

CET Syllabus of Record



Program: Intensive Chinese Language in Beijing

Course Title: Classical Chinese I or Classical Chinese II

Course Code: BJ/LANG 416 or BJ/LANG 516

Total Hours: 56

Recommended Credits: 3

Primary Discipline: Chinese Language

Language of Instruction: Chinese

Prerequisites/Requirements: Open to students in BJ/LANG 400 or BJ/LANG 500

Description

This course is designed for non-native speakers of Chinese who have taken three or more years of college-level Chinese and achieved the advanced level (OPI scale) proficiency across all communicative modes: interpretive, interpersonal and presentational.

Students will develop their ability to read simple texts of classical Chinese. The instructor helps them learn the necessary linguistic elements (vocabulary, commonly used functional words and grammar structures used in classical Chinese) and reading strategies required to understand classical Chinese. As they improve their understanding of classical Chinese language, students also enhance their knowledge and command of modern Chinese, especially the formal *shumianyu*. Students will also improve their knowledge of Chinese history, Chinese culture and society as they learn classical Chinese. Classical Chinese class starts with simple texts and gradually increases the difficulty level. The class is conducted entirely in Chinese and the principle of learner-centered approach is applied in both material selection and instructional practice in this course. Reading materials will be selected to fit the needs and interests of the students and the pace of the course will be adjusted according to the students' strengths and needs in learning classical Chinese.

The course consists of two integral parts. First, the students will have the opportunity to learn the history of China, important historical figures from different periods of history and their contribution to Chinese civilization. Secondly, students will develop their understanding and command of introductory classical Chinese:

- Learning to understand simple yet authentic texts of classical Chinese with the help of their instructor
- Learning fundamental vocabulary, functional words, and sentence and text structures used in classical Chinese.

One important instructional activity is to ask students to translate classical Chinese into Modern Chinese. It helps students improve their understanding of classical Chinese and also helps them to improve their

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command of formal *shumianyu*, especially classical vocabulary and phrases that are still frequently used in modern Chinese.

Another instructional activity is to ask students to read aloud short classical Chinese texts to compare them with Modern Chinese so that they can improve their understanding of the unique features of classical Chinese, its vocabulary, and sentence and text structures. As the students learn to develop their ability to read classical Chinese, the instructor also conducts Q&A and discussion sessions on subject matters, such as Chinese history, Confucianism, and aspects of Chinese civilization to help students improve their knowledge of Chinese history, Chinese traditional thought, and their impact on contemporary China.

Methods of Evaluation

The final grade is determined as follows:

Class Participation	25%
Homework	20%
Midterm Examination	25%
Final Examination	30%

Primary Texts

All readings and materials are prepared in collaboration with CET Beijing staff.