CIEE Nanjing, China

Course title: Spoken Chinese, Intermediate
Course code: CHIN 2003 CNAN
Programs offering course: Intensive Chinese Language and Culture
Language of instruction: Chinese
U.S. semester credits: 6
Contact hours: 104
Term: Fall 2020

Course Description

This intensive Spoken Chinese course along with the Readings in Chinese allows motivated students to complete the second year of Chinese language courses in one semester. The class will focus on improving students’ ability of oral communication in terms of fluency, accuracy and increased complexity. Besides learning new vocabulary and sentence patterns, students will devote most of the class time to speaking practices. Class activities include dialogue-practicing, story-retelling, drills, dialogue-making, discussions, debates and presentations.

Learning Objectives

By completing this course, students will:

By the end of this course, students are expected to master approximately a vocabulary of 1,200 words and 160 new sentence patterns. Students should be able to initiate and hold conversations with native speakers on daily topics and some social issues clearly. In addition, students should be able to express themselves in a culturally appropriate manner in authentic Chinese situations.

Course Prerequisites

This course is designed for students who have studied Chinese for two semesters at U.S. universities or its equivalent. Students should have a working vocabulary of approximately 1,000 commonly used words.

Methods of Instruction

Class instruction emphasizes oral communication, individual and group interaction, drilling, discussion and presentation. Peer tutoring, pronunciation tutoring and language meals outside of classroom support in class learning.

This course works in coordination with the Chinese reading class using the same textbook. Teachers from both classes prepare the class together and each teacher teaches two classes per day in the hope of improving the students' listening, speaking, reading and writing skills in the same pace. The classes require students fully prepared before class. Students need to learn the vocabulary and the content of the lesson completely and mark the places that they do not understand before class.

The first and second period of the class are Chinese reading course, as the reading course syllabus outlined. The third and fourth periods are the oral classes, which include the following four parts. 1) A quick review of the difficult grammar points from first and second periods. 2) Answer short questions focusing on practicing the keywords, grammar points and sentence structure. 3) Discussion on given
topics. The goal is to go beyond the text and apply the vocabulary, grammar points and sentence structures in other contexts. 4) If time allows, depends on the topic of the lesson, instructors may organize small debates, role plays, interviews and group presentations.

Assessment and Final Grade

1. Homework 15%
2. Oral Exams 15%
3. Field Trip Reports 10%
4. Language Commitment 5%
5. Midterm 20%
6. Final 20%
7. Participation 15%
TOTAL 100%

Course Requirements

Homework

Homework is assigned on a daily basis. Students should spend approximately 2 hours outside class on lesson preparation and homework assignments. It is important that you hand in your homework in the beginning of the class next day. Late homework is accepted up to one week after the deadline and will be marked down 1 point (out of 10) per day on each assignment grade. Missing homework more than one week after the deadline will not be accepted and not be given any points.

Oral Exams

An oral exam will be conducted every two weeks, altogether five times per semester. The oral exam will be in the format of oral presentation and answer questions from the group. Then there will be a one-on-one question answering section with the instructor. Students are graded based on their accurate use of new words, grammar points, sentence structures, the content of presentation, fluency of their speech, and pronunciation.

Field Trip Reports

There are five field trip reports this semester. The field trip report can be individual report or group report. Students make a presentation through visits to the places, doing interviews with locals, doing research on the places and people. Teachers will grade based on the content of the presentation, the use of new words and grammar points, and expression.

Language Commitment

You will sign a language commitment on the first day of classes. Language commitment is worth 5% of the final grade. Speaking Chinese is required in the classroom and the designated areas in the dorm building, including study center offices, student lounge, study room, hallway and dorms. Speaking Chinese is required when interacting with Chinese roommates/host families, tutors, other CIEE students and staff on campus. Speaking languages other than Chinese in these areas or environments may reduce your final grade in Chinese class by 1-5%.

Midterm
Final

Mid-term exam will be in the seventh week and final exam in the fifteenth week. The oral exams will be in the format of oral presentation, reading texts, discussion, and one-on-one answering questions.

Participation

Your active participation in each class is essential for successful language learning. It is important that you come to class well prepared.

Attendance

Weekly Schedule

Week 1
Class 1.1 L1 Arriving in Beijing

Content: First impression about China when they arrive. Feel so excited and tired.

Reading: pp. 1-3

Homework: Discuss with Chinese students about today's class content and record your discussion;

Quiz: listening comprehension

Class 1.2 L2 Calling my Mom

Content: Telling mom about my living condition and study as well as the differences between the US.

Reading: pp. 11-14

Homework: Discuss with Chinese students about today's class content and record your discussion;

Quiz: listening comprehension

Class 1.3 L3 Living Habits

Content: The difference of getting up early and morning shower between Chinese and American. Make me thing about things in a different way

Reading: pp. 24-27

Homework: Discuss with Chinese students about today's class content and record your discussion;

Quiz: listening comprehension
Class 1.4  Unit Oral Exam 1

Content: L1, 2, 3

Homework: Interview

Presentation: A report that summarizes what we learned this week

Week 2
Class 2.1  L5 Illness

Content: The first time feel sick in China. Teacher come and visit me then we talk about my relationship with my Chinese roommate.

Reading: pp. 46-48

Homework: Discuss with Chinese students about today’s class content and record your discussion;

Quiz: listening comprehension

Class 2.2  L6 Living Habits 2

Content: Chinese people habits about taking naps and drink hot water. I gradually adapted to these local habits. I feel like it’s better to do as the locals in new environment.

Reading: pp. 54-56

Homework: Discuss with Chinese students about today’s class content and record your discussion;

Quiz: listening comprehension

Class 2.3  Review Class

Content: L1, 2, 3, 5, 6

Reading: review previous reading

Homework: Discuss with Chinese students about today’s class content and record your discussion;

Quiz: listening comprehension

Class 2.4  Fieldtrip report on Ming City Wall, Xuanwu Lake, Jiming Temple

Homework: Interview

Presentation: fieldtrip report
Week 3
Class 3.1 L7 Household Electronic Appliances

Content: electronic appliances in China are not as prevalent as those in the US. The reality turns out to be more eco-friendly.

Reading: pp. 62-64

Homework: Discuss with Chinese students about today’s class content and record your discussion;

Quiz: listening comprehension

Class 3.2 L8 Hair Cutting

Content: The first experience in Chinese hair salon. No tips in China.

Reading: pp. 69-71

Homework: Discuss with Chinese students about today’s class content and record your discussion;

Quiz: listening comprehension

Class 3.3 L11 Calls in China

Content: the changing of calls in China

Reading: pp. 100-103

Homework: Discuss with Chinese students about today’s class content and record your discussion;

Quiz: listening comprehension

Class 3.4 Unit Oral Exam 2

Content: L 5, 6, 7, 8, 11

Homework: Interview

Presentation: A report that summarizes what we learned this week

Week 4
Class 4.1 L12 Toilet

Content: The difference between Chinese and American toilets. Discussion about which one is more clean and eco-friendly.

Reading: pp. 113-115
Homework: Discuss with Chinese students about today’s class content and record your discussion;

Quiz: listening comprehension

Class 4.2 L13 Travelling by Train

Topic: L13 Travelling by train

Content: First travelling experience by train in China

Reading: pp. 121-122

Homework: Discuss with Chinese students about today’s class content and record your discussion;

Quiz: listening comprehension

Class 4.3 Review Class

Content: L7, 8, 11, 12, 13

Reading: review previous lessons

Homework: prepare for Thursday’s exam

Class 4.4 Into the Community

Content: Buy train tickets in railway station

Homework: Interview

Week 5

Class Spring Break

Week 6

Class 6.1 L14 Parks

Content: Chinese people’s daily leisure lives

Reading: pp. 127-129

Homework: Discuss with Chinese students about today’s class content and record your discussion;

Quiz: listening comprehension

Class 6.2 L15 Night Market

Content: First experience to Chinese night market
Reading: pp. 134-136

Homework: Discuss with Chinese students about today’s class content and record your discussion;

Quiz: listening comprehension

Class 6.3 L17 The Great Wall

Content: visiting China’s historical sites and learning about the history of the Great Wall

Reading: PPs. 153-156

Homework: Discuss with Chinese students about today’s class content and record your discussion;

Quiz: listening comprehension

Class 6.4 Unit Oral Exam 3

Content: L12, 13, 14, 15, 17

Homework: Interview

Presentation: A report that summarizes what we learned this week

Week 7

Class 7.1 L18 Culture of Chinese “Mianzi”

Content: Discuss about Chinese “Mianzi” culture and analyze about the relationship between “Mianzi” culture and honesty

Reading: pp. 162-164

Homework: Discuss with Chinese students about today’s class content and record your discussion;

Quiz: listening comprehension

Class 7.2 L19 Culture of Dining Table

Content: first time having meals in restaurant and discuss about Chinese dining culture

Reading: pp. 170-174

Homework: Discuss with Chinese students about today’s class content and record your discussion;
Quiz: listening comprehension

Class 7.3 Review Class
Content: L14, 15, 17, 18, 19
Reading: review previous reading
Homework: Discuss with Chinese students about today’s class content and record your discussion;
Quiz: listening comprehension

Class 7.4 Fieldtrip report on Ming tomb and Sun Yat-sen’s mausoleum
Homework: Interview
Presentation: fieldtrip Report

Week 8
Class Review 15 lessons from week 1 - week 7
Midterm oral exam
Midterm written exam

Week 9
Class Excursion, no classes

Week 10
Class 10.1 L20 Ordering Dishes
Content: Different provinces in China have their specialties. It’s really hard to order dishes in China.
Reading: pp. 182-186
Homework: Discuss with Chinese students about today’s class content and record your discussion
Quiz: listening comprehension

Class 10.2 L21 Traffic in China
Content: Traffic is much more complicated here in China. Chinese people regard it as “finding order in chaos”.
Reading: pp. 192-194
Homework: Discuss with Chinese students about today’s class content and record your discussion;

Quiz: listening comprehension

Class 10.3  L22 Chinese Slogan

Content: We can see a variety of slogans here in China which indicate the development in China

Reading: pp. 200-203

Homework: Discuss with Chinese students about today’s class content and record your discussion;

Quiz: listening comprehension

Class 10.4  Unit Oral Exam 4

Content: L20, 21, 22

Homework: Interview

Presentation: A report that summarizes what we learned this week

Week 11

Class 11.1  L24 Made in China

Content: Analyze the influence “Made in China” products has on the world

Reading: pp. 219-221

Homework: Discuss with Chinese students about today’s class content and record your discussion

Quiz: listening comprehension

Class 11.2  L25 Prefer Sons to Daughters

Content: Analyze the reasons of Chinese tradition “prefer sons to daughters”. On the contrary, there’re also jokes about husbands afraid of their wives. Analyze the social status between man and woman.

Reading: pp. 226-228

Homework: Discuss with Chinese students about today’s class content and record your discussion

Quiz: listening comprehension
Class 11.3  Review Class

Content: L20, 21, 22, 24, 25

Reading: review previous lessons

Homework: prepare for Thursday’s exam

Class 11.4  Into the Community

Content: Ordering dishes in Chinese restaurant

Homework: Interview

Week 12

Class 12.1  L26 Chinese Idiom

Content: Learn about some Chinese common says, idioms, allegorical saying

Reading: pp. 235-237

Homework: Discuss with Chinese students about today’s class content and record your discussion

Quiz: listening comprehension

Class 12.2  L27 System of China’s “iron rice bowl”

Content: Job hunting rules have changed significantly in China. Nowadays, competition replace “iron rice bowl”

Reading: pp. 243-245

Homework: Discuss with Chinese students about today’s class content and record your discussion

Quiz: listening comprehension

Class 12.3  L29 The college entrance examination for colleges and universities

Content: analyze the advantage and disadvantage about the entrance examination for colleges and universities as well as the differences between the education system in China and the US

Reading: pp. 260-262

Homework: Discuss with Chinese students about today’s class content and record your discussion;

Quiz: listening comprehension
Class 12.4  Unit Oral Exam 5

Content: L24, 25, 26, 27, 29

Homework: Interview

Presentation: A report that summarizes what we learned this week

Week 13
Class 13.1 L32 Divorce

Content: Analyze the reasons behind China’s rising divorce rate. The relationship between the rising divorce rate and women’s social status

Reading: pp. 288-290

Homework: Discuss with Chinese students about today’s class content and record your discussion

Quiz: listening comprehension

Class 13.2 L33 Loss Weight

Content: Obesity is getting more of a concern nowadays and more people are trying to lose weight

Reading: pp. 298-301

Homework: Discuss with Chinese students about today’s class content and record your discussion

Quiz: listening comprehension

Class 13.3 Review Class

Content: L26, 27, 29, 32, 33

Reading: review previous lessons

Homework: Discuss with Chinese students about today’s class content and record your discussion

Quiz: listening comprehension

Class 13.4 Debate

Content: A debate that all students participate in

Homework: Interview

Week 14
Class 14.1  L34 Living Standard in China
Content: Analyze the process of Chinese improving living standards
Reading: pp. 308-311
Homework: Discuss with Chinese students about today's class content and record your discussion
Quiz: listening comprehension

Class 14.2  L35 Elderly People's Lives
Content: Analyze Chinese pension plan and the differences from American's
Reading: pp. 317-320
Homework: Discuss with Chinese students about today's class content and record your discussion
Quiz: listening comprehension

Class 14.3  Review Class
Content: Lessons before mid-term
Reading: review previous lessons
Homework: prepare for final exam

Class 14.4  14.4
Content: Lessons after mid-term
Reading: review previous lessons
Homework: prepare for final exam

Week 15
Class 15.1  Review and Answer Questions
Class 15.2  Final Oral Exam
Class 15.3  Final Written Exam

Course Materials
Readings

Audio-visual supplementary material.