COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This intermediate Chinese course is designed for students who have completed one year of university-level Chinese (LC 111 and LC 112). This course will cover Lessons 1 to 28 in the textbook A New China. It will help students develop a strong foundation for the four language skills (listening, speaking, reading, and writing). The course also aims to offer insights into the culture and civilization of countries where Chinese is spoken. Entering students should be able to maintain basic communication skills both orally and in writing. Following ACTFL guidelines, this intermediate level course will focus on language proficiency and cultural awareness, and it comprises a variety of integrated classes, which meet for a total of 18 hours per week. Component classes include grammar lectures, a drill and activity section, and one-on-one conversation sessions.

Grammar Sessions meet for two hours per day. During class, instructors use question and answer method to ensure students’ understanding of the textbook and appropriate applications of the grammatical structures, sentence patterns, idioms, and vocabulary in interpretational, interpersonal, and presentational modes.

Activity Sessions meet for two hours per day and aimed to reinforce language skills covered in grammar sessions. This is a task-based class with various exercises designed to stimulate students to develop their real world communication skills, and grasp both the real function as well as correct and natural usage of new words, idioms, patterns and structures. Emphasis is placed on proficiency.

One-on-One: This class meets for at least 15 minutes each afternoon. Students are expected to use newly acquired words to engage in discussions about cultural and societal issues, which are related, but not limited, to the contents of the textbook.

Credits: 8
Prerequisites: First-Year Chinese (LC 112) or by placement test

COURSE MATERIALS:

A New China: An Intermediate Reader of Modern Chinese
ISBN: 978-0-691-14836-6

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

Keeping in mind that native speakers of English learning Chinese require about 2,200 hours of class time before they can be fluent and that this class exposes students to a minimum of 130 class hours, the objectives of this class are to help students:

- Continue to develop basic communication skills at “survival” level (e.g. ask and answer simple questions on familiar topics and handle a simple situation or transaction);
- Combine and recombine learned materials in personal meaningful communication;
• Locate Chinese language information on familiar topics (e.g. daily life, asking direction, hobbies, and so on);
• Continue to gain concrete knowledge of Chinese customs and manners, geography, shopping conventions, and major holidays in Chinese-speaking countries;
• Continue to acquire some commonly used idiomatic expressions;
• Continue to master the standard sound system and acquire correct pronunciation and tones;
• Continue to learn what it is like to live in China or other Chinese-speaking countries;
• Be able to use more complex grammatical constructions such as:
  - Complex directional and resultative complements; complements of state
  - Progressive and continuous aspect
  - Passive constructions (marked and unmarked)
  - Comparative constructions (comparative and superlative)
  - More complex sentence structures (e.g. sufficient and necessary conditional, causal and disposal constructions)
  - Serial verb constructions
  - Reduplication of nouns, adjectives and verbs
• Continue to study when to use formal and informal registers of language
• Learn to describe or narrate one’s past experiences, current condition, and future plans; express affirmation and refusals, personal opinions, make suggestions, and so on.

COURSE OUTCOMES:

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

• In terms of speaking, students will be able to recombine learned material to express personal meanings, such as asking and answering simple questions and handling a straightforward survival situation. They will be able to produce sentence-level language.

• In terms of writing, students can satisfy some practical writing needs, such as simple messages and letters, requests for information, and notes. They are able to create with the language to communicate simple facts and ideas in a series of loosely connected sentences on topics of personal interest and social needs.

• In terms of listening, students will be able to understand information conveyed in simple, sentence-length speech on familiar or everyday topics. They are able to engage in face-to-face conversations or in routine listening tasks such as understanding highly contextualized messages, straightforward announcements, or simple instructions and directions.

• In terms of reading, students will be able to understand short, non-complex texts that convey basic and familiar information and deal with basic personal topics, such as in notices, weather reports, or a social announcement. Students at this level may comprehend some meaning from short connected texts featuring description and narration, dealing with familiar topics.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

This is a high-intensity course, in order to achieve the objectives of this course, students are expected to spend at least THREE or FOUR hours per day outside of class reviewing daily
all new words and grammar patterns, memorizing vocabulary, completing homework assignments, listening to supplementary audio materials, knowing well the new vocabulary for the next day’s daily quiz and previewing the next day’s class.

To ensure maximum efficient utilization of class time, you 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 in the Study Guide on your own. The instructor will distribute a study guide handout in class before every new lesson is introduced.

**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:**

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<tr>
<th>Score Range</th>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>100%-93%</td>
<td>A</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>92%-90%</td>
<td>A-</td>
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<tr>
<td>89%-88%</td>
<td>B+</td>
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<tr>
<td>87%-83%</td>
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<td>C+</td>
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<tr>
<td>77%-73%</td>
<td>C</td>
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<tr>
<td>72%-70%</td>
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<td>69%-68%</td>
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<td>59%-0%</td>
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**Attendance, Preparation and Participation (15% of grade):**
Students are expected to attend class regularly, have read all of the assignments before they are discussed in class, and participate actively in class discussions. Active participation means that students do not only speak when called upon but 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 and Compositions (20% of grade):**
Regular homework will be given at the end of each lesson (14%).
You will be required to write six compositions, three for LC 211 and LC 212 each (6%).

**Composition Requirements:** Create a title; use first person narration; use as many new words and grammar patterns as possible; 250-400 characters, handwritten, double-spaced.

Late or incomplete homework or compositions will be graded but only receive half credit.
Homework received more than one week after the due date will receive no credit.

**In-class Dictation Quizzes (15% of grade):**
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. Guidance will be provided in Study Guide. There are a total of 28 quizzes. 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.

**Weekly Test (20% of grade)**
Each test will have written test, an oral presentation that will be followed by a Q & A session between the instructor, you, and your classmates. See the Course Schedule for dates.

**Oral Final Exam for LC 211 (10% of grade)**
The speaking topics will be selected from the first part of class materials (e.g. Lesson 1-12)

**Written Final Exam for LC 211 (20% of grade)**
The content will cover from Lesson 1 to 12.

**Oral Final Exam for LC 212 (10% of grade)**
Choose any speaking topics that interest you, such as something you found interesting in your textbook or field trips.

**Written Final Exam for LC 212 (20% of grade)**
The content will cover from Lesson 13 to 28.

**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 reason 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 1% deduction from your final grade.** (3 unexcused lateness = 1 point deduction) 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/

**ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:**

1. To set up Chinese input and output on your computer: www.pinyinjoe.com
2. Chinese dictionaries:
   - On the computer: http://www.neiku.com
   - On mobile phones: Pleco or nciku