

CET Syllabus of Record



Program: Intensive Chinese Language in Beijing
Course Code / Title: BJ/LANG 261 Intermediate High Chinese
Total Hours: 176
Recommended Credits: 9
Primary Discipline: Chinese Language
Language of Instruction: Chinese
Prerequisites/Requirements: 3 terms of previous study

Description

This course is designed for non-native learners of Chinese who have taken roughly a year and a half of regularly paced college-level Chinese instruction, and have gained an oral proficiency close to, but not yet reaching, an Intermediate OPI level, with a similar proficiency for reading and writing.

Following the ACTFL guidelines, this course helps students heighten their communication skills comprehensively in interpretational, interpersonal, and presentational modes both orally and in writing. The course comprises a variety of integrated classes which meet for a total of 20 hours per week. Component classes include Larger Sessions, Smaller Sessions, and One-on-One Conversation sessions. Some supplementary instruction, such as Chinese movies, debates about current events and language practicum, is also included.

Larger Sessions (12 or fewer students): This class meets for two hours per day. Materials used in this class present a great variety of subject matters and vocabulary, and allow students to communicate, understand Chinese culture and society, and make cross-culture comparisons. The learning of new grammatical particles, structures, colloquialisms and proverbs, as well as the consolidation of the previously learned ones, are integrated and contextualized in meaningful and culturally intensive communication between the instructor and the students.

Smaller Sessions (5 or fewer students): This class meets for two hours per day and is task based. For most questions raised by the instructor, students are required to answer in two to three sentences. In other words, the basic format of answers should be complex sentences or short paragraphs. In addition, students must pay attention to the appropriate selection of words, cultural awareness, accuracy in pronunciation, and fluency. There are also discussions and debates on cultural and societal issues.

One-on-One: This class meets for at least 25 minutes each afternoon. Carefully-designed open-ended questions are used to help students further develop their range of language and spontaneity and fluency in speech, especially their interpersonal and presentational skills. There are various formats, including role plays, story-telling based on serial pictures, and oral response after reading.

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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

The objective of this course is to ensure that students reach an oral proficiency level equivalent to Intermediate Mid or higher on the standard OPI, as well as similar levels of reading and writing skills. More specifically, by completing this course, students are able to:

- dramatically elevate their working vocabulary, increasing it to an estimated 2,500 words so that they can deal with a great range of communication tasks
- compose essays up to 700 characters and post their writings on the internet to communicate with native Chinese speakers
- describe, narrate, explain and compare topics in a longer, richer and more complicated way
- start to acquire skills in decoding formal written language
- demonstrate good language-learning strategies for future study

Course Requirements

This is a high-intensity course. Student requirements include:

- Memorizing new vocabulary for the next day's daily quiz
- Listening to the recording of the text that will be taught the next day
- Previewing the text of the new lesson
- Reviewing grammar notes to aid understanding of the text
- Working with Chinese roommates to complete speaking exercises
- Composing and completing written assignments
- Actively participating in all classroom activities
- Attending afternoon individual conversation sessions with a teacher
- Preparing for weekly written and oral tests
- Participating in language practicum

Classroom participation and performance, weekly written and oral quizzes, daily dictations and comprehensive midterm and final exams are also used to evaluate student progress.

Methods of Evaluation

The final grade is determined as follows:

General classroom performance 20%

Individual sessions 5%

Written homework 15%

Weekly written tests 9%

Weekly oral tests 6%

Midterm written exam 9%

Midterm oral exam 6%

Final written exam 10%

Final oral exam 10% (5% as final oral proficiency interview score)

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Primary Texts

A New China, Princeton University Press. (22 units)

Supplementary Texts

Beijing History 《北京的古今中外》, *Divorce* 《离婚》, *Remember Past Times, & Old People* 《老年人的生活》

Movies and Cartoons: *Shower* 《洗澡》 & *Happy Things*

Other supplementary activities include homework geared to interacting with your local roommate, reporting out, interviewing locals, debate competitions and learning to sing Chinese songs.