Course title: Classical Chinese
Course code: CHIN 3012 SACS
Programs offering course: Accelerated Chinese Language, Business, Language and Culture, China in a Global Context
Language of instruction: Chinese
U.S. semester credits: 3.00
Contact hours: 45.00
Term: Spring 2021

Course Description

Classical Chinese has influenced many aspects of modern Mandarin Chinese. Many common words used today, both in speech and writing, derive from classical roots. As such, knowledge of classical Chinese provides important insights into sophisticated usage of the language and will greatly improve students' literary appreciation and proficiency.

Learning Objectives

By completing this course, students will:

- Enhance formal speech and writing abilities, which frequently makes allusions to classical text quotes and idioms, lines of classical poetry, and essays.
- Conduct research that requires a reading knowledge of classical Chinese texts.
- Learn about traditional Chinese culture through reading primary texts.

Course Prerequisites

This course is designed for students who have studied college-level Mandarin Chinese for a minimum of two years.

Methods of Instruction

Students will start with easier texts and gradually advance to more difficult ones. This course will be taught with a practical approach to classical Chinese and in a communicative way. This course will help students understand formal speeches on television, radio and in various social occasions, as well as in formal articles commonly found in newspapers.

Assessment and Final Grade

1. Homework 20%
2. Presentation 15%
3. Midterm Exam 20%
4. Final Exam 25%
5. Participation 20%
TOTAL 100%

Course Requirements

Homework

Reading and writing homework will be based on the instructor developed course reader. Written homework consists of translating classical texts into modern Chinese (or sometimes English), and the use of live classical words/expressions in modern communication. It is important that you hand in your homework on time. Late homework will be marked down 1 point (out of 10) on each assignment grade, and missing homework will bring down the final course grade 1% per assignment up to 30%.

Presentation

Presentation
Students are required to give a presentation on their research work about China’s ancient poetry. The work should be about 10-minute long. Students are required to send their PPT document to the instructor the day before the presentation.

**Midterm Exam**

**Final Exam**

There will be a midterm and a final exam. The midterm and final exams contain translation, sentence making, and grammar knowledge.

**Participation**

Your attendance and active participation in each class session is essential for a successful language course. It is important that you come to class well-prepared. Attendance is worth 10% and participation is worth another 10% of your final grade. Participation means both physical attendance and active engagement in class. Your final grade will be reduced 1% per day of unexcused absences in language classes, or 0.5% per class, up to 10%. You are allowed one day of unexcused absences without affecting your attendance grade. Absences may be excused in the event of a medical necessity or family emergency. In such cases, you may request an Excused Absence Form from the CIEE office. First submit the form to the head language instructor for her or his approval and signature, prior to submitting the completed form, together with a note from the attending physician or other supporting documentation, for approval from the Language Director. Absence for 3 weeks of Chinese classes or more may result in failure of the course.

**Attendance**

Regular class attendance is required throughout the program, and all absences will result in a lower participation grade for any affected CIEE course. Due to the intensive schedules for Open Campus and Short Term programs, absences that constitute more than 10% of the total course will result in a written warning.

Students who transfer from one CIEE class to another during the add/drop period will not be considered absent from the first session(s) of their new class, provided they were marked present for the first session(s) of their original class. Otherwise, the absence(s) from the original class carry over to the new class and count against the grade in that class.

For CIEE classes, excessively tardy (over 15 minutes late) students must be marked absent.

Attendance policies also apply to any required co-curricular class excursion or event, as well as to any required field placement. Students may not miss placement/work hours at an internship or service learning site unless approved in advance by the Academic Director and placement supervisor. All students must complete all of the requisite 100 minimum work hours on site at the internship or service learning placement to be eligible for academic credit.

Students who miss class for personal travel, including unforeseen delays that arise as a result of personal travel, will be marked as absent. No make-up or re-sit opportunity will be provided.

Attendance policies also apply to any required class excursion, with the exception that some class excursions cannot accommodate any tardiness, and students risk being marked as absent if they fail to be present at the appointed time.

Absences for classes will lead to the following penalties:
### Percentage of Total Course Hours Missed

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage of Total Course Hours Missed</th>
<th>Minimum Penalty</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Up to 10%</td>
<td>Participation graded as per class requirements</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 – 20%</td>
<td>Participation graded as per class requirements, 3% grade penalty &amp; <strong>written warning</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More than 20%</td>
<td><strong>Automatic course failure</strong>, and possible expulsion</td>
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*N.B. Course schedule is subject to change due to study tours, excursions, or local holidays. Final schedules will be included in the final syllabus provided to students on site.*

### Weekly Schedule

#### Week 1

**Class: 1.1  "Confucian Analects" I**

- Discuss the reading material
- Discuss core sentences
- Cultural knowledge: an introduction to the Three Confucian sites

**Class: 1.2  "Confucian Analects" II**

- Discuss the reading material
- Discuss core sentences

*Reading: Textbook page 41-48*

#### Week 2

**Class: 2.1  "Confucian Analects" III**

- Discuss the reading material
- Discuss core sentences
- Cultural knowledge: Mount. Tai

**Class: 2.2  "Confucian Analects" IV**

- Discuss the reading material
- Discuss core sentences
- Chinese language knowledge: pictographic characters

*Reading: Textbook page 49-54*
Week 3
Class: 3.1 Field trip: Visit Shanghai Museum

Learn about Chinese oracle bones inscriptions and bronze wares inscriptions
Learn about stone carved inscriptions over the period from the Wei-Jin Dynasties to the Tang Dynasty

Class: 3.2 "On the Stork Tower"

Discuss the reading material
Cultural knowledge: Huang He(Yellow River)
Chinese language knowledge: indicative characters

Reading: Textbook page 15

Week 4
Class: 4.1 "Taoyao" ("Shijing / The Book of Songs")

Discuss the reading material
Discuss core sentences
Chinese language knowledge: associative characters: Part I
Cultural knowledge: The Book of Songs

Class: 4.2 "Guanju" ("Shijing / The Book of Songs")

Discuss the reading material
Discuss core sentences
Chinese language knowledge: associative characters: Part II

Reading: Textbook page 81-87

Week 5
Class: 5.1 Tang poetry: "Qingming"

Discuss the reading material
Introduction to the Qingming Festival (Tomb Sweeping Day)
Chinese language knowledge: pictophonetic characters: Part I

Class: 5.2 Tang poetry: "Passing by the Huaqing Palace"

Discuss the reading material
Chinese language knowledge: pictophonetic characters: Part II
Cultural knowledge: Xi'an

Reading: Textbook page 29

Week 6
Class: 6.1 Ancient poetry: "Though Long May Live the Sacred Turtle"
Discuss the reading material
Chinese language knowledge: the evolution of the physical characteristics of Chinese characters
Cultural knowledge: Three Kingdoms
Reading: Textbook page 200-204

Class: 6.2 Presentation and mid-term exam

Week 7
Class: 7.1 Ancient fable: "The Donkey of Qian"
Discuss the reading material
Discuss core sentences
Cultural knowledge: China provincial abbreviations

Class: 7.2 Chinese medicine: 《Shen Nong's herbal classic》
Discuss the reading material
Discuss core sentences
Cultural knowledge: traditional Chinese medicine and Chinese herbal medicines

Reading: Textbook page 182-186

Week 8
Class: 8.1 Ancient fable: "Blessing or Bane"
Discuss the reading material
Discuss core sentences

Class: 8.2 Ancient poetry: "Drinking (The Fifth)"
Discuss the reading material
Cultural knowledge: Tao Yuan-ming and the moral spirit of the ancient Chinese literati

Reading: 205-209

Week 9
Class: 9.1 Field trip: visit old city God's Temple
Learn about temple culture of China
Visit Tonghanchun Pharmacy to develop a deeper understanding of ancient Chinese medicine culture
Cultural knowledge: Chinese ancient folk culture

Class: 9.2 Chinese medicine: 《Huangdi Neijing》
Discuss the reading material
Discuss core sentences
Cultural knowledge: the diagnostic methods of traditional Chinese medicine
Week 10
Class: 10.1 Chinese drama: "Farewell to My Concubine"
Discussion the reading material
Discuss core sentences
Cultural knowledge: Chinese drama

Class: 10.2 Chinese family precepts: "A Gentleman Must Be Careful of Making Friends"
Discussion the reading material
Discuss core sentences
Cultural knowledge: traditional Chinese family maxims

Reading: Textbook page 129-135

Week 11
Class: 11.1 "Dong Yong and the Weaver Girl" ("Anecdotes About Spirits and Immortals")
Discussion the reading material
Discuss core sentences
Cultural knowledge: traditional Chinese festivals

Class: 11.2 Chinese historical story: "Zhaojun Goes Beyond the Great Wall as a Bride"
Discussion the reading material
Discuss core sentences
Cultural knowledge: Jiangnan (south of the Yangtze River) and Saibei (North of the Great Wall)

Reading: Textbook page 176-181

Week 12
Class: 12.1 Ancient fable: "Adding Feet to a Snake While Drawing It"
Discussion the reading material
Chinese language knowledge: radical in Chinese characters

Reading: Textbook page 142-148

Class: 12.2 Final Exam

Course Materials
Readings