

CET Syllabus of Record



Program: Intensive Chinese Language in Harbin

Course Code/Title: (HB/LANG 331) Introduction to Classical Chinese

Total Hours: 48

Recommended Credits: 3

Primary Discipline: Chinese Language

Language of Instruction: Chinese

Prerequisites/Requirements: 3 years of previous Chinese language study

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

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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. 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 daily quizzes, weekly tests and final exams.

Daily quizzes

- Assesses comprehension of material completed as homework
- Could entail dictation, reading comprehension, or answer questions

Weekly tests

- Administered each Friday, covering material learned that week
- Includes reading, writing, ancient text translation and oral report sections

Final exam

- Administered during the last week of the term
- Covers material from throughout the term
- Includes a presentation and writing section

Grading

The final grade is determined as follows:

- Participation (Able to actively participate in classroom activities and complete classroom tasks according to the rhythm and requirements of teachers.) 20%

See Participation Grading Rubric below.

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- Homework
10%
- Daily quizzes (20 @ 0.5%)
10%
- Weekly written tests (7 tests @2.14 %)
15%
- Weekly oral tests (7 tests @ 2.14%)
15%
- Final written exam
15%
- Final oral exam
15%

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 week and complete a total of nine lessons over the course of the semester.

Outline of Course Content

Time	Topic	Readings/Assignments
Week 1	Self-Contradiction	Lesson 1
	A snipe and a clam locked in combat+test 1	Lesson 2
Week 2	Paint a snake with feet + test 2	Lesson 3
Week 3	The fox assuming the majesty of the tiger+test3	Lesson 4
Week 4	The Old Frontiersman Losing His Horse	Lesson 5
	Go south by driving the chariot north +test 4	Lesson 6
Week 5	Laozi's Chapter 2+test 5	Lesson 7
Week 6	Zhuangzi's Life and Works+test 6	Lesson 8

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Week 7	<i>Field-Based Course Component: Visiting the Classical Chinese Academy</i>	
	The song of Mulan+test 7	Lesson 9
Week 8	<i>Final Review +Exams</i>	

Participation Grading Rubric

	A - 90-100% Exemplary	B - 80-89% Proficient	C - 70-79% Developing	D - 60-69% Unacceptable	F - 0-59% Missing
Frequency of class participation	Always actively participate in all activities in class.	Mostly actively participate in all activities in class.	Somewhat actively participate in all activities in class.	Rarely actively participate in all activities in class.	Always passively participate in activities in class.
Quality of class participation	Contribution is always thoughtful, accurate, and constructive, frequently interacting with peers	Contribution is mostly thoughtful, accurate, and constructive, usually interacting with peers	Contribution is somewhat thoughtful, accurate, and constructive, sometimes interacting with peers	Contribution is rarely thoughtful, accurate, and constructive, rarely interacting with peers	Does not contribute or interact with peers
Level of class preparation	Always fully prepared and on task	Mostly prepared and on task	Somewhat prepared and on task	Rarely prepared and on task	Consistently unprepared and not on

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