**Intermediate Chinese**  
CHIN 2000-2500 (6 Credits / 90 class hours)

SIT Study Abroad Program:  
China: Language, Cultures and Ethnic Minorities

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**Course Description**  
This intermediate level language course is designed to prepare students for the daily social demands of living in China and to provide access into the host culture. Students are thus enabled to enrich all aspects of their experience abroad by functioning in the host language during field methods exercises, while conducting fieldwork for the Independent Study Project, and when interacting with homestay families and local contacts.

The goal of the course is to develop students’ broader Chinese communicative skills in speaking, listening, reading and writing. With drills and practice in real life situations, students will gradually build up their communicative competency in Chinese. Moreover, the course will integrate Chinese culture to promote students’ cross-cultural awareness and understanding. Due to the great differences in Chinese and English, students will also be introduced to strategies and skills in learning Chinese as a foreign language.

Classes and field-based language activities are taught by experienced, professionally trained, native-speaking teachers of a foreign language using oral proficiency-based methods. Students are placed into this level of the language courses based on in-country estimated ACTFL oral proficiency interviews. These placements may not directly correspond to the student’s level at the home institution as SIT courses focus on communicative competence and linguistic functional ability.

Instruction consists of 90 class hours of formal classes spread over a 6-week period. Various teaching methods are employed, including in-class discussions on Chinese and American subjects, recitations for aural comprehension, and grammar exercises. The Chinese course emphasizes oral expression and listening comprehension, but also includes entry-level instruction in Chinese characters. Students are placed in groups of 2 to 4 students per teacher for language instruction and exercises. This language training is based at Yunnan Nationalities University. In addition, 20 - 40 additional hours of instruction and guided field practice in Chinese are provided through homestays and scheduled during educational excursions.

**Course Objectives**  
Intermediate Chinese has an interdisciplinary and experiential focus, encompassing 90 class hours (6 credits). Its main objectives are:

- To develop students’ intermediate communication skills in Chinese language through formal instruction and cultural involvement;

*This syllabus is representative of a typical semester. Because courses develop and change over time to take advantage of unique learning opportunities, actual course content varies from semester to semester.*
• To provide a grammatical foundation and facilitate language use, with special emphasis on pronunciation, correct syntax, and verbal expression;
• To develop an intermediate level of proficiency in reading and writing formal Chinese;
• To examine extra-linguistic and paralinguistic features of language use;
• To develop culturally appropriate language skills.

Learning Outcomes
Upon completion of the course, students will be able to:
• Handle successfully the most uncomplicated communicative tasks and social situations;
• Initiate, sustain, and close a general conversation with a number of strategies appropriate to a range of circumstances and topics;
• Understand major syntactic constructions such as “ba” and “bei” structures;
• Discuss daily life and routine events;
• Share personal experiences with others;
• Read Chinese signs and some articles in Chinese newspapers;
• Use the target language with improved accuracy;
• Conduct prepared ISP interviews in Chinese;
• Read about 700 and write about 300 simplified Chinese characters;
• Write simple letters in Chinese.

Course Requirements
Reinforcement exercises, both oral and written, are assigned. On average, students are required to complete homework nightly. Class attendance is also required; preparation and participation are highly emphasized. Active engagement and meaningful involvement in class activities are expected. Students should complete their assignments individually in time and with full efforts. A late assignment may result in a lower grade.

Required Texts
The textbook used for this course is New Practical Chinese Reader 3 and 4, a Project of NOCFL of the People’s Republic of China (Liu Xun, Beijing Language and Culture University, 2008). The textbook focuses on exclusive use of Chinese script, introduction of idioms and comprehensively teaches grammatical structures with commonly used vocabulary by means of structural drills. Liu Xun’s communicative and structurally based approach is well suited to the needs of foreign students living in a Chinese-speaking environment wishing to acquire a solid foundation of Chinese grammar. In addition, a computer software program for practicing Chinese characters will be provided to students.

Recommended Materials
The Way We Communicate, Volume I & II

Concise English-Chinese/Chinese-English Dictionary, Oxford University Press

Other on-line dictionaries and resources provided below:

Chinese Language Learning
www.learn-chinese-language-online.com

http://echineselanguagelearning.com/

English-Chinese Dictionary

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PLEASE NOTE: COURSE CONTENT, TOPICS, AND READINGS MAY BE MODIFIED AS NEEDED. SHOULD ANY CHANGE OF CLASS TOPICS OR ASSIGNMENTS BE NECESSARY, STUDENTS WILL BE PROMPTLY NOTIFIED.

Overview of Course Content

Course Topics

- Sentences with a nominal predicate
- Position of the adverbs 也 (ye) & 都 (dou)
- Reduplication of verbs
- Comparative sentences
- The 把 (ba) structure
- The 被 (bei) structure
- The 叫 (jiao) and 让 (rang) structure
- Some structures used in complex sentences
- Coordinative relation
- Successive relation
- Progressive relation
- Adversative relation
- Causative relation
- Suppositive relation
- Conditional relation
- The conjunctions
- Various adverbiaal modifiers, complements and attributives
- Adverbs of degree
- Complements of degree
- Formal and informal phrases
- Contrary sentences
- Useful slang

Model Conversational Targets

- Finding hotel rooms
- Going to see a doctor
- Making an appointment
- Bargaining
- Making an invitation
- Discussing present, past and future events
- Making a phone call
- Talking about interests and hobbies
- Making comparisons
- Likes & dislikes
- Exchanging viewpoints
- Telling a story or joke

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- Talking about entertainment, festivals, costumes, cooking and clothing
- Describing feelings
- Using respect words
- Reading important signs
- Writing composition in Chinese with help of Pinyin
- Praise and admiration
- Expressing surprise, regret, doubt and uncertainty
- Giving suggestions and advice
- Consulting a doctor

**Daily Class Schedule** *(minimum of 4 contact hours M-F, except during excursions):*
- Classes are scheduled accordingly:
  - 8:00 - 9:40  Listening and Speaking
  - 9:50 - 10:20  Taiji exercise
  - 10:30 - 12:00 Grammar and comprehension
- There will be a short quiz every day.
- There will be one written and one oral mid-term exam. There will be one written and one oral final exam.

**Evaluation and Grading Criteria**

Instructors evaluate student performance based on observation, written exercises, and exams given throughout the course. Final grades are assigned by the Academic Director in consultation with the language instructors on the basis of the instructors’ evaluations, the students’ own self-evaluation, and the Academic Director’s observations of the students’ participation in classes and their efforts to use the language outside of the classroom.

Estimated ACTFL oral proficiency interviews are conducted toward the end of the semester to provide a measurement of students’ overall linguistic progress. Thus, course grades provide an assessment of students’ performance in meeting the requirements of the language class while estimated ACTFL scores provide an assessment of students’ linguistic competence in the host language. Both the course grade and the ACTFL score are reported on the transcript.

Grades are assigned by the language instructors based on the following evaluation criteria:

**Daily Quizzes/Written Homework/Oral Work**
- A brief quiz (approximately 10 minutes) will be held daily. The quiz will cover recent grammar, phrases and vocabulary terms. Daily written homework assignments reinforce the material taught through classroom drills.

**Mid-term Oral and Written Examinations**, averaged together
- The oral exam will be conducted one-on-one with a language instructor. The written exam will be a comprehensive test covering grammar, sentence structure and vocabulary.

**Final Oral and Written Examinations**, averaged together
- A group of language teachers will evaluate each student’s oral proficiency level. The written exam will be a comprehensive test covering grammar, sentence structure, vocabulary and writing skills.

**Grading Scale:** The grading scale for all classes is as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>94-100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>90-93%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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Student Expectations

Class Participation
Participation in class refers to attendance, punctuality, attentive listening and active engagement in all lectures, discussions, educational excursions, assignments and other activities. It also means polite and respectful behavior. An absent student is responsible for contacting the instructor, the tutor, and/or fellow students to be prepared for the assignments s/he missed and the ones scheduled for the next class.

Please refer to the SIT Study Abroad handbook for policies on academic integrity, ethics, warning and probation, diversity and disability, sexual harassment and the academic appeals process.