

Chinese 411: Advanced Mandarin Conversation

Fall 2020: TR 1:30 - 2:45pm, Zoom

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Course description

This course provides students who have completed Chinese 302/303/305, or equivalence, the opportunity to develop their skills of conversing in Mandarin at the Advanced Level on the ACTFL (American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages) [proficiency scale](#), or 2 to 2+ on the ACTFL /ILR ([Interagency Language Roundtable](#)) scale. Students will receive trainings in the use of appropriate social protocols and communicative practices for a variety of living and working settings with people speaking Mandarin. The goals of this course are to provide instructions that enable students narrate, describe, compare and contrast in paragraph-length discourse that is coherent, complex and engaging, as well as socially and culturally appropriate in Mandarin [Oral Communication Focus].

Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs)

Upon successful completion of the course, students will

1. be able to comprehend the spoken Chinese and satisfy routine social demands and limited work requirements;
2. develop speaking strategies and be able to converse with commend of appropriate vocabulary and complex linguistic structures [Oral focus];
3. become familiar with the format of ACTFL (/ILR) Oral Proficiency Interview (OPIs), and able to participate in most formal and informal interactions with cohesive discourse to a certain extent [Oral focus];
4. be able to verbally perform at Advanced or emerging Superior level with fluency and accuracy, mostly in paragraph length [Oral focus];
5. be able to give and understand complicated, detailed, and extensive directions and make non-routine changes in such situations as travel and accommodation arrangements [Oral focus].

In addition, the following Chinese Section SLOs and university-wide Institutional Learning Objectives (ILOs) apply, at least in part, to this course:

1. engage in oral communication in Chinese in various social contexts, in linguistically and culturally appropriate ways [Chinese SLO Oral];
2. [ILO 1. Know – Breadth and Depth of Knowledge] 1a. General education - Languages
3. [ILO 2. Do – Intellectual and Practice Skills] 2c. Communicate and report – oral communication; listening
4. [ILO 3. Value – Personal and Social Responsibility]

- 3a. Continuous learning and personal growth: self-assessment/reflection/discipline;
- 3b. Respect for people and cultures: respect for differences in cultural and personal identity; cultural awareness

Course Materials

1. Textbook (required): [Developing Chinese Fluency: Intermediate – advanced](#), by Phillis Zhang, Boston: Cengage Learning, 2009.
2. Workbook (optional): **Developing Chinese Fluency: Intermediate – advanced**, by Phillis Zhang, Boston: Cengage Learning, 2009
3. Handouts will be distributed in class or loaded to Lulima.

Student's Responsibilities

1. Attendance: Attendance is mandatory. Absences without valid reasons will affect your grade. Anyone who is late for **more than 15 minutes** will be regarded as absent. **Four** unexcused absences will result in one letter grade lower toward your final grade (A becomes B, B becomes C, C becomes D, etc.).

Classroom regulations:

- a). No use of electronic devices unless you are directed to do so.
- b). You should refrain yourself from eating (a heavy meal) or drinking unless you have special need to do so. Water bottle is ok.
2. Class preparation and participation: All students are expected to participate actively in the day's language practice. Students' class participation and performance will be evaluated daily and the evaluation will be used as a reference for final grading.
3. Homework and three Journals: All homework and assignments must be turned in on the due day. Late submissions will NOT be accepted unless with valid reasons. Journals are required assignments for communications in timely manner with the teacher.
4. Tests, presentation, OPIs and Final Exam: Every effort should be made to take tests and OPIs at the specified times. If you know you must miss a class ahead of time, tell the teacher before that class. Tests cannot be made up unless arrangements are made BEFORE being absent from class. No one is allowed to make up a missed test without a valid, written excuse.

You are reminded that each student's background, interests, learning style, difficulties and goals are different. Please be patient with each other and do not hesitate to see me for extra help or explanations in certain areas.

Grading

Attendance and class participation	20%
Homework (15%) and assignments (3 journals 10%)	25%
(Pre-) OPI (5%) & Oral tests (2 x 10%)	25%
Presentation	15%
Final examination (Oral Proficiency Interview)	15%

Final percentage score will be converted to a letter grade based on the following:

90 - 100% = A, 80 - 89% = B, 70 - 79% = C, 60 - 69% = D, 0 - 59% = F