



ENGAGE. EXPERIENCE. EMBRACE. EDUCATE.

Study Center in Shanghai, China

Course name: Classical Chinese
Course number: CHIN 3012 SACS
Language of instruction: Chinese
U.S. Semester Credits: 3 semester/4.5 quarter hours
Contact Hours: 45
Term: Spring 2017

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

The course is designed to help students to a) enhance their ability to understand formal speech and writing, which frequently makes allusions to classical text quotes and idioms, lines of classical poetry, and essays; b) conduct research that requires a reading knowledge of classical Chinese texts; c) learn traditional Chinese culture through reading primary texts.

To accomplish the first learning objective, there will be a great variety of chances in class for students to practice speaking with idioms, and quote poetic lines in proper contexts. To accomplish the second goal, the course will introduce the basic classical grammatical patterns and function words. To accomplish the third goal, historical information and cross-references related to the texts will be explained to expand students' knowledge of the Chinese classics. Through this course, students will begin advancing from speaking correctly to speaking eloquently and intellectually.

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

Attendance:	10%
Participation:	10%
Homework:	30%
Midterm Exam:	25%
Final Exam:	25%



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All coursework 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 zero credit for lost assignments.

Neither individual instructors, the Language Director nor the Resident Director have final authority to extend deadlines past the end of the semester, make special arrangements for students to submit late work, or otherwise modify CIEE academic policies. The CIEE Chief Academic Officer is the only person authorized to approve exceptions to these policies.

Course Requirements

Attendance and 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.

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%.

Exams

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

Weekly Schedule

- Week 1:** Orientation Week
- Week 2:** Chinese characters (I): character origin, the structure evolution, construction principles, reference books.
文字（上）：汉字起源、形体演变、构造原则（一）、常用工具书
Classic Chinese prose readings
两晋散文选读
- Week 3:** Chinese characters(II):construction principles, special character phenomenon, reference books.
文字（下）：构造原则（二）、用字现象、常用工具书
Tang and Song dynasty prose readings
唐宋八大家散文选读
- Week 4:** Lexicology: words' connotation, vocabulary structure, reference books
词汇：词义、结构、常用工具书
The Book of Songs and The Analects of Confucius readings.
诗经、论语选读
- Week 5:** Grammar(I): parts of speech, function word, reference books
语法（上）：词类活用、常用虚词、常用工具书
The pre-Qin period readings (historical prose).
先秦历史散文选读
- Week 6:** Grammar(II): fixed structures, special sentence pattern
语法（下）：固定结构、特殊句式
The pre-Qin period readings (philosophical prose).
先秦哲理散文选读
- Week 7:** Field trip: visit Shanghai Museum
了解甲骨、青铜器的实物与文字 了解魏晋至唐的古刻文字 了解其他古代文化

Mid-term Exam
- Week 8:** CIEE Week-long Trip No class
- Week 9:** The Book of Songs.
诗经
Poetry of the Tang and Song Dynasty readings.
唐诗、宋词选读
- Week 10:** Weeklong Spring break No class

- Week 11:** Idiom story
成语故事
- Week 12:** Myth and a type of verse in Yuan Dynasty readings.
神话和元曲选读
- Week 13:** Field trip: Visit Old City God Temple
了解古代寺庙文化 参观城隍庙里的童涵春店,
了解中医文化 文化知识：古代民俗文化
- Week 14:** Excavated documents readings: Chinese bronze inscriptions.
出土文献选读 金文
- Week 15:** Review & Final Test

Textbook

Wang Li. Classical Chinese. Zhonghua Book Company, 1999.
王力, 《古代汉语》. 中华书局, 1999.