

CET Syllabus of Record



Program: Intensive Chinese Language in Harbin

Course Title: Introduction to Chinese Newspaper Reading

Course Code: HB/LANG 414

Total Hours: 48

Recommended Credits: 3

Primary Designator: Chinese Language

Language of Instruction: Chinese

Prerequisites/Requirements: 2 years of previous Chinese language study

Description

This course, designed for intermediate and advanced learners of Chinese, helps students learn the expressions and sentence patterns that are customarily used in Chinese newspapers and periodicals. Students learn the skills necessary for newspaper reading (headline comprehension, format, sentence parsing, etc.) and practice those skills so that they are equipped to continue reading newspapers without the aid of an instructor after the conclusion of the course. Discussion plays a key role in the class, as students react to the contemporary issues about which they read. Students are also required to regularly prepare three-minute reports on news articles they select in order to practice presentation skills and share the content of articles with their classmates.

Objectives

By the end of the course, students:

- Have a firm but growing lexicon of vocabulary commonly seen in Chinese newspapers
- Have a solid grasp of some complex sentence structures commonly seen in Chinese newspapers, and are able to parse those sentences with little assistance
- Are able to read a newspaper article for general content without the aid of a dictionary, and for specific content with the aid of a dictionary.
- Have knowledge of the basic layout and formats seen in Chinese newspapers

Course Requirements

This is a highly interactive course. During each class session, each student shares a news story that he/she has read. The students then review previous material before engaging with the new text. Students attempt to read the new text within a limited timeframe, guessing the meaning of unknown words and inferring the overall meaning of the article. With the instructor's assistance, the students then review all new vocabulary and grammar patterns, analyze words and discuss the overall content. Instructors point out the different usages and word pairings of important vocabulary, and highlight the differences between spoken and written language use.

Students are expected to prepare thoroughly for each class session. This includes listening to audio materials on a daily basis, reviewing new grammar and vocabulary covered in class, memorizing new vocabulary prior to class, preparing all discussion topics, preparing 3-minute article reports to share with classmates, etc. Students are expected to participate actively in class, proactively attempting to incorporate new patterns into their speech. Students have daily homework assignments that must be returned to the instructor on time. In addition, there are biweekly quizzes and midterm and final exams.

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Methods of Evaluation

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

Primary Texts

A Course in Newspaper Reading Comprehension, Beijing University Press.

Learning About China From Newspapers, Books 1 and 2, Beijing Language and Culture University Press, 2005.

Read Newspapers, Study Chinese, Books 1 and 2, Beijing University Press, 2004.

Supplementary Texts

Additional primary source materials

Pace and Textbook Lessons Covered

Students cover 1 lesson (approximately 30 new characters) every 4 class hours, and are tested on material every two weeks. Lessons from the above listed Primary Texts are chosen based on student interest and level. Students complete 8 to 9 lessons total over the course of the term.