



CIEE in Shanghai, China

Course name:	Classical Chinese
Course number:	CHIN 3012 SACS
Programs offering course:	Shanghai Accelerated Chinese Language, Shanghai Business, Language and Culture, Shanghai China in a Global Context
Language of instruction:	Chinese
U.S. Semester Credits:	3 semester/4.5 quarter hours
Contact Hours:	45
Term:	Fall 2019

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

1. Participation: 20%



2. Homework:	20%
3. Midterm Report:	15%
4. Midterm Exam:	20%
5. Final Exam:	25%

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 Center 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. The midterm exam is scheduled on 04/11. The final exam is scheduled on 06/01.



Weekly Schedule

Please note this schedule is subject to change if opportunities arise to enhance the curriculum.

Week 1

1.1

"Confucian Analects" I

Discuss the reading material

Discuss core sentences

Cultural knowledge: an introduction to the Three Confucian sites

"Confucian Analects" II

Discuss the reading material

Discuss core sentences

Reading: Textbook page 41-48

Week 2

2.1

"Confucian Analects" III

Discuss the reading material

Discuss core sentences

Cultural knowledge: Mount. Tai

"Confucian Analects" IV

Discuss the reading material

Discuss core sentences

Chinese language knowledge: pictographic characters

Reading: Textbook page 49-54

Week 3

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

"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

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

"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

5.1

Tang poetry: "Qingming"

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

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

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

Mid-term report and exam

Week 7

7.1

Ancient fable: "The Donkey of Qian"

Discuss the reading material
Discuss core sentences
Cultural knowledge: China provincial abbreviations

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

8.1

Ancient fable: "Blessing or Bane"

Discuss the reading material

Discuss core sentences

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

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

Chinese medicine: 《Huangdi Neijing》

Discuss the reading material

Discuss core sentences

Cultural knowledge: the diagnostic methods of traditional Chinese medicine

Reading: Textbook page 129-135

Week 10

10.1

Chinese drama: "Farewell to My Concubine"

Discuss the reading material

Discuss core sentences

Cultural knowledge: Chinese drama

Chinese family precepts: "A Gentleman Must Be Careful of Making Friends"

Discuss the reading material

Discuss core sentences

Cultural knowledge: traditional Chinese family maxims

Reading: Textbook page 176-181

Week 11

11.1

"Dong Yong and the Weaver Girl" ("Anecdotes About Spirits and Immortals")

Discuss the reading material



Discuss core sentences
Cultural knowledge: traditional Chinese festivals

Chinese historical story: "Zhaojun Goes Beyond the Great Wall as a Bride"

Discuss the reading material
Discuss core sentences
Cultural knowledge: Jiangnan(south of the Yangtze River)and Saibei(North of the Great Wall)

Reading: Textbook page 142-148

Week 12

12.1

Ancient fable: "Adding Feet to a Snake While Drawing It"

Discuss the reading material
Chinese language knowledge: radical in Chinese characters

Reading: Textbook page 21-22

Final Exam

Course Materials

Readings

Yao Meiling. Classical Chinese. East China Normal University Press, 2010. 姚美玲, 《古代汉语》. 华东师范大学出版社, 2010.