Course title: Contemporary Chinese Society through Media
Course code: CHIN 3003 CNAN
Programs offering course: Intensive Chinese Language and Culture
Language of instruction: Chinese
U.S. semester credits: 3.00
Contact hours: 45.00
Term: Spring 2021

Course Description

Contemporary Chinese Studies through Media is an advanced Chinese language class with a focus on essential topics of contemporary China. It aims to further improve students' overall language skills, particularly listening comprehension of news broadcasts, reading comprehension of newspaper articles as well as oral communication skills. The listening and reading materials are selected from mainstream media and reflects the most recent changes and hot topics on Chinese society, economy, culture, politics, etc. Through a large amount of reading, visual, listening practices and in-class discussions, students will learn the formal glossaries used in the media and deepen their understanding of some essential contemporary China issues.

Learning Objectives

By completing this course, students will:

- Improve their listening, speaking and reading skills to the advanced level using authentic print, audio and video material.
- Master more spoken and written language structures related to important issues on contemporary China.
- Express one’s thoughts on hot topics on contemporary Chinese society accurately and fully.
- Develop the ability to use Chinese to search online resources and find relevant information.

Course Prerequisites

This course is designed for students with two years of college-level Mandarin Chinese or above. Students should process a working vocabulary of approximately 2,000 commonly used words.

Methods of Instruction

The instruction focuses on the listening and reading comprehension of the texts and supplementary material and the discussion of the topics. Instruction will use multimedia including PowerPoint, news broadcast, documentary, and films. Students should actively participate in discussions and use new vocabulary and grammatical structure deliberately inside and outside classroom. In order to improve their ability to use Chinese in real life situations, students are encouraged to read Chinese newspapers, watch Chinese TV programs and movies, write emails and texts in Chinese on a daily basis.

All course work must be submitted directly to the instructor of record, unless the student has received other explicit, documented instructions to the contrary. You are required to keep hard copies of all assignments for up to one year after the completion of the program in addition to any digital copies required by the instructor. It is your responsibility to make sure the instructor has received all your required work. Failure to do so may result in no credit for lost assignments.

Assessment and Final Grade

1. Participation 15%
2. Homework 20%
3. Presentation 20%
4. Language Commitment 5%
Course Requirements

Participation

Your active participation in each class is essential for successful language learning. It is important that you come to class well prepared. Participation means both physical attendance and active engagement in class. Late to class or leaving early three times will be counted as one absence. Throughout this semester, you have three excused absences, reserved for serious sickness or emergencies. In such cases, you should inform the Director and the course instructor ahead of time. You may present a note from a doctor or other supporting documentation to the Director to request the Excused Absence Form. With Director's approval and signature, you may submit the form to the language instructor for his/her approval and signature. The form will be kept by the language instructor for records. After the three excused absence, each absence per class will reduce your final grade by 0.5% up to 15%. Therefore, use your excused absences wisely!

Homework

Students should spend approximately 3-4 hours outside class on lesson preparation and homework assignments. It is important that you hand in your homework in the beginning of the class. 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 will reduce your final course grade by 0.5% per assignment, up to 20% of your final grade.

Presentation

Students choose a news article with regards to this week's topic and send it to teacher two days before class, write down your views and opinions on the article. Students should make PowerPoint according to the news with pictures and introductions. Each student has to prepare a presentation for at least 10 minutes. 1. Be able to clearly summarize the contents of the selected articles in Chinese. 2. According to the article, extend beyond the topic and add your own views and opinions. 3. Be able to interact with the audiences, ask questions and discuss with peers.

Language Commitment

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%.

Mid-term Exam

Mid-term exam will be in the seventh week and final exam in the fifteenth week. The written exams include making new words with given characters, completing sentences, completing dialogues, translation, reading comprehension and essay writing.

Attendance

Late to class or leaving early three times will be counted as one absence. Throughout this semester, you have three excused absences, reserved for serious sickness or emergencies. In such cases, you should inform the Director and the course instructor ahead of time. You may present a note from a doctor or other supporting documentation to the Director to request the Excused Absence Form. With Director's approval and signature, you may submit the form to the language instructor for his/her approval and signature. The form will be kept by the language instructor for records. After the three excused absence, each absence per class will reduce your final grade by 0.5% up to 15%. Therefore, use your excused absences wisely!
Weekly Schedule

Week 1
Class: 1.0  Course Introduction and Requirements

**Content:** Introduction to all the topics covered in the semester. Understand students' current perceptions and knowledge about China. Watch two short videos to learn about China in the eyes of foreigners and Chinese people respectively.

**Homework:** Students read an article on environmental issues and send it to the teacher before class.

Week 2
Class: 1.0  Environmental Issues

**Content:** Read and analyze article《不归环保部门的那些事儿》; watch video “Under the Dome”

**Reading:**《不归环保部门的那些事儿》http://www.infzm.com/content/138578 Presentation on the news articles selected by students.

**Homework:** Students read an article on environmental issues and send it to the teacher.

Week 3
Class: 1.0  Traffic & Transportation

**Content:** Read and analyze article《设计的陷阱:从高铁座位号标记说起》, watch and discuss video “中国高铁的崛起 & 北京城市道路规划 & 小品《碰瓷》”

**Reading:**《设计的陷阱:从高铁座位号标记说起》http://www.infzm.com/content/139851 Presentation on the news articles selected by students.

**Homework:** Students read an article on traffic and send it to the teacher

Week 4
Class: 1.0  Education in China (part 1)

**Content:** Read and analyze article《寒门再难出贵子,很现实》, watch and discuss video “纪录 纪 录片《高考》”

**Reading:**《寒门再难出贵子,很现实》https://baijiahao.baidu.com/s?id=1607684810748792604&wfr=spider&for=pc Presentation on the news articles selected by students

**Homework:** Students read an article on educational issues and send it to the teacher.

Week 5
Class: 1.0  Education in China (part 2)

**Content:** Read and analyze article《高考真的可以改变命运吗？》, watch and discuss video “疯狂的课外辅导 班 & 学区房”

**Reading:**《高考真的可以改变命运吗？》https://www.sohu.com/a/23484361_390121 Presentation on the news articles selected by students
**Homework:** Students read an article on educational issues and send it to the teacher.

**Week 6**  
**Class:** 1.0  
**Public Health & Medical System**

**Content:** Read and analyze article《请记住，医生是人不是神！》，watch and discuss video “医患矛盾知多少 & 医闹 & 生门”

**Reading:** 《请记住，医生是人不是神！》https://www.sohu.com/a/117004750_349675 
Presentation on the news articles selected by students themselves

**Homework:** Students read an article on China’s public health and send it to the teacher.

**Week 7**  
**Class:** 1.0  
**Mid-term Exam**

Written exam and presentation.

**Week 8**  
**Class:** 1.0  
**Migration & Left-behind Children**

**Content:** Read and analyze article《孩子别哭！》，watch and discuss video ‘来自大山深处的 呼唤’.

**Reading:** 《孩子别哭！》http://edu.youth.cn/jyzx/xykx/201607/t20160728_8359883_1.htm 
Presentation on the news articles selected by students themselves

**Homework:** Students read an article on the social issues of migration and send it to the teacher.

**Week 9**  
**Class:** 1.0  
**China’s Economic Development & Nail Household**

**Content:** Read and analyze article《最牛钉子户》，watch and discuss video “钉子户 & 强拆之 痛”

**Reading:** 《最牛钉子户》https://baijiahao.baidu.com/s?id=1608303021109293921&wfr=spider&for=pc 
Presentation on the news articles selected by students themselves

**Homework:** Students read an article on the social problem of nail household and send it to the teacher.

**Week 10**  
**Class:** 1.0  
**Excursion**

Excursion to southwestern China.

**Week 11**  
**Class:** 1.0  
**China’s Housing Market**

**Content:** Read and analyze article《地产调而未控, 原因何在？》，watch and discuss video “年轻人如何能留在大城市？”

**Reading:** 《地产调而未控, 原因何在？》http://www.infzm.com/content/138383 
Presentation on the news articles selected by students themselves
news articles selected by students themselves

**Homework**: Students read an article on China’s housing market and send it to the teacher

**Week 12**
Class: 1.0  China’s Household Registration System and Five-one Insurance Fund

**Content**: Read and analyze article [《上海户口的积分政策》](http://www.sh112.com/news/newsshow-140505.html) Presentation on the news articles selected by students themselves

**Homework**: Students read an article on China’s household registration system and send it to the teacher.

**Week 13**
Class: 1.0  Overview of China’s Development & Newsreel: Discovery of China

**Content**: watch and discuss video “Discovery of China” Presentation on the news articles selected by students themselves

**Homework**: Students read an article on China’s development and send it to the teacher.

**Week 14**
Class: 1.0  Final Exam

Final written exam and presentation.

**Course Materials**

**Readings**

**Online Resources**

**News**:
新华网: www.xinhuanet.com
南方周末: www.infzm.com
凤凰网: www.ifeng.com
华尔街日报: cn.wsj.com/gb/
联合早报网: www.zaobao.com

**Videos** (网路直播、转播中文新闻、电视节目):
土豆网: www.tudou.com
优酷网: www.youku.com
新华网新闻视频: http://www.xinhuanet.com/video/
Blogs:
新浪博客: http://blog.sina.com.cn/
博客中国: http://www.blogchina.com/