

CET Syllabus of Record



Program: Intensive Chinese Language in Harbin
Course Title: Selected Readings in Modern Literature
Course Code: HB/LANG 410
Total Hours: 80
Recommended Credits: 5
Primary Discipline: Chinese Language
Language of Instruction: Chinese
Prerequisites/Requirements: 2 years of previous study

Description

This course, designed for intermediate and advanced learners of Chinese, involves a careful study of modern and contemporary short stories and introduces students to descriptive vocabulary and written grammatical forms. Classes highlight speaking skills and require students to engage in discussions about the content, style and social norms viewed in the texts. Students also write short analytical essays about each literary work they read. The course also includes a brief overview of each author presented so that students gain a basic understanding of trends and shifts in Chinese literature since the May 4th period.

Objectives

By the end of the course, students:

- Have developed a firm lexicon of vocabulary commonly seen in modern literary pieces
- Have increased breadth in their knowledge of descriptive phrases, four-character compounds and other adjectival modifiers
- Are able to appropriately adopt the above phrases into their everyday speech
- Are able to read some modern literary pieces with little aid of a dictionary
- Are able to engage in formal debate about the characters, narratives and themes of the stories they have read
- Have basic knowledge of the development of and trends seen within modern Chinese fiction since the May 4th movement of 1919

Course Requirements

This course is highly interactive. Classes are typically arranged as follows:

- The class begins with a review of previous material.
- To engage with the new text, students use new words and grammar patterns to retell a synopsis of the story.
- The instructor uses question-and-answer and information gap techniques to elicit important vocabulary from students.
- The class discusses the story, analyzing themes, characters and narrative.
- The class engages in debate about the text.

Students are expected to prepare thoroughly for each class session. This includes completely close readings of texts, listening to audio materials (when possible), reviewing new grammar and vocabulary covered in class, memorizing new vocabulary prior to class, preparing all discussion topics, etc. Students are expected to participate actively in class, proactively attempting to incorporate new patterns into their

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speech. Students have daily homework assignments that must be returned to the instructor on time. In addition, there are biweekly quizzes and midterm and final exams.

Methods of Evaluation

Attendance	10%
Class Preparation	10%
Homework	10%
Quizzes and Review	10%
Daily Participation	10%
Midterm Exam	20%
Final Exam	30%

Primary Texts

Selected literary works by various modern and contemporary authors, including by Lu Xun, Zhang Ailin, Tie Ning and so on. The collection of works has been compiled and glossed by CET Harbin Chinese Language program faculty.

Supplementary Texts

NA

Pace and Textbook Lessons Covered

Literary works are chosen from the above noted compilation each term based on student interest and level. Students typically complete one story in 8 to 12 class hours. Each story introduces approximately 250 new characters. Students complete 7 to 8 stories over the course of the term.