



Boston University
Study Abroad Shanghai

CAS LC 311: Third Year Chinese I

Spring/Fall

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course is designed for non-native learners of Chinese who have taken approximately two years of regularly paced college-level Chinese. It aims to further improve the four basic language skills -- listening, speaking, reading, and writing -- while at the same time introducing students to the complex fabric that makes up modern China. Through *Reading Into a New China*, students learn the vocabulary needed to discuss the modern societies of America and China and the issues that face people in those societies today, as presented in the official Chinese media. The overall goal of this course is to bring students' Chinese proficiency to a more advanced level and help them develop an active command of authentic reading materials.

The course meets three times (1.5 hours each time) per week.

Credits: 4 credits

Prerequisites: LC 212 or equivalent proficiency

This course fulfills a single unit in each of the following BU Hub areas:

- Global Citizenship and Intercultural Literacy

COURSE MATERIALS:

Textbook: *Reading Into a New China*, Volume 1 (Chinese) 2nd Edition
By Duanduan Li, Irene Liu. Cheng & Tusi Press, 2017.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

By completing this course, students are expected to reach an oral proficiency that is equivalent to or higher than Advanced Low of the standard OPI, and at the same time, to have a very good command of the Chinese language in reading and writing. They are able to fulfill communication tasks independently. In addition to knowing a total of about 3,200 words and phrases (approximately 2,400 Chinese characters in writing) from the textbooks,



students understand associated synonyms, near-synonyms and antonyms. More specifically, they can demonstrate the following skills:

- Comprehending short authentic Chinese materials of common topics in different styles, both orally and in writing
- Readiness for independent study in Chinese society and culture
- Making oral or written presentations in a formal or semi-formal style that is well organized, culturally appropriate, and rich and proper in vocabulary
- Communicating with native Mandarin speakers orally at natural speed and with accurate understanding of common idioms
- Knowing enough cultural and societal information about China to ensure smooth communication and comparison
- Having excellent strategy for future study

COURSE OUTCOMES:

If students come to class regularly, complete all of the in-class assignments and homework, and average a B on their tests, they will be able to reach the advanced-low level on the language proficiency scale developed by the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL).

- In terms of speaking, this means that students will have the ability to narrate and describe events in the major time frames of past, present, and future with good control of aspect. Students will be able to combine and interweave their narration and description skills to relate relevant and supporting facts in connected, paragraph-length discourse.
- In terms of writing, students will be able to meet a range of work and academic writing needs. They can demonstrate an ability to narrate and describe with detail in all major time frames with good control of aspect. They are able to write straightforward summaries on topics of general interest. Their writing exhibits a variety of cohesive devices in texts up to several paragraphs in length.
- In terms of listening, students are able to understand conventional narrative and descriptive texts, such as expanded descriptions of persons, places, and things and narrations about past, present, and future events. Speech is predominantly in familiar target-language patterns. Listeners understand the main facts and many supporting details.
- In terms of reading, students are able to understand conventional narrative and descriptive texts, such as expanded descriptions of persons, places, things and narrations about past, present, and future events. These texts reflect the standard linguistic conventions of the written form of the language in such a way that readers can predict what they are going to read.



COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

In order to achieve the objectives of this course and to ensure maximum efficient utilization of class time, students are expected to spend at least TWO to THREE hours per day outside of class reviewing daily all new words and grammar patterns, memorizing vocabulary, completing homework assignments, listening to supplementary audio materials and previewing the next day's class.

This course requires maximum student participation and preparation. Students are expected to come to class having fully prepared to participate as actively and accurately as possible. In order to maintain a fast pace of acquisition, students are required to prepare each lesson before class, which means you need to gain familiarity with the new textbook lesson. Study new words (pronunciation, meaning, usage, and characters) and grammatical structures on your own.

ASSESSMENT, GRADING SCALE, AND COURSE EXPECTATIONS:

Assessment:

Students' language proficiency will be assessed in a variety of ways, both through formal oral and written tests and informally in class. After students have acquired vocabulary or basic linguistic structures, they will have various opportunities to demonstrate that they have remembered and understood the new material, can apply it in a similar context, compare and analyze, as well as use the language creatively. Informal assessments will take on a variety of forms and may include interviewing your Chinese co-workers or friends, writing a short email to your teacher, texting WeChat messages, using new words to have free conversations with your teacher.

Grading Scale:

Attendance 10%	93- 100	A
Participation 10%	90-92.99	A-
Homework 10%	86-89.99	B+
Compositions 10%	83-85.99	B
In-class dictation quizzes 10%	80-82.99	B-
Oral Presentations 10%	73-75.99	C
Midterm exam 15%	70-72.99	C-
(10% for written, 5% for oral)	60-69.99	D
Final exam 25%	0-59.99	F
(15% for written, 10% for oral)		

Attendance, Preparation and Participation (20% of grade):

Students are required to attend all classes scheduled and take an active part in classroom activities. Typically, one unexcused absence lowers 0.5 point of your final grade. and your final grade will be lowered one level after 5 unexcused absences. Frequent tardiness will also negatively affect your attendance score and class performance. Absences will not only hurt your grade but also determine borderline cases.

Active participation means that students do not only speak when called upon but also contribute to class discussions. Students who do not engage in class discussions and only speak when called upon cannot expect to receive a grade higher than C for participation. Please also note that students cannot receive a participation grade if they are absent from class.

Homework (10% of grade): 9 homework in total

Regular homework will be given at the end of each lesson (10%). Late or incomplete homework will be graded but only receive half credit. Homework received more than one week after the due date will receive no credit.

Compositions (10% of grade): 3 compositions in total

Composition Requirements: With given topics, use first person narration; use as many new words and grammar patterns as possible; 350-500 characters, typed or handwritten, double space. Late or incomplete compositions will be graded but only receive half credit. Composition received more than one week after the due date will receive no credit.

In-class Dictation Quizzes (10% of grade): 27 Dictations in total



A written quiz on Chinese characters and grammar will be given before the new lesson is introduced. This means that you are required to preview each lesson before class. Missed quizzes cannot be made up. You will have the option of dropping the lowest quiz grade to allow flexibility for excused absences and emergencies.

Oral Practices (10% of grade) 3 Oral Presentations + in class discussions

Oral practices are not limited to oral reports you are required to give. It also refers to discussions and debates after each new lesson is introduced. Oral reports are usually followed by a Q & A session between the instructor, you, and your classmates.

Midterm Exam 15%
(10% for written, 5% for oral)

Final Exam 25%
(15% for written, 10% for oral)

COURSE POLICIES:

Absences:

Excused absences will only be granted for documented illness or emergency, for which you MUST contact Instructor PRIOR TO CLASS. (Doctors in China routinely give out notices for workplaces, to document your illness.) If for some justifiable reasons you need to plan to be absent from class on a certain day, you are required to give advance notice to the instructor, except for emergency cases. Each unexcused absence will result in a 0.5% deduction from your final grade. Make-up tests or exams will not be permitted except in the case of illness or emergency situations.

Academic Integrity/Plagiarism Statement:

Cheating and plagiarism are forbidden. It is your responsibility to know the Academic Conduct Code. See: www.bu.edu/academics/resources/academic-conduct-code/

COURSE SCHEDULE:

	Monday	Wednesday	Thursday
Week 1	Arrival and orientation		
Week 2	Educational field trip		
Week 3	Introduction	Lesson 1 人口大爆炸	Lesson 1 人口大爆炸



Week 4	Lesson 1 人口大爆炸	Lesson 2 中国第13亿个小公民	Lesson 2 中国第13亿个小公民
Week 5	Lesson 2 中国第13亿个小公民	Lesson 3 住房	Lesson 3 住房
Week 6	Lesson 3 住房	Lesson 4 教育	Lesson 4 教育
Week 7	Holiday break		
Week 8	Lesson 4 教育	Lesson 5 一个初三毕业生的星期天	Lesson 5 一个初三毕业生的星期天
Week 9	Lesson 5 一个初三毕业生的星期天	Review: Lesson 1 - 5	Midterm exams (Written and oral)
Week 10	Lesson 6 大学生就业全新变化	Lesson 6 大学生就业全新变化	Lesson 6 大学生就业全新变化
Week 11	Lesson 6 大学生就业全新变化	Lesson 7 大学生与快餐中转站	Lesson 7 大学生与快餐中转站
Week 12	Lesson 7 大学生与快餐中转站	Lesson 7 大学生与快餐中转站	Lesson 8 恋爱婚姻
Week 13	Lesson 8 恋爱婚姻	Lesson 8 恋爱婚姻	Lesson 8 恋爱婚姻
Week 14	Lesson 9 一则征婚启事和应征者	Lesson 9 一则征婚启事和应征者	Lesson 9 一则征婚启事和应征者
Week 15	Lesson 9 一则征婚启事和应征者	Lesson 10 家庭 妇女	Lesson 10 家庭 妇女
Week 16	Lesson 10 家庭 妇女	Lesson 10 家庭 妇女	Review: Lesson 6 - 10
Week 17	Final exams (Written and oral)	Departure	

This schedule may be altered depending on class progress and changing circumstances.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:

1. To set up Chinese input and output on your computer:
www.pinyinjoe.com
2. Chinese dictionaries:
On the computer: <http://www.nciku.com>
On mobile phones: Pleco or nciku
3. Flashcards:
<http://www.yellowbridge.com/chinese/fc-options.php?deck=ic3-1-1>
4. Character writing practice: <http://www.skritter.com/>