

CET Syllabus of Record



Program: Intensive Chinese Language in Beijing

Course Title: Advanced Chinese (Fall/Spring)

Course Code: BJ/LANG 400

Total Hours: 168

Recommended Credits: 11

Suggested Cross Listings: Chinese Language

Language of Instruction: Chinese

Prerequisites/Requirements: 3 years of previous study

Description

This multi-faceted course is designed for non-native speakers of Chinese who have taken approximately three years of college-level Chinese, have mastered the fundamentals of Chinese phonetics and sentence composition, and have a working vocabulary of roughly 3,500 words. Entering students should be able to confidently conduct basic conversation in Mandarin on day-to-day topics and academic matters.

The course comprises a variety of integrated classes which meet for a total of 13 hours per week, or 182 contact hours per semester. The component classes include: Grammar and Vocabulary, Drill and Discussion, Practicum and Report, Supplementary Instruction and One-on-One classes.

Grammar and Vocabulary: Vocabulary development is a critical part of language training for students at the advanced level. Therefore, this course prioritizes the use of target-language terms encountered in learning materials. Consequently, the instruction emphasizes not only the acquisition of vocabulary used in class, but also the understanding of associated synonyms, near-synonyms, and antonyms. Emphasis is placed on upper-level grammatical concepts such as: complex phrases; advanced sentence structure; related words (guanlian ciyu); complex clauses; and common Chinese colloquialisms, sayings, etc. The course increases student ability in both language analysis and breadth of vocabulary. Students gain a full understanding of not only the lesson text but also the issue that the text describes so that they are able to engage in informed discussion on the topic. Finally, they learn to not only express themselves fluently and accurately, but in a nuanced manner appropriate for exchanges with native speakers in a variety of social settings.

Drill and Discussion: This task-based class complements grammar class and includes two sections. The drill section focuses primarily on reinforcing skills acquired in grammar class. During drill, the instructor uses techniques such as phrase alteration, sentence correction and sentence completion, and expects the student to not only use appropriate pronunciation, tone, cadence, word usage, sentence structure, and grammar in their speech, but also maintain a minimum speed and level of fluency. The discussion section is an extension of this drill. Emphasis is placed on sentence complexity and paragraph-length communication as students debate the larger topic covered in the text lesson. Students are expected to express themselves accurately and clearly at a level close to near-native fluency. The instructor pays

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attention to sentence accuracy, appropriate word use, sentence length, sentence complexity and nuance of expression.

Accompanying the texts used in class, movies and recorded audio materials relating to Chinese history, culture, and contemporary social issues are introduced and students conduct their own ethnographic projects. These materials and activities help the students round out their understanding of China and, simultaneously, improve their language skills in all areas.

Practicum and Report: This course was developed to help students integrate with Chinese society and have meaningful communication with locals. The teacher designs a set of tasks that must be completed outside the classroom with skills developed in class. Students share the results of their practicum with classmates upon return.

Supplementary Instruction: Using materials that complement subject matter covered in the main class (movies, newspapers, etc.), the teacher guides students in immersive activities designed to heighten their understanding and interest.

One-on-One: A teacher and a student work one-on-one to resolve that individual student's language problems. Students at appropriate levels may, alternatively, choose a topic of interest that matches his or her skill level and make a free report to the instructor. This exercise is designed to foster the student's ability to use language fluently at length.

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

Students increase their vocabulary to a total of 4,500 terms or more. By the end of the course, students demonstrate a significantly increased vocabulary and sophistication of expression. They are able to read not only written communication and compositions relating to study and social interactions, but also original Chinese documents about certain topics. They are able to express themselves verbally and on paper with high accuracy on a relatively advanced topic and have the skill to compose essays of around 1,000 characters in length.

Course Requirements

This is a high-intensity course. From Monday to Thursday, students complete a daily quiz. This is followed by a weekly test on Friday that evaluates students' written and oral progress. Each week, students are required to submit a written composition and prepare one or two oral reports. In addition to time spent in class, students are expected to spend between three and four hours a day reviewing that day's lessons, completing homework, listening to language CDs and answering content-based questions, practicing writing new vocabulary and preparing for the next day's instruction.

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Comprehensive midterm and final exams are also used to evaluate student progress.

Methods of Evaluation

The final grade is determined as follows:

67% Core (Grammar and Vocabulary, Drill and Discussion)
33% Supplementary

Core

20% General classroom performance
10% Daily Quizzes
10% Daily homework scores
15% Weekly Quizzes
20% Midterm examination
25% Final examination

Supplementary

40% One-on-One
60% Group Class

Primary Texts

Approaching: An Advanced Reader, Beijing University Press. (7 units)

Anything Goes, Beijing University Press. (17 units)

Materials edited by CET faculty based on newspaper articles and other internet resources. (11 units)

Supplementary Texts

Movies: 《黄河喜事》；《百花深处》；《快乐东西》；《家有儿女》

Ethnographic projects

Museum tour/report

Hutong tour/report

Pace and Textbook Lessons Covered

One textbook lesson is covered every other day, and approximately two lessons are covered per week. The *Approaching China* textbook is expected to be completed within the first four weeks of the program; *Anything Goes*, newspaper articles and other internet resources are used for the remainder of the semester. Every Friday there is a brief review of material covered in the week's classes followed by separate written and oral evaluations.