

CET Syllabus of Record



Program: Intensive Chinese Language in Beijing

Course Code / Title: BJ/LANG 400 Advanced Chinese

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 and achieved the intermediate-high level proficiency on the OPI scale. They should have mastered the fundamentals of Chinese linguistic competence (phonetics, sentence structures, and the most frequently used 3500 characters). Entering students should be able to conduct conversations on day-to-day topics and academic matters.

The course comprises a variety of integrated classes. The component classes include: 1) daily interactive lectures on new content, including text, grammar and vocabulary, followed by engaging and contextualized group discussion on the subject matter of the lesson, 2) practicum and report, and 3) supplementary instruction and one-on-one practice sessions.

Interactive Lectures: The instructor presents the new material to the students through interactive lectures. The content covered in this part of the day includes functional tasks such as interacting socially and professionally with Chinese speakers in real life situations, reading and writing letters and email exchanges, reading and discussion on historical stories, and other topics of Chinese culture and society. During the class, the instructor uses an interactive approach to help students understand the text and learn the new vocabulary and sentence patterns of the text, followed by meaningful conversation practice. Vocabulary development is a critical part of language development for students at the advanced level because it allows them to further develop their competencies in all communicative modes, interpersonal, interpretive and presentational. This course emphasizes acquiring vocabulary from the text and the supplemented materials used in class, including understanding of associated synonyms and antonyms and words to express abstract thinking. Additionally, students receive specific instruction needed to understand and utilize more advanced vocabulary and grammatical structures that are required for the students to develop advanced level proficiency, including various structure of complements, attributive and adverbial structures, connectives for smoothly connected discourses and commonly used colloquialisms and Chinese sayings. The course not only helps students gain understanding of the text content but also related issues on the subject matter covered in the text so that student are engage in informed discussion on the topics. Finally, the course consists of learning activities that help students develop not only fluency and accuracy but also enable students to express themselves appropriately in a variety of social settings.

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Practice Sessions: This class is designed to reinforce the learning of new material of the day. It includes functional tasks and exercises such as vocabulary and grammar practice in meaningful context, together with corrective feedback, when needed. When completing these exercises, students are required to not only use appropriate pronunciation, tones, vocabulary and sentence patterns, but also maintain adequate fluency. This class includes two sections. During the first section, students are guided to practice the fundamental skills and linguistic elements such as pronunciation and tones, word usage, sentence and text structures. The second section is a discussion session, an extension of the first section. For the second part, the instructor selects a topic for conversation or debate related to the content covered in the lesson. During the discussion activity, the teacher pays attention not only to appropriate use of vocabulary and grammar, but also to discourse level language development and the understanding of the ways of thinking in Chinese.

Practicum and Report: This part of the course is developed to help students interact with Chinese culture and have meaningful communication with locals. The teacher designs a set of tasks that must be completed outside the classroom with linguistic and communicative skills learned in class. Students share the results of their practicum with classmates upon return to the following class. Throughout the semester, the instructor will prepare two to four Theme Based Language Practicum weeks. The goal is to use Chinese to do research on a particular topic related to the themes of the week. Students will develop the ability to use Chinese to gather sources, conduct research, write compositions, and give oral reports.

Supplementary Instruction: For this part of the course, students are engaged in their own research, using materials that complement the subject matter covered in the main class, such as movies or newspapers, relating to Chinese history, culture and contemporary social issues. The materials and the learning activities help students strengthen their understanding of China and improve their Chinese language competency as well.

One-on-One: A teacher and a student meet one-on-one to provide highly individualized instruction, during which the teacher responds to individual student's learning needs. Students at different levels may choose a topic of interest that matches his or her proficiency level and personal interest and make a free-style report to the instructor to start the session. This exercise is designed to foster the student's ability to use language fluently at length.

All classes are conducted in a Chinese-only learning environment and place special emphasis on the functional nature of language. The class makes use of Beijing's cultural, linguistic, and geographical surroundings, allowing students to rapidly develop their language skills and accumulate a wide body of Chinese cultural knowledge.

Objectives

This course will enable students to learn to understand both written and audio-video material relating to daily life, study and social interaction, and authentic Chinese materials on a variety of subject matters. They will be able to express themselves verbally and in written form with high accuracy on advanced topics. They will develop the ability to compose essays of around 1,000 characters in length.

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Course Requirements

This is a high-intensity course. There are daily quizzes from Monday to Thursday for students and a weekly test, both written and speaking, on Friday that evaluates students' on-going performance. 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.

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

Methods of Evaluation

The final grade is determined as follows:

67% Core (interactive lectures, practice and discussion sessions)

33% Supplementary

Core

20% Classroom participation

10% Daily Quizzes

10% Daily homework

15% Weekly Quizzes

20% Midterm examination

25% Final examination

Supplementary

40% One-on-One

60% Group Class

Primary Texts

Anything Goes, Beijing University Press. (15-16 units)

Materials edited by CET faculty based on Newspaper articles, and other internet resources. (13-14 units)

Supplementary Materials

Movies: 《百花深处》 A Hundred Flowers

《喜宴》 The Wedding Banquet

《扶不扶》 Help Somebody Up or Not

Videos: News

Role Play: Combat pornography websites; Blind Date

Discussion Topics

1. Pros and Cons of the Beauty Economy
2. Reasons for Unemployment
3. Reasons for Rupert Murdoch's Failure to Invest in Media in China

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4. The Cultural Connotation of Beijing Courtyard
5. Marriage Pressure and its Impact on 'Leftover' Men in Rural China
6. Contemporary Life of the First 'Dual Income, No Kids' Generation
7. Chinese New Concept of Marriage
8. Will the Marriage System End?
9. Where to go for Chinese Fast Food?
10. Should the United States Sell Arms to Taiwan?
11. Impact of Sino-US Trade War
12. Topic on America and Guns
13. Speech in U.S. Presidential Elections

Theme-Based Language Practicum

1. Tradition and Modernity: Visit and Interview at Hutong Courtyard
2. China's Household Registration System: Interviewing Locals
3. Literature Appreciation: Bookstore Reading Club
4. Moral and Ethics in China: Panel Discussion