into accurate modern Chinese. Students practice reading the text aloud and explaining the text's background.

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The course includes daily homework and comprehensive midterm and final exams.

Methods of Evaluation

The final grade is determined as follows:

Attendance	10%
Participation	5%
Daily performance	10%
Homework and quizzes	20%
Midterm examination	25%
Final examination	30%

Primary Texts

Chang, G., Ed. *Language of the Dragon: A Classical Chinese Reader*. Beijing Language and Culture University Publishing, 1998.

Supplementary Texts

Han Jiantang, *China's Cultural Heritage*, Beijing Language and Culture University Publishing, 1999.

Pace and Textbook Lessons Covered

Students read 2 articles per week for a total of approximately 22 articles over the course of the semester.