

CHIN 2024 Advanced Language Skills I

Brooklyn College - City University of New York
Department of Modern Languages and Literature
Study Abroad in China

Instructor: Prof. Yonggang Huang, Ph.D.

Textbook:

New Practical Chinese Reader (5), Liu Xun, Beijing Language University Press, 2005, ISBN 7-5619-1408-3

Course Description:

This is a Chinese course for further development of writing and reading skills for students with basic knowledge of the structure of Chinese. Continued practice in reading and understanding authentic literary and nonliterary texts on a variety of levels. 3 credits/3 hours.

Course outcomes:

1. Students develop skills of conceptual analysis and critical thinking skills of examining, comparing, and assessing literatures.
2. Students describe and analyze structural, thematic and other characteristic elements of the various literary texts read in the class, demonstrating an awareness of the possibilities of ambiguity of multiple perspectives.

Methods of Assessment:

1. Class discussion: Students are required to read the assigned texts and prepared for the presentation of their write assignment before the class. Students are strongly expected to make contributions to class discussion.
2. Examination: Students are asked to create sentences with key expressions from the text
3. Essays: Students are required to write a short essay according to the theme of each chapter and serve as the commentator to critic his or her partners' essay, then present to class.

Grading:

- | | |
|------------------|-----|
| 1. Participation | 20% |
| 2. Essays | 40% |
| 3. Midterm exam | 20% |
| 4. Final exam | 20% |

Course schedule:

Session 1: Introduction

Session 2: Chap. 51 Motherly Love

Session 3: Chap. 52 Valentine's Day

Session 4: Chap. 53 Five Flavors

Session 5: Chap. 54 The Beijing City

Session 6: Chap. Review

Mid-term Exam

Session 7: Chap. 55 New Vegetarianists

Session 8: Chap. 56 The Story of Rice Crossing

Session 9: Chap. 57 Newly Married

Session 10: Chap. Review

Session 11: Chap. 58 Memory of My Father

Session 12: Chap. 59 Secrets of Eighteen Years

Session 13: Chap. 60 "Pearl Bird"

Session 14: General review

(Final exam)

University's policy on Academic Integrity:

"The faculty and administration of Brooklyn College support an environment free from cheating and plagiarism. Each student is responsible for being aware of what constitutes cheating and plagiarism and for avoiding both. The complete text of the CUNY Academic Integrity Policy and the Brooklyn College procedure for implementing that policy can be found at this site: <http://www.brooklyn.cuny.edu/bc/policies>. If a faculty member suspects a violation of academic integrity and, upon investigation, confirms that violation, or if the student admits the violation, the faculty member MUST report the violation."

Because this class is part of the study abroad in China program, students are encouraged to make the best use of their time in China to practice the Chinese language. In addition to attending and learning in regular class sessions, students are also required

1. To find partners or form small groups to practice the lessons and language skills after class; and
2. To speak Chinese whenever and wherever they can while in China.

Attendance and Participation:

Students should actively participate in class activities. Prompt attendance is mandatory for all class sessions. Each absence without instructor's permission will result in 2 percent deduction from the final grade of the course; two late arrivals or early departures are equal to one absence.

As this course is part of the study abroad program, students are advised that their behavior, attitude and journal submissions via email during the program may affect their final grade for the course.

Non-Brooklyn College students are required to keep a course portfolio of all work and assignment submissions for this course, to be evaluated by the appropriate office and committee at their home institution for equivalent credits.

Class Meetings

Most formal class sessions are scheduled to be conducted during our stay in Nanjing, but a few (2-3) sessions may take place while the group is visiting the first two cities of Beijing and Xi'an. Normally, the class meets 8:30-11:30 am on weekdays (and on some weekend days and evenings if necessary) during our stay in Nanjing.

One hour lab time each day:

Students can come to the place where the instructor is, who will answer questions (either in the afternoon or evening). It is not compulsory for students to come if they prefer to do the lab work in their room with their own computer, and in their own self-designated time (the point is that everyone must do it and get ready for the performance quiz of next morning).

Actual schedule of the class meetings and the location may not be announced until the group's arrival in China and may be subject to change, sometimes at short notice. Students are advised to check their email often for notification for possible changes. The instructor reserves the right to make necessary adjustments in the class schedule and evaluation in response to the changing situation during the course of the program in China.

Assignment of Keeping Journals

An important goal of the program is to enable each student to explore and experience China in his or her own individual ways, such that you can obtain maximum academic benefits from this China trip. Keeping a journal during the trip will help serve that purpose well.

You will be keeping a journal during the trip and submit the journal entries as part of the trip and course participation to their course instructor (with a copy to Prof. Lu, the program director); see the instructors' email addresses below. Here are some guidelines:

How to Write a Journal Entry

1. Describe a **specific, very meaningful, phenomenon or incident** that you observe or experience during the 2-3 days in a city, something that caught your attention and has an impact on you personally, culturally or intellectually, or something that has touched you deeply. Do not just list what you have done during the days (which will give you no credit). Tell us the story, with descriptive details, of a meaningful **intercultural encounter/instance**. This should be the 1st paragraph.
2. Then, in the 2nd paragraph, analyze or reflect upon that. Write down your reflections and thoughts on that experience or observation from a cross-cultural or intercultural perspective. If you are in one of those non-language classes, try to tie that to what you have read in the textbook(s) or what we are discussing in class.
3. In the 3rd paragraph, summarize or conclude this journal entry by making connections to a larger picture of what you have read, heard and studied previously in other classes, or even what you have experienced back in America and/or other contexts.
4. Each entry should be about 3 paragraphs in length. However, you are free to organize your ideas in what you believe to be creative ways; it is not a good idea to write one journal entry in only one paragraph.

How and When to Submit

1. Write an entry about every 3 days; a total of 5 (FIVE) journals are expected of you during the trip:
 - a. ONE entry for visit to Beijing
-- To be submitted on the day when you arrive in 2nd city of Xi'an
 - b. ONE for visit to Xi'an
-- To be submitted on the day when you arrive in Nanjing
 - c. TWO entries during stay in Nanjing (including side trips if any)
-- To be submitted every 6 days
 - d. ONE final entry for visit to Suzhou and Shanghai
-- To be submitted no later than 10 pm on the eve of departure from Shanghai
-- This final journal entry should be a bit longer than the previous ones. You need have 2 additional paragraphs in which to reflect on the overall trip experience: your gains from the trip, the impact of the trip on you, your recommendations for the trip, etc.
2. Submit your journals via email to the instructor via email:
 - a. Email each entry to the instructor, with a copy to: ChinaJournals@yahoo.com
 - b. And, if you are taking a class with another professor, also copy that professor.
3. At the beginning of each journal, please clearly indicate:
 - a. the course #(s),
 - b. course title(s), &
 - c. the professor(s) of the course(s), if you are taking more than one course
4. Name each journal entry clearly, by making the subject of the message as Journal #1 (#2, #3, #4, etc.) from XXXX (your full name).
5. In one email message, only send one journal entry by way of **copy & paste** (Do not send it as attachment, please). Send each journal entry separately; Do NOT attempt to include more than one journal entry in one message.

Grade and Reward

1. The professor will read your journals and respond if needed. If your journals are well written, professors may use them to replace some assignment(s) of the course, at the professors' discretion.
2. If you are taking more than one course, you still only write a total of FIVE journal entries; be sure you email each entry to both instructors if you are taking two courses from two professors.
3. The journals are part of the trip and course participation grade.
4. If you have been doing an exceptionally good job with the journals, the professors will give you extra credit (as much as 10% of the grade) for the course(s), at the professors' discretion.