



BEIJ CHIN 400 Advanced Chinese III

The Alliance for Global Education China Now: Development, Politics and Social Change Program, Summer 2009

General Information on Course

This class is designed for students who have studied Chinese for at least 6 semesters, and have already learned advanced grammar and vocabulary. The class is conducted entirely in Chinese. Students are expected to have good conversational skills, able to express themselves freely and correctly, and communicate with native speakers on cultural and intellectual topics without too much difficulty. This class is an intensive course, with 15 hours weekly schedule for 8 weeks. Students are expected to spend 2-3 additional hours every day adequately preparing for class, getting ready for daily dictation, and doing homework. Only Chinese is allowed to speak in the class. Students are responsible for previewing new vocabulary and grammar patterns and expected to identify and work on their learning difficulties in class to become thoroughly familiar with the content of the materials in question. Class activities include daily dictation, drills, open conversations with the instructor, bi-weekly test, and oral presentation, discussion or debate.

To improve the students' language skills in speaking and writing with better fluency, the class schedule is designed to provide a wider range of original articles from local newspapers, books or magazines, as well as films. Students will have opportunities to study these articles in depth. The first 5 weeks, the class will highly concentrate on the textbook entitled *New Practical Chinese Reader Vol.5*. We'll cover 9 units from volume 5 of the textbook. In the last 3 weeks, we'll focus on some professional writings on contemporary Chinese cultural and intellectual issues; students are also expected to write short essays and response papers in Chinese.

Objectives

Through classroom instruction and homework, students shall strengthen their language skills in

speaking, listening, reading and writing. They are training to quickly identify and talk about the issues in newspaper articles, to express their own views on contemporary issues in oral presentation and written homework.

The topics in the textbook familiarize the students with the ways in which contemporary Chinese articulate cultural and social issues in news, politics and art. The class is designed for 8 weeks long with main focus on improving students' abilities of making comments on intellectual topics; priority is also given to effective professional writing, with emphasis on the use of better diction and rhetoric. Students are expected to learn at least 40 new Chinese words every class day. By the end of the semester, students will be learning about 300 new characters, to recognize and write 600 new words, as well as about 200 new grammar patterns. Students should be able to hold conversations fluently with local Chinese people on many common topics, and conduct themselves adequately in daily activities such as arranging trips in China, negotiating a work contract, or talking about some popular social issues in China. In addition, students should also be able to make social and cultural comments in ways acceptable in Chinese literary and sociopolitical discourses.

Textbook

New Practical Chinese Reader, Volume 5, Prof. Liu Xun (chief compiler)

Boya Hanyu, Prof. Li Xiaoqi and Prof. Zhao Yanfeng

Class hours & Classroom

1. from Monday to Wednesday: Chinese Class (Building #17)

Section 1: 9:00—9:50

Section 2: 10:00—10:50

Section 3: 11:10—12:00

2. Thursday: Individual session (Building #17)

3. Friday: Practical Chinese and Bi-weekly Test

Textbooks and Activities

The first week of the class instructions are designed with review purposes. The class instructors will choose certain lessons from Book 4 to help students to review the most important key grammar points, as well as those frequently used vocabularies.

Preparation:

Before the Chinese class, students are expected to:

- (1) Read the textbook regularly and frequently
- (2) Be familiar with the new vocabularies from the text
- (3) Be able to read and write the new words correctly
- (4) Preview and try to understand all of the grammar patterns from the related chapters
- (5) Memorize the dialogue/chapter assigned by the class instructors
- (6) Complete homework assigned by the teachers

There will be a daily dictation session from Monday to Thursday in the class.

In Class:

Section 1 & 2

Instructor: A

- (1) There is daily dictation in the first hour session on vocabulary, key sentences, and even entire paragraphs. Students are required to review what they have learned the day before and preview the new lesson. The dictation will be done at the beginning of each class. Students are expected to learn how to know correct punctuations.
- (2) The instructor will introduce new characters, and elaborate on their varied uses in social and cultural contexts so as to help students recognize, memorize and know how to use these new words correctly and effectively.
- (3) Retelling the text. Although it might be a bit boring, this traditional-style of Chinese teaching exercise is still considered extremely useful; students should try to memorize the text and learn to retell it with their own words. The students are expected to identify word usages with which they have difficulties at this time.
- (4) Students will learn how to use new words in each dialogue during this session. By using flashcards, students will be asked to read those words and try to use these words to answer relevant questions. The teachers will design different language activities to guide students using the new vocabularies and new grammar structures to talk about their daily life, study, and travel experience etc.
- (5) To help students to understand grammars, the teacher has designed the following activities for classroom practice: pattern drills, change sentence formats by using the new learned structures, complete phrases or sentences with using the given words and so on. Meanwhile, the teacher will correct students' pronunciations, tones, and grammar mistakes.

Section 3

Instructor: B

- (1) Students will be required to memorize the text/dialogue(s) assigned by the class instructors in the first session, and enlarge the certain topic to provide personal comments in Chinese.
- (2) Students will be guided to participate in some classroom activities like topic-discussions, debate on certain topics designed by the teachers, and performing skits, using keywords and grammars from the text. Conversational practice includes making up dialogues, commentating, etc.
- (3) The teacher will correct the mistakes made by students with detailed explanations and more practice. During the 2nd session, students are expected to speak relatively fluently with correct grammar patterns and good pronunciations and tones.

Daily homework:

- a. Review the recently learned lessons and preview new vocabularies, grammar patterns, and dialogues.
- b. Finish the homework in the textbook assigned by the instructors, including the listening exercises with the help of the CDs.
- c. Practice with the language partners: improve the daily conversational skills by talking with native speakers with natural pronunciation, tones and great confidence, discuss with the language partners or other Chinese friends about their culture experience and social topics by using the new learned vocabularies, and learn how to express their personal opinions.

Individual Sessions

Each student will have two 25 minutes individual sessions with the language instructor during the summer semester. This session could be used to help students with their Capstone project research topics, building up related vocabularies, to design the questionnaire, to practice with interview questions. In addition, students can also use this 25 minutes working on the mistakes from the homework or students' questions which haven't been answered during the class hours yet. Another good way using this individual session is having the teacher help to summarize the newly learned grammars and vocabularies in the past.

Fridays

The bi-weekly quiz will be held every other week.

➤ 9:00—11:00am

Alternate week: language practicum

Language Practicum

Language practicum sessions will be held every other week. In each session, we will have different topic introducing Chinese culture, arts, social issues, or local life in China. The instructor will choose different films or articles, which are combined with some useful topics. The Chinese teachers may have prepared vocabulary list delivered to students before the class. Usually, it will take about 2 hours. During the first hour, students will learn and practice the new words. After that, students will have opportunity talking with Chinese people on the certain topics. Field trips will be organized for this class as well, such as Beijing Opera performance, visiting tailor shops, and Chinese tea house. In the past, we have had such topics for this session:

- a. Family (家庭关系)
- b. Travel in China (在中国旅行)
- c. Chinese cooking (中国菜的派系和制作方法)
- d. Beijing Opera (京剧艺术)
- e. Traditional Chinese calligraphy (传统中国书法与水墨画)
- f. Beijing Olympic Games (北京奥运会)

Attendance Requirement

Class attendance is mandatory. As this is an intensive course, it is essential that students come to the class on time and attend class regularly. Students are allowed to miss class only if it is approved by the Program Director. Make-up exams, homework will be offered to students who have program director's approval. It should be done as soon as the student is available for class. Students who miss class for any other reasons will receive zero score for any exams, homework given during missed class time.

During the semester, there will be the following tests:

Bi- weekly quiz

Mid-term exam

Final exam

Evaluation Methods

Attendance 10%

Daily performance 10%

Dictation 10%

Homework 10%

Weekly Quizzes 20%

Mid-term Examination 20%

Final Examination 20%

Class Schedule

Week 1					
	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
9:00~9:50	L51 (I)	L51 (II)	L52 (I)	L52 (II)	Language practicum
10:00~10:50					
11:10~12:00					

Week 2					
	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
9:00~9:50	L53 (I)	L53 (II)	L54 (I)	Individual session	Bi-weekly quiz
10:00~10:50					
11:10~12:00					

Week 3					
	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
9:00~9:50	L54 (II)	L55 (I)	L55 (II)	L57 (I)	Language practicum
10:00~10:50					
11:10~12:00					

Week 4					
	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
9:00~9:50	L57 (II)	L59(I)	L59 (II)	Bi-weekly quiz	Field trip
10:00~10:50					
11:10~12:00					

Week 5					
	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
9:00~9:50	Field Trip	L60(I)	L60(II)	L58	Language practicum
10:00~10:50					
11:10~12:00					

Week 6					
	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
9:00~9:50	Boya Hanyu L1	L2 (I)	L2 (II)	L2 (III)	Bi-weekly quiz
10:00~10:50					
11:10~12:00					

Week 7					
	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
9:00~9:50	L3 (I)	L3 (II)	L3 (III)	L4 (I)	Individual session
10:00~10:50					
11:10~12:00					

Week 8					
	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
9:00~9:50	L4 (II)	L4 (III)	Review session	Review session	Finals & Graduation
10:00~10:50					
11:10~12:00					