

CET Syllabus of Record



Program: Intensive Chinese Language in Beijing

Course Title: Advanced Chinese Newspaper

Course Code: BJ/LANG 420

Total Hours: 56

Recommended Credits: 3

Primary Discipline: Chinese Language

Language of Instruction: Chinese

Prerequisites/Requirements: Open to students in BJ/LANG 400 (3 previous years of study)

Description

This course targets non-native speakers with approximately three years previous training in Mandarin. Entering students must have tested into BJ/LANG 400 during a fall or spring term.

This course introduces students to the skills necessary to read Chinese newspaper articles without or with limited dictionary use. Students read both articles glossed in a textbook and primary sources aimed at native speakers. Reading for content and close-reading skills are both emphasized. Articles include political and economic news as well as weather reports, classifieds, and lifestyle. After the first half of the semester students will write their own newspaper articles.

Objectives

During this course, students:

- Learn to read newspapers efficiently and to grasp the main idea of articles
- Gain a broad understanding of Chinese culture and society
- Enhance their general Chinese vocabulary by reading news articles on topics related to the content of their core course (BJ/LANG 400)
- Gain understanding of words and structures that commonly appear in newspapers
- Become generally familiar with Chinese language news sources

Course Requirements

Classes are highly interactive and student-centered. Students are expected to come to class having thoroughly prepared the new vocabulary, grammar patterns and lesson text, and having reviewed any previous material. Active participation is required.

The instructor selects a topic and chooses three articles of appropriate difficulty about that topic. The students read one article per day on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays. On Thursdays, the topic is completely with a quiz or student oral news reports.

Students skim each article at the beginning of each session in a set amount of time. (The number of minutes is determined by the difficulty of the article and/or students' reading abilities.) The instructor uses a question and answer format to prompt students to bring out the main points of an article. The class then summarizes the main points of the article as a group. Once the class understands the main idea of an article, the instructor helps students locate key words and phrases by reading the article one sentence at a time. The instructor then explains the key words and phrases that the students have identified. The instructor prepares practice exercises using these words and phrases as necessary.

The instructor guides students through the organization and logic of the article, allowing them to understand it in further depth. He/she then guides students in paraphrasing the article, discussing related topics, and practicing/reinforcing the vocabulary and phrases that appear in the article.

The course includes daily homework, weekly quizzes, and comprehensive midterm and final exams.

Methods of Evaluation

General classroom performance	25%
Attendance	10%
Participation	5%
Daily linguistic performance	10%
Homework	20%
Midterm examination	25%
Final examination	30%

Primary Texts

The course instructor selects level-appropriate articles from a variety of news sources, both paper and web-based.

Supplementary Texts

NA

Pace and Textbook Lessons Covered

Students read 3 articles per week for a total of 36 articles over the course of the term. Articles range from 400 to 500 characters in length at the beginning of the term, to 600 to 700 characters in length at the end of the term.