



Intermediate Chinese

CHIN 2003-2503 (3 Credits / 45 hours)

SIT Study Abroad Program:
Malaysia and China: International Relations and New Economies

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

Course Description

This intermediate level language course is designed to further develop students' basic level proficiency and communication in Chinese. Primary emphasis is placed on developing listening and speaking skills. However, integrating reading and writing skills is highlighted to reinforce students' oral comprehension and conversation. The *Intermediate Chinese* course begins the second week of the program, and continues throughout the semester students are encouraged to apply their language skills in all facets of the program, especially during free time, homestay, excursions, and the Independent Study Project period. This is a component of the semester program that requires commitment from the learner. The more enthusiastic language learner you are, the easier and better your learning outcomes and the more successful your integration into the host community. Finally, it has been attested by long-term experience that the better your language proficiency, the deeper the richness of your Independent Study Project research.

The Academic Director in cooperation with the Language Program Coordinator facilitates the language program, monitors language classes, and conducts discussions of student progress with instructors. The AD is also the person of record with SIT who assigns the final grades for language classes.

Language Levels and Placement

Non-beginning participants are placed into appropriate language course levels based on oral proficiency interviews and written exams (placement tests) conducted during orientation in Malaysia.

Learning Outcomes

The *Intermediate Chinese* course comprises 45 class hours of instruction (3 credits). Upon completion of the course, students will be able to:

- Acquire primary grammatical structures necessary for participating in semi-complicated conversation;
- Successfully communicate information about daily functions in both urban and rural settings;
- Ask and answer questions about personal history and interests;

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- Negotiate semi-complicated transactions in the homestay, in the market, in public transport, etc;
- Tell some facts about themselves, their families and friends and also to ask for information from others;
- Write short letters and notes with straightforward information using formal Chinese language;
- Describe goals and methods of their ISP in a simple narration.

Course Requirements

Methodology

Trained Chinese language instructors, who are native speakers of the language and who use an oral-proficiency based approach, will conduct all language classes. The classes will be taught in small groups. Students will be immersed in a more informal environment for language classes and enjoy more time interacting with community members. Students will also have opportunities throughout the semester to speak with local students from the program's partner university in Malaysia. As much as possible, language instruction will continue during excursions.

The topics and functions covered in the manual are general introductions; everyday activities; describing memorable events; discussing social and public events; discussing economic issues and other themes introduced in the thematic seminars; describing objects and people; asking for clarifications; asking for help; making complaints; and problem solving. The book also presents new structures that are highlighted and practiced through free and controlled exercises.

At this level, language teachers also integrate current issues and events in Malaysia through articles and stories in local media.

Textbooks

TBD, in conjunction with faculty of the National University of Malaysia (SIT's partner institution in Malaysia).

Daily Class Schedule

Classes are scheduled from 08:30-10:15 on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday.

- Every class will begin with a warming-up exercise and discuss homework of five basic sentences of common expression for daily uses.
- Students will be required to participate in Chinese language lunches with student ambassador language partners one day per week.
- Students are responsible for one short quiz a week on Fridays.
- Students are expected to meet teachers one-on-one for 30 minutes/student every Wednesday to practice their speaking skills and to correct and improve their pronunciations.
- There will be one written mid-term exam. There will be one oral final exam before ISP and one oral exam post-ISP period.

Classes start promptly at 8:30 AM

8:30 – 9:15	Warm-up and grammar/vocabulary building class
9:15 – 9:30	Tea/Coffee Break
9:30 - 10:15	Drill session and conversation class for improving speaking skills

Office Hours by appointment

Office hours are by appointment and the teachers may have additional office hours for students who need further support.

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Overview of Course Content

***Please be aware that topics and excursions may vary to take advantage of any emerging events, to accommodate changes in our lecturers' availability, and to respect any changes that would affect student safety. Students will be notified if this occurs.**

Course Topics

- Greetings
- Introducing oneself and others
- Identifying objects and their owners
- Talking about past and present actions
- Homestay family and everyday life scenarios
- Expressing feelings
- Likes and dislikes
- Asking questions
- Physical conditions
- Making suggestions
- Describing needs
- Discussing perceptions and observations in everyday life
- Articulating ideas and opinions related to the program theme
- Developing interview questions
- ISP or internship scenarios and role plays

Language Structures

- Question endings
- "Wh" questions, question words and particles
- Yes/No questions
- Idiomatic language use
- Word order in sentences
- Superlative and comparative adjectives
- Complex sentences

Additional Information

Homestays

As a complement to the language classes, homestays provide students with the opportunity to learn from different people and to use their language skills continually in a multilingual learning environment. Our goal is to help students develop the necessary communication tools which they can use with their host families, neighbors and Chinese Malaysians on the street.

Field Exercises

Once a week, through field assignments, students enrich their classroom learning experience and their ability to function in real life language situations, assimilate everyday life issues and immerse in the host culture. Field assignments are done both individually and in groups.

Evaluation and Grading Criteria

It is our responsibility to arrange a learning experience for you, but learning a language requires active engagement from the learner's side. The language course focuses on communicative

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competence and linguistically functional ability. Teachers on a daily basis evaluate your performance. At the end of the course, teachers collectively compose a final evaluation for each student, taking into account both classroom performance and the use and development of language skills in the host community. You are graded in each of the following areas: grammar, vocabulary, oral and reading comprehension, fluency, pronunciation, motivation, attendance, progress and usage outside of the classroom.

A weighted letter grade will be assigned according to the following criteria:

Use Outside Class	10%
Active Attendance	10%
Motivation	10%
Quizzes	10%
Mid-Term (written & oral)	30%
Final Exam (Oral)	30% (Pre-ISP 20%, ISP 10%)

Use Outside Class

Students have to be very active and creative in using the language in and out of class. The language instructors observe and keep track of the students' use of the language in various setting out of class (e.g. during the country homestays, during long hour car drives, museum visits, train or air travels etc.). These notes are taken into consideration for the final evaluation of the student's linguistic progress.

Active Attendance

Regular attendance and active participation in all classes and other language activities is vital to your language learning. Your participation should be positive, consistent and productive.

Motivation

In addition to attending class, students should demonstrate active participation in all in-class and out-of-class language activities. Students should demonstrate continuing interest and keep their motivation by asking questions, initiating interactions with Chinese Malaysians (in Chinese/*Hua Yu*), timely submission of assignments/homework, initiating consultations with language teachers when required, constantly extending Chinese vocabulary beyond the SIT language manual etc. Motivation makes up 10% of the final grade, and it is at your language instructors' discretion. Students are responsible for making up any missed work (quizzes, however, cannot be made up) and for retrieving any graded items returned in their absence.

Quizzes

You will be given ongoing tests and quizzes; and the language instructors will grade your progress comparing all their records for each student throughout the semester.

Mid-Term (Written and Oral)

The mid-term is a cumulative review of course content.

Final Exam – The oral exam is given by each teacher for 30 minutes long to assess their communication skills, which include pronunciation, grammar and the appropriate cultural understanding. The students are also evaluated on their fluency and accuracy in the conversation. The Academic Director, based on the language instructors' final evaluations, and your demonstrated effort to apply the language skills learned in the classroom, determines the final semester grade.

Grading Scale:

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The grading scale for all classes is as follows:

94-100%	A
90-93%	A-
87-89%	B+
84-86%	B
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. Be on time, have your readings completed and points in mind for discussion or clarification. Complying with these elements raises the level of class discussion for everyone.

Have assignments completed on schedule, printed, and done accordingly to the specified requirements. This will help ensure that your assignments are returned in a timely manner.

Examinations. They are given examinations covering the major content of these lectures, field trips and readings.

Attendance. All students are required to attend all lectures and to participate in all bi-weekly discussion and analysis sessions. All excursions are mandatory and students must discuss absences with the Academic Director before the planned departure.

Participation. Participation is not the same as attendance. All students are expected to participate fully in all aspects of the course. This means asking pertinent questions to the course's guest lecturers, engaging in discussion and analysis during lectures, group discussions and on excursions. Students are expected to complete the required reading in a timely fashion, and to demonstrate their understanding of texts through reflection, writing, and discussion.

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.

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