

Guided Self-Instruction in Chinese

CHIN4004 (4 Credits / 60 class hours)

SIT Study Abroad Program:
China: Health, Environment, and Traditional Chinese Medicine

PLEASE NOTE: This syllabus represents a recent semester. Because courses develop and change over time to take advantage of unique learning opportunities, actual course content varies from semester to semester.

Course Description

This intensive one-on-one or one-on-two Chinese language course is conducted during the last month of the program. Combined with the required six-credit language course during the first ten weeks of the program, students who choose the intensive Chinese language track can earn up to ten language credits in one semester. Students also sign a 24-hour language pledge for the duration of this course.

This four-credit *Guided Self-Instruction in Chinese* course is designed for students who have completed our *Advanced Chinese* course (CHIN 3000-3500; 6 credits / 90 class hours.) Emphasizing oral expression and listening comprehension, the goal of this course is to develop students' communicative skills in speaking, listening, reading and writing. The course provides students a grammatical foundation and facilitates language use, with special emphasis on grammar, correct syntax, and verbal expression/writing skills and helps students develop culturally appropriate language skills.

Classes and field-based language activities are taught by experienced, professionally trained, native-speaking teachers of Chinese language using oral proficiency-based methods.

Instruction consists of 60 hours of formal classes with additional outside the classroom assignments and daily homework. Various teaching methods are employed, including in-class discussions on Chinese and American subjects (in Chinese), recitations for aural comprehension and grammar exercises. The course culminates in a final oral presentation to peers, faculty and program partners.

Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of the course, students will be able to accomplish the following in their selected topic of study:

- Speak the language with sufficient accuracy to participate effectively in most formal and informal conversations on practical, social, professional, and abstract topics;

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- Understand the main ideas of most speech in the standard dialect;
- Able to answer questions with clear narration, comparison and description;
- Discuss special fields of competence and interest with ease;
- Support opinions and hypothesize on a broad range of concrete and abstract ideas;
- Distinguish main ideas from supporting information through syntactic, lexical and supra-segmental features;
- Read Chinese newspaper articles, some academic publications or other media;
- Develop interview or survey questions and conduct interviews in Chinese;
- Write a research abstract and essay in Chinese;
- Present a final oral presentation in Chinese, including presentation materials;
- Read over 2000 and write about 800 simplified Chinese characters;

Course Requirements

Reinforcement exercises, both oral and written, are assigned. On average, students are required to complete at least 1 hour of homework daily. Class attendance is required; preparation and participation are highly emphasized. Active engagement and meaningful involvement in class activities are expected. Students should complete their assignments individually, on time, and with full efforts. A late assignment will result in a lower grade.

Language Pledge: At the start of this course, students sign a language pledge that requires students to communicate in Chinese 24-hours per day. With exceptions for emergencies and other a few other circumstances stipulated in the Language Pledge signed by students, we provide the support and guidance to help students meet this important challenge.

Required Texts

Topical texts such as newspaper and magazine articles, film, brochures and advertisements, textbooks, academic journals and web-based materials in the selected study topic will be assigned each week. SIT language text materials created by SIT language teachers will be within the range of selection.

The reference textbook for this course is *Boya Chinese*, (Li Xiaoqi, Beijing University Publishing House, 2015). Li Xiaoqi'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

Other on-line dictionaries and resources provided below:

Chinese Language Learning

www.learn-chinese-language-online.com

<http://chineselanguagelearning.com/>

English-Chinese Dictionary

<http://www.nciku.com/>

<http://www.mdbg.net/>

<http://www.chinese-tools.com/tools/dictionary.html>

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CCTV Learn Chinese

This is the English language version of the Chinese CCTV channel. The website contains a wide range of multimedia materials for Chinese learners from beginner to advanced levels. Incorporating a number of Mandarin Chinese learning programs such as 'Easy Chinese', 'Survival Chinese', 'Growing up with Chinese', 'Happy Chinese' etc. it also includes a section where learners can learn Chinese through news.

Daily Class Schedule (*minimum of 4 contact hours M-F*):

- Classes are scheduled accordingly:
 - 8:30 - 10:20 Listening and Speaking
 - 10:30 - 12:00 Grammar and Comprehension
- There will be a short quiz every day.
- There will be one written and one oral final exam.
- Daily out-of-classroom research activities will supplement regular in-class time. Two out-of-classroom hours are equivalent to one in-class contact hour.

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 and adhere to the Language Pledge.

Oral proficiency interviews will be conducted at the beginning and end of the course to provide a measurement of students' overall linguistic progress. Course grades provide an assessment of students' performance in meeting the requirements of the language class while oral proficiency interviews provide an assessment of students' linguistic competence in standard Chinese. The program's Academic Director and language faculty have obtained ACTFL OPI tester certificates.

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

Daily Quizzes/Written Homework/Oral Work **50%**

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.

Final Abstract and Essay **25%**

The written requirements of this course culminate in an abstract and final essay on the selected topic of study, including analysis of interviews and readings completed during the course. This essay may also incorporate readings from other program courses as part of the essay's argument in written in Chinese. Evaluation will also consider grammar, sentence structure, vocabulary and writing skills.

Final presentation **25%**

Students are required to present their language study learning outcomes. The presentation can in the form of a speech or student created format, self-designed and in Chinese. 30 minutes long.

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

94-100%	A
90-93%	A-
87-89%	B+
84-86%	B

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80-83%	B-
77-79%	C+
74-76%	C
70-73%	C-
67-69%	D+
64-66%	D
below 64	F

Expectations and Policies

Show up prepared. This language course is comprised of a combination of individualized and group learning. Students must participate fully and be on time for all scheduled activities and classes. Intensive language study requires great concentration and dedication, therefore you must be well rested and have a clear head and have your readings completed and points in mind for discussion or clarification. Reading and observation will be tested regularly with quizzes.

Complete assignments on time. Assignments are due at the start of class unless otherwise instructed. Assignments are docked 5% for each day or part of a day that they are late. Contact the Academic Director in advance if health or other issues prevent you from submitting an assignment on time. All assignments must be completed to get a passing grade. Graded assignments will be returned within two weeks of submission and usually within the same week.

During in-class and out-of-classroom activities we are in class. Students are expected to act appropriately; including refraining from using cell phones, ipods, internet, etc.

Comply with academic integrity policies (no plagiarism or cheating, nothing unethical).

Comply with stipulations of the Language Pledge.

Respect differences of opinion (classmates', lecturers, local constituents engaged with on the visits). You are not expected to agree with everything you hear, but you are expected to listen across difference and consider other perspectives with respect. \

Respect differences in peer language levels and degrees of fluency. Collegiality and peer-to-peer learning are basic expectations.

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. Also, refer to the specific information available in the program handbook given to you at Orientation, particularly the code of conduct, the policy on blogging and taking photographs, and the grading policy.

Disability Services: For information about and support from Disability Services (DS) to facilitate an accessible educational experience, please contact Disability Services for SIT at: disabilityservices@sit.edu. Additional information regarding SIT Disability Services can be found on the DS website at: <http://studyabroad.sit.edu/disabilityservices>.

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