CAS LC 411/412: Fourth Year Chinese

Summer

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course is designed for non-native learners of Chinese who have taken approximately three years of regularly paced college-level Chinese, and have reached an oral proficiency level equivalent to an Intermediate High on the standard OPI, as well as a similar level of reading and writing proficiency. Following the ACTFL guidelines, this course aims to help students raise their Chinese communication skills comprehensively to a true advanced level so that they can pursue graduate studies at a Chinese university, conduct academic research in China, or work in a Chinese professional environment. The course comprises a variety of integrated classes, which meet for a total of 15 hours per week. Component classes include grammar lectures, discussion section, and one-on-one conversation sessions.

Grammar Sessions meet for two hours per day. Advanced grammatical knowledge, structural refinement, and vocabulary development are integrated with and contextualized in cultural and societal content. Communicative and interactive methods are used, and students learn cultural knowledge and come to understand grammatical structures with intensive and challenging questions and answers.

Discussion Session meets for one hour per day and reinforces communication skills learned in grammar sessions. It resumes to focus on the structures and vocabulary students have just learned. When answering most of the questions, students are required to express their real ideas in short paragraphs, namely, three or four well-connected sentences. Fluency and accuracy are also emphasized. Students are expected to participate more creatively and discuss or debate culturally intensive topics with fellow students.

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. Carefully designed open-ended questions are used to help students further develop their range of language and spontaneity and fluency in speech.

Credits: 8 credits (4 credits for LC 411 and 4 credits for LC 412)
Prerequisites: LC 312 or equivalent proficiency
COURSE MATERIALS:


COURSE OBJECTIVES AND OUTCOMES:

The goal of this course is to ensure that each student reaches an oral proficiency at the level equivalent to or higher than the Advanced Low of the standard OPI, and a similar level for communication skills in reading and writing. 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 Advanced level on the language proficiency scale developed by the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL).

- For speaking, this means that students will be able to communicate with accuracy and fluency in order to participate fully and effectively in conversations on a variety of topics in formal and informal settings from both concrete and abstract perspectives. Students discuss their interests and special fields of competence, explain complex matters in detail, and provide lengthy and coherent narrations, all with ease, fluency, and accuracy. Students present their opinions on a number of issues of interest to them, such as social and political issues, and provide structured arguments to support these opinions. Students are able to construct and develop hypotheses to explore alternative possibilities.

- In terms of writing, Students are able to produce most kinds of formal and informal correspondence, in-depth summaries, reports, and research papers using advanced-level words and sentence structures on a variety of social, academic, and professional topics. Their treatment of these issues moves beyond the concrete to the abstract.

- In terms of listening, students can follow linguistically complex extended discourse such as that found in academic and professional settings, lectures, speeches and reports. Comprehension is no longer limited to the listener’s familiarity with subject matter, but also comes from a command of the language that is supported by a broad vocabulary, an understanding of more complex structures and linguistic experience within the target culture.

- When reading, students are able to understand texts from many genres dealing with a wide range of subjects, both familiar and unfamiliar. Comprehension is no longer limited to the reader’s familiarity with subject matter, but also comes from a command of the language that is supported by a broad vocabulary, an understanding of complex structures and knowledge of the target culture. Readers at the Superior level can draw inferences from textual and extra linguistic clue.
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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<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Attendance, preparation, and participation</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>93-100 A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Homework and compositions</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>90-92.99 A-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In-class dictation quizzes</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>86-89.99 B+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weekly tests</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>83-85.99 B</td>
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<tr>
<td>(10% for Written, 10% for Oral)</td>
<td></td>
<td>80-82.99 B-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weekly tests</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>76-79.99 C+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(10% for Written, 10% for Oral)</td>
<td></td>
<td>73-75.99 C</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final exam</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>70-72.99 C-</td>
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<tr>
<td>(20% for Written, 10% for Oral)</td>
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<td>60-69.99 D</td>
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<td>0-59.99 F</td>
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Attendance, Preparation, and Participation (15% of grade):

The pace of the class will be steady. Students are required to attend all classes scheduled and take an active part in classroom activities. Typically, one unexcused absence lowers 1/2 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 (20% of grade):

Regular homework will be given at the end of each lesson. (14%) 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.

You will also 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; 600-1000 characters, handwritten, double-spaced.

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. 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):

There will be a test every week. Each test will have a written and oral component. The oral presentation will be followed by a Q & A session between the instructor, you, and your classmates. The topics for oral presentations will be given in the previous week and students are required to make well-organized speeches with sophisticated structure and stylish vocabulary on given topics.

Final Exam (30% of grade)
(20% for written, 10% for oral)
Contents for LC 411 written exam will cover the first part of class materials. Contents for LC 412 written exam will cover the second part of class materials. Speaking topics for LC 411 oral exam will be selected from the first part of course materials. Speaking topics for LC 412 oral exam can be any topics that interest you, such as something you find interesting in your textbook, during your field trips, or in your daily life in Shanghai.

**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 emergencies.

**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/](http://www.bu.edu/academics/resources/academic-conduct-code/)

**ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:**

1. To set up Chinese input and output on your computer: [www.pinyinjoe.com](http://www.pinyinjoe.com)
2. Chinese dictionaries:
   - On the computer: [http://www.nciku.com](http://www.nciku.com)
   - On mobile phones: Pleco or nciku
3. Flashcards:
   - [http://www.quizlet.com](http://www.quizlet.com) (search integrated Chinese Volume 1 lesson X and you will find a lot of existing flash cards)