

CET Syllabus of Record



Program: Intensive Chinese Language in Harbin

Course Title: Research Topics for Advanced Learners

Course Code: HB/LANG 490

Total Hours: 80

Recommended Credits: 5

Primary Discipline: Chinese Language

Language of Instruction: Chinese

Prerequisites/Requirements: 4 to 5 years of previous Chinese language study

Description

This course is designed for students with an advanced level of Chinese language ability. The main goal of the course is to develop and deepen several selected discussion and research topics as a means to cultivate both reading and composition skills as well as the ability to express complicated thoughts and ideas and deliver speeches on a topic.

The course uses a wide range of advanced materials, nearly all of which are original texts aimed at native speakers. Course materials also include articles and texts the students themselves collect from libraries or websites. This course involves social research and inquiry, including interviews, site visits and other types of practical language activities. For every topic selected, the students read background materials and meet with locally based experts for individual discussions. After completing research and study of a topic, students are expected to compose an opinion piece and deliver a speech on the subject to teachers and classmates.

Objectives

By the end of the course, students:

- Have in-depth knowledge of four specific topics of study
- Understand how to use a Chinese library and are able to navigate the Harbin Institute of Technology library system to find specific articles and essays
- Are able to search the Web in Chinese for specific articles or information about a certain topic of study
- Are able to read many texts aimed at native speakers with use of a dictionary
- Have increased breadth of vocabulary and phrases related to the topics of study
- Understand the parameters and guidelines for writing essays and giving speeches in Chinese and are able to produce both with limited assistance from a teacher and dictionary

Course Requirements

Students approach each topic using the following methods:

- They survey foundational materials about the topic of study.
- They read more advanced texts on the topic of study, widening the range of reading materials and broadening related vocabulary
- They engage in discussion and debate about the selected topic.
- They conduct investigations or interviews about the selected topic.
- They engage in discussion with local experts about the topic of study.
- They compose an essay about the topic of study.

CET Syllabus of Record

- They give a speech about the topic of study.

Students are expected to prepare thoroughly for each class session. This includes reading all texts on their own, looking up words, and attempting to digest as much information as possible. Students should be prepared to discuss all topics of study and are expected to participate actively in class, proactively offering their opinions and asking informed questions. Students must complete all assignments, be they reading, writing, interviews, etc., thoroughly and in a timely manner. In addition, midterm and final examinations test students in reading comprehension, composition and speaking ability.

Methods of Evaluation

Attendance	10%
Class Preparation	10%
Written and oral assignments	10%
Daily Participation	10%
Midterm Exam	20%
Final Exam	30%

Primary Texts

Survey of China (Zhongguo Gaikuang), Beijing University Press, 2003.

Supplementary Texts

Primary source materials collected by the student and the teacher.

Pace and Textbook Lessons Covered

Students complete study of four topics in the following areas:

- Chinese culture: includes population, peoples, customs, etc.
- Chinese economy: includes Reform and Opening, economic development successes, challenges, problems, etc.
- Chinese education system: includes any level of the educational system (lower, middle, high school, college, etc.) and comparisons with systems outside China
- One topic of mutual interest