

CET Syllabus of Record

Program: China Fieldwork Semester
Course Code/ Title: (XZ/LANG 107) Beginning Chinese
Total Hours: 45
Recommended Credits: 3 (1 Dickinson Credit)
Primary Discipline: Chinese Language
Language of Instruction: Chinese
Prerequisites/Requirements: None

Description

This course is designed for non-native speakers of Chinese with no previous language study. Students learn sounds, vocabulary, and grammatical structures used in everyday life situations. This course helps students develop basic oral skills so that they can carry out simple conversations on everyday topics. It also helps students to advance their literacy skills in Chinese through a systematic introduction to the Chinese writing system.

The course comprises a variety of integrated classes that meet 4-5 times per week for the semester.

Students learn all facets of Chinese pronunciation such as initials, finals, consonants, tones, and intonation, and build a foundation for future language study. In addition, students gain mastery of the new words and grammar patterns presented in the textbook and start to build a lexicon of basic words and patterns used in everyday life. Included are nouns, verbs, adjectives, measure words, and directional words, as well as basic sentence structures for formulating statements, questions, and observations. Particular emphasis is placed on accuracy in pronunciation and usage.

The course includes a drill and activity portion that centers upon the material introduced during the earlier part of the class. During this task-based section, teachers emphasize accuracy in pronunciation and intonation, usage and structure, while challenging students to maintain a basic level of fluency and pace in their responses.

Objectives

After successful completion of this course, students are able to:

- Understand basic Chinese language
- Grasp the pinyin Romanization system and Chinese pronunciation that facilitate further study of Chinese
- Carry on basic conversation in a variety of situations
- Utilize basic reading and writing skills

Course Requirements

Attendance requirements are outlined in the CET Attendance Policy.

Students are expected to spend time outside of class reviewing lessons, completing homework assignments, and preparing for the next day's class. This preparation includes daily review of all new words and grammar patterns, memorizing vocabulary, and gaining familiarity with the new textbook lesson.

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Methods of Evaluation

The final grade is determined as follows:

- General classroom participation/performance 30%
- Quizzes 20%
- Daily homework scores 20%
- Final examination 30%

Readings

Liu, Yuehua, and Daozhong Yao. *Integrated Chinese - Level 1, Part 1*. Cheng & Tsui, 2009.

Additional Resources

Supplementary teaching materials are selected by CET instructors and may include, videos, movies, and authentic materials that target reading and listening skills.

Outline of Course Content

The first two weeks of the course are used to learn the Pinyin Romanization system and basic pronunciation, as well as provide an introduction to Chinese characters. After that, each topic takes 4-7 class sessions.

- Topic 1 – Pinyin/Romanization/pronunciation/characters
- Topic 2 – Greetings and introductions
- Topic 3 – Family
- Topic 4 – Dates and Time
- Topic 5 – Addresses and giving directions
- Topic 6 – Hobbies and fun
- Topic 7 – Eating in Yunnan
- Topic 8 – Visiting friends
- Topic 9 – Making appointments
- Topic 10 – Tea culture in Yunnan
- Topic 11 – Yunnan Nationalities