

CET Syllabus of Record



Program: Intensive Chinese Language in Harbin
Course Code/Title: (HB/LANG 414) Introduction to Chinese Newspaper Reading
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

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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 daily quizzes, weekly tests and final exams.

Daily quizzes

- Assesses comprehension of material completed as homework
- Could entail dictation, reading comprehension, or speaking
- Oral report - sharing current news.

Biweekly tests

- Administered each Friday, covering material learned that week
- Includes reading comprehension, listening and speaking sections

Final exam

- Administered during the last week of the term
- Covers stories from throughout the term
- Includes Time-limited reading comprehension, speaking 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%
Participation Grading Rubric below. See
- Homework
10%
- Daily quizzes (20 @ 0.5%)
10%
- Weekly written tests (6 tests @ 2%)
12%
- Weekly oral tests (6 tests @ 3%)
18%
- Final written exam
12%
- Final oral exam
18%

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Primary Texts

CET Self-edited Teaching Materials.

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.

Outline of Course Content (Example) (Newspaper Reading 1)

Time	Lesson
Week 1	Lesson 1: Communications and Transport + test 1
Week 2	Lesson 2: Social Security System + test 2
Week 3	Lesson 3: Environmental pollution
Week 4	Lesson 4: International Relations + test 3
Week 5	Lesson 5: Trade war between China and the United States
	Lesson 6: Floating Population and the Hukou System + test 4
Week 6	Lesson 7: Internet and anti-corruption + test 5
	Language practice: Visit newspaper office and interview with Associate Editor-in-Chief
Week 7	Lesson 8: Educational examination + test 6
Week 8	Final review and exams

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.

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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 task