

CET Syllabus of Record



Program: Intensive Chinese Language in Beijing
Course Title: (BJ/LANG 301) Advanced Low Chinese
Total Hours: 176
Recommended Credits: 9
Primary Discipline: Chinese Language
Language of Instruction: Chinese
Prerequisites/Requirements: 2 years of previous study

Description

This course is designed for non-native speakers of Chinese who have taken approximately two years of regularly paced college-level Chinese instruction and whose Chinese proficiency has reached an intermediate level both orally and in writing. Students should be ready to break through to an advanced level, one in which they can independently and successfully fulfill complicated and culturally intensive communication tasks with confidence.

Following the ACTFL guidelines, this proficiency-oriented course comprises a variety of integrated classes. Component classes include larger sessions, smaller sessions, and one-on-one conversation sessions. Some supplementary instruction, such as Chinese movies, debates about current events, and language practicum, is also included.

Larger Sessions: This class meets for two hours per day. Advanced grammatical knowledge, structural refinement, and vocabulary development are integrated with and contextualized in cultural and societal content. While a great amount of reading materials are authentic and in the format of formal written language, the necessity of oral proficiency improvement is not ignored. In other words, this is not a reading class, but a class to boost students' listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills in a comprehensive and balanced way. Communicative and interactive methods are used, and students learn cultural knowledge and come to understand grammatical structures with intensive and challenging questions and answers.

Smaller Sessions: This class meets for two hours per day and reinforces communication skills learned in larger sessions. This is a task-based class that includes two sections: drill and discussion. The drill section focuses on the integration of appropriate grammatical structures, advanced-level vocabulary, and cultural awareness in a fast-paced question-answer format. When answering most of the questions, students are required to express their real ideas in short paragraphs, namely, three or four well-connected sentences. Fluency and accuracy are also emphasized. The discussion section is an extension of the drill and students are expected to participate more creatively and discuss or debate culturally intensive topics with fellow students or invited guests (native Chinese speakers). By so doing, students develop their interpretational, interpersonal, and presentational skills comprehensively and enhance their understanding of culture, comparison and community. When discussions are academic, students are expected to speak in a more formal way by using formal structures, "upper-level" words, and idioms suitable to the topic.

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One-on-One: This class meets for at least 25 minutes in the afternoon. Carefully-designed open-ended questions are used to help students further develop their range of language and spontaneity and fluency in speech. Students are required to express their ideas in well-connected long paragraphs. They are also expected to talk about topics of their own interests which are not directly linked to the textbooks. At the same time, role-plays are practiced to prepare students to deal with various questions or challenges in complicated and difficult situations.

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

By completing this course, students are expected to reach an oral proficiency that is equivalent to or higher than Intermediate High of the standard OPI, and at the same time, to have a very good command of the Chinese language in reading and writing. They are able to fulfill communication tasks independently. In addition to knowing a total of about 3,200 words and phrases (approximately 2,400 Chinese characters in writing) from the textbooks, students understand associated synonyms, near-synonyms and antonyms. More specifically, they can demonstrate the following skills:

- Comprehending short authentic Chinese materials of common topics in different styles, both orally and in writing
- Readiness for independent study in Chinese society and culture
- Making oral or written presentations in a formal or semi-formal style that is well organized, culturally appropriate, and rich and proper in vocabulary
- Communicating with native Mandarin speakers orally at natural speed and with accurate understanding of common idioms
- Knowing enough cultural and societal information about China to ensure smooth communication and comparison
- Knowing the characteristics of the Chinese internet language, including jargon and abbreviations in order to participate in cyber media discussions
- Having excellent strategy for future study

Course Requirements

This is a high-intensity course. Student requirements include:

- Knowing well the new vocabulary for the next day's daily quiz
- Listening to the recording of the text that will be taught the next day
- Previewing the text of the new lesson
- Reviewing grammar notes to aid understanding of the text
- Working with Chinese roommates to complete speaking exercises
- Composing and completing written assignments
- Actively participating in all classroom activities
- Attending afternoon individual conversation sessions with a teacher

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- Preparing for weekly written and oral tests
- Participating in language practicum, including internet blog posting, comment, and discussion

Classroom participation and performance, weekly written and oral quizzes, daily dictations and comprehensive midterm and final exams are also used to evaluate student progress.

Methods of Evaluation

The final grade is determined as follows:

Participation 20%

Individual sessions 5%

Written homework 15%

Daily quizzes 10%

Weekly written tests 10%

Weekly oral tests 5%

Midterm written exam 10%

Midterm oral exam 5%

Final written exam 10%

Final oral exam 10% (5% as final oral proficiency interview score)

Primary Texts

A New Chinese Course Book III & IV. Beijing, China: Commercial Press, 1997. (21 units)

Additional Resources

Articles about Chinese holidays, Chinese songs, *chengyu* stories, etc.

Movies: *Shower*, *Tianmimi*, *Beijing Bicycle*, *Raise the Red Lantern*, *Documentary—China*.

Outline of Course Content

Every Friday, students take a written and oral examination on that week's course content. The teacher shows films, utilizes internet resources, and plans ethnographic interviews and other language practica according to that week's topic and content.