

Chinese Course Syllabus

Course Description:

This is an entry-level Chinese class designed to introduce some basic knowledge about Chinese language and culture. Participants will not only be exposed to authentic language contexts, but also to situations where their abilities to use the Chinese language to do creative dialogues. All the learning materials chosen reflect the value system, traditions, daily life, social development and business oriented conversations of the current Chinese society.

Course Objective:

By the end of the program, participants will be able to use their Chinese language skills to conduct conversations on daily life, including greetings, buying products, transportations, as well as business topics, such as at a bank, real estate, marketing, advertisement, corporation cultures, etc.

Meanwhile, participants will have the basic knowledge of how to further their Chinese language study by themselves in their future development in China.

Course Materials:

Teaching Materials: Topic-based selected teaching materials

Suggested reading materials: *"River Town"* written by Peter Hessler

"My Country and My People" written by Lin Yutang

"Insider China" by Lifeng Han with Emma Lejun Wu and Hua Cai

"A Journey to the West" by Wu Ch'eng-en

"Outlaws of the Marsh" by Shi Nai'an

"The Joy Luck Club" by Amy Tan

Grading Policy

1. Attendance and participation: 30%
2. Final examination: 70%

Course Outline

Chapter 1: Greetings

Basic Vocabulary—how to say hi, ask names, nationalities, greetings

Sentence Patterns—

Authentic (daily-used) expressions Vs. Textbook expressions of greetings

Activity--"I live in the global village"

Cultural Note--Chinese Names (formation + history)

Chapter 2: Numbers

Warm-up activity—how to count 1-10 in Chinese (with hand-gesture expressions)

Basic expressions in asking time

Basic expressions in asking price

Activity—counting game (clap your hand without speaking up the number when it comes to number 7)

Cultural note— (1) semantic meaning of numbers in Chinese culture

(2) bargaining cultures in China

Chapter 3: Transportation

Basic vocabulary—means of transportation; directions; taxi language

Sentence patterns—asking ways; communicating with taxi drivers (drive slowly, drive fast, turn left/right, stop, etc.)

Activity— role play

Cultural note—road names in China, road designing ideas in China, Fengshui and directions

Chapter 4: Food

Basic vocabulary—fruit and vegetables; meats

Sentence patterns—buying food, asking price, ordering food, making reservations

Activity— role play

Cultural Note—Chinese people consider “Food is the first happiness”; eight types of Chinese food; Chinese food philosophy and Taoism

Chapter 5: Family

Warm-up activity—introducing the formation of Chinese character 家

Basic vocabulary—family members, measure word for people, professions

Sentence patterns—introduce family members, introduce family members’ professions

Activity—family album

Cultural note—different family concept; one-child policy; different addressing in Chinese family