

# CET Syllabus of Record



**Program:** Intensive Chinese Language in Harbin  
**Course Title:** Introduction to Classical Chinese  
**Course Code:** HB/LANG 331  
**Total Hours:** 48  
**Recommended Credits:** 3  
**Primary Discipline:** Chinese Language  
**Language of Instruction:** Chinese  
**Prerequisites/Requirements:** 3 years of previous Chinese language study

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## Description

This course, designed for advanced learners of Chinese and recommended for students with a background in modern Chinese literature, offers an introduction to the basic structures and usage of Classical Chinese. Students learn the basic vocabulary, syntax and rhetorical features of Classical Chinese. They read some of the more well-known philosophical, literary and historical texts in order to begin to develop not only general Classical Chinese reading skills but also a body of classical texts that will help further future study or research. Class discussions and translations of classical works are in modern Chinese, thereby aiding the improvement of students' modern language skills as well.

## Objectives

By the end of the course, students:

- Understand the basic grammar, syntax and usage of Classical Chinese
- Demonstrate preliminary knowledge of the kinds of interpretive issues frequently studied and debated by Classical Chinese scholars
- Have read some of the more well-known classical texts and are able to translate those texts into modern Chinese
- Are able to recognize in modern Chinese some of the forms and phrases that come directly from Classical Chinese and have a basic understanding of how the modern written language was shaped by its precedent
- Have increased proficiency in all aspects of modern Chinese

## Course Requirements

Classes are typically arranged as follows:

- Students review the text, retelling the story in modern Chinese.
- Students do a close reading of the text, analyzing grammar, word usage, patterns, etc.
- Students may engage in debate about particular sections of the text, discussing possible interpretations and arriving at a consensus about the text's meaning.

Students are expected to prepare thoroughly for each class session. This includes reading all texts on their own, looking up words, and attempting a preliminary translation of classical works.

**CET Academic Programs | 1155 Connecticut Ave NW, Suite 300 | Washington, DC 20036**  
[www.cetacademicprograms.com](http://www.cetacademicprograms.com) | 1.800.225.4262 | [cet@academic-travel.com](mailto:cet@academic-travel.com)

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Students should be prepared to discuss all classical works in modern Chinese and are expected to participate actively in class, proactively offering their translations and paraphrasing of the texts being reviewed. Students have daily homework assignments that must be returned to the instructor on time. In addition, there are biweekly quizzes and a final exam.

### Methods of Evaluation

Attendance	10%
Class Preparation	15%
Homework	15%
Quizzes and Review	15%
Daily Participation	15%
Final Exam	30%

### Primary Texts

Materials compiled by CET faculty: *Selected Readings of Idiomatic Stories, Famous Daoist Texts, Famous Confucian Texts, Long Narrative Poems, Selected Tang and Song Poetry.*

### Supplementary Texts

Stories or texts selected by the instructor.

### Pace and Textbook Lessons Covered

Students are tested on material every two weeks and complete 8 lessons.