

CHN442: Fourth Year Reading and Writing: Advanced Topics II
Web-based advanced Chinese course (Spring 2021)

Instructor: Jing Wu/ Wu Laoshi/ 吴老师/ 吳老師

Email: wujing@hawaii.edu

PURPOSE / OBJECTIVES OF COURSE

This course, a continuation of CHN 441, is designed to strengthen student skills in reading and writing at the Advanced level of the ACTFL language proficiency descriptions and push students toward the Advanced High (emerging Superior) level. Students will gain reading and writing skills in standard (Mandarin) Chinese by working with advanced authentic texts with carefully designed exercises designed to guide comprehension and strengthen reading strategies. Specifically, students will, as a result of this course:

1. Become aware of the skills and strategies available for improving reading ability in Chinese.
2. Be able to understand main ideas, most supporting details, and argumentative structure in expository and lightly analytical Chinese newspaper and magazine reports, opinion pieces, and other texts on advanced topics directed at an educated general readership.
3. Be familiarized with Chinese computer technology and the World Wide Web.
4. Become acquainted with aspects of Chinese culture and social behavior that relate to the texts.
5. Develop the ability to engage in analysis and argumentation in Chinese by making substantive contributions to asynchronous text-based discussions with peers and instructor in Web-based forums.
6. Develop the ability to compose grammatical and organized essays in Chinese related to the above topics through a process of peer publication and editing.
7. Develop the ability to assess the level of a selected article in Chinese and analyze the article's argumentation and other features using techniques that one has learned in this course.
8. Contribute original written posts and essays of quantity and quality sufficient to meet Writing Intensive (WI) course standards, the equivalent of 24 total pages or approximately 7200 characters.

TEXTS & MATERIALS

A series of specially authored reading lessons based on authentic materials, developed under the sponsorship and guidance of the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL), comprise the text of the course. These lessons and all required materials are integrated into the course Web site.

TOPICS (Course Content)

0. Introduction and Orientation ("Welcome")
1. Dangerous Arrogance
2. Say No to Luxury
3. McDonald's and World Food Culture
4. The Rules of Face
5. Indescribable Hangzhou
6. Class Project

The articles to be covered in the course are characterized by a mix of linguistic functions at the upper end of the Advanced proficiency level. In these materials, Advanced language functions such as narration, description, and comparison feature relatively technical, low-frequency vocabulary and complex syntax featuring a distinctly written (书面语 *shūmiànyǔ*) style; students will learn strategies to approach the language of this type. Some of the texts make forays into linguistic functions at the Superior level, including exposition of abstract/hypothetical argument.

COURSE WRITING REQUIREMENTS

This course requires a significant amount of written production. Text is the *only* means of communication in the course; students use Web-based forums to discuss course texts and the associated online exercises they have completed. Many of these exercises focus on the usage, language patterns, and argumentative structure of the source texts, bringing those features to students' attention as potential expressive tools to use in their own writing. The instructor participates fully in the online discussions, offering answers to student questions, and challenging students to support their positions. In order to receive full marks, students must make substantive contributions to the discussion in each unit.

One of the course's chief learning outcomes targets the development of the ability to write native-like argumentative essays approximately three pages in length. Students compose essays using the Draft Book function in the Moodle courseware, which allows them to work on the essay over time. Each essay requires the submission of at least two drafts. When the first draft is handed in using the Draft Book, it is automatically published as a thread in the Essay Discussion Forum in the current unit. Students are required to read and respond to the first drafts of at least two of their peers, offering comments and questions. The instructor also offers each student individual feedback on the draft, giving suggestions on usage, argumentation, and grammar, and publishing the feedback in the same thread. The student author returns to the Draft Book to perform revisions, and when s/he hands in the second draft, it is published inline in the original thread. A second round of commenting follows. Following this iterative process through five units, students are able to significantly improve their written expression in Chinese at the Advanced level.

WEB/COMPUTER LITERACY

Based on our experience, we feel it is necessary to review and/or familiarize the students with computer literacy involving Chinese at the outset during the Welcome and Orientation unit. We also encourage students to use the Web as a resource for research, e.g., for finding cultural resources.

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES

Participation and Punctuality: The course is designed to take place exclusively on the Web. Students can visit the class Web site from any computer of their choice, with the important qualification that they use computers properly equipped with Chinese language software (see below). Students must log in at least 5 times a week, ready to read and write in Chinese. Students must read the Class Schedule instructions for each unit thoroughly and be prepared to interact with classmates. The class will progress through a series of task-based activities. Punctuality in submitting assignments is of vital importance. Points will be deducted from late assignments.

Essays: The Essay is the culminating assignment in each unit. It represents a carefully considered reaction to the lesson text, published on the course Web site, for the whole class's benefit. Response to at least two classmates' essays in each unit is an essential element of the course. Each essay should be about 1000 characters in length.

Class Project: Students search the internet and select one article in Chinese. Students need (1) to assess the text level and provide a simple analysis of the elements that determine its level; (2) describe the processes and strategies that one has applied while reading the article; (3) Outline the main idea, structure and/or organization,

and summarize the main idea for each section/paragraph; (4) In Chinese, write a 读后感 *duhougan* (reaction to/reflection on the selected article). Students should start work on their final projects by the beginning of the prior instructional unit (by the latest). The last period of the semester is set aside for students to finish this project.

GRADING

Criteria differ from unit to unit, depending on the items there are to complete in the unit. Roughly speaking, web-based exercises count for approximately 30% of your grade, and written contributions (including essays and comments on essays) count for approximately 70%. Generally speaking, the most important criterion for receiving points is whether or not there is ample evidence of student participation through text-based postings, without reference to accuracy. Accuracy develops over time in the course, and improvement, rather than high accuracy at any given point, is the goal. In awarding points, the instructor will pay attention to the features of discourse and argumentation appropriate to the higher-order cognitive skills requisite for discussion of the reading material in the course and provide appropriate written feedback. Discussion must be rigorous and argumentation supported, rather than being a simple statement of personal opinion. Points will be assigned for all activities, and a student's final total will roughly determine his or her course grade, using the traditional formula A+, A, A-, B+, B, etc. For those students who have chosen the CR/NC grading option, work that would receive a grade of "C" or better is needed to receive credit.

TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS

Students should have basic knowledge of how to use a computer with Chinese language applications, including how to surf the Web and how to input Chinese text.

PREREQUISITES

Students must have earned credits in CHN401 or 402 (or equivalent). Please contact the instructor if you have any questions.

CHN 442 Spring 2021 Course Schedule

Week	Due Date	Weekly Reading & Writing Homework Assignments	Due Date & Time
1	01/11 - 01/19 Monday - Tuesday	<p>Please read through the following files under the "Welcome" tab:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Course Syllabus 2. Course Schedule 3. Course Overview 4. Essay Rating Rubric 5. 中文“参考资料”的编排格式及示例 <p>Self-introduction Assignment:</p> <p>1. Get to know each other: Write a self-introduction and post under “Self-introduction.”</p> <p>Post your self-introduction by Friday, 01/15, at 10 p.m., so that others can respond. Self-introduction may include (but are certainly not limited to):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • hometown • hobbies and interests • your Chinese-learning experience • why you are interested in taking this course • personal goals • plans for the future with regard to your Chinese ability, or your past experiences using Chinese professionally / academically <p>Respond to 3-4 classmates’ self-introductions by following up with further questions or making remarks.</p>	<p>Homework DUE:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Self-introduction DUE: Friday, 01/15, at 10 p.m. • Responses DUE: Tuesday, 01/19, at 10 p.m.
2	01/19 - 01/25 Tuesday - Monday	<p>I. Dangerous Arrogance 《危险的自大》</p> <p>1. Orientation to the text</p> <p>Text 1: The homepage of <i>Yazhou zhoukan</i> Activity 1: <i>Yazhou zhoukan</i>: highlights Activity 2: Pre-reading: questions to consider Text 2: Original text of the article Activity 3: Choosing the best summary Activity 4: Comprehension discussion Tutorial 1: Events and facts related to China Activity 5: Match events and facts</p> <p>2. Title and organization</p> <p>Tutorial 2: Title and evaluative mode of the text Activity 6: Reaction to the title</p>	<p>Reading Activity Homework DUE:</p> <p>Monday, 01/25, at 10 p.m.</p>

		Text 3: Text with numbered paragraphs Tutorial 3: Organization of the text Activity 7: Working with the parts of the text	
3	01/26 - 02/01 Tuesday - Monday	I. Dangerous Arrogance 《危险的自大》 (cont'd) 3. Vocabulary and grammar of the text Tutorial 4: Words with implications Activity 8: Identifying words with implications Activity 9: Defining words with implications Tutorial 5: Working with grammar: Rhetorical effects Activity 10: Sentence analysis: rhetoric 4. About the Author's Voice Tutorial 6: Implicate statements by the author Activity 11: Identify implicative statements by the author	Reading Activity Homework DUE: Monday, 02/01, at 10 p.m.
4	02/02 - 02/08 Tuesday - Monday	5. Essay & revisions Please SUBMIT ESSAY BY Wednesday (02/03) EVENING; then comment on your classmates' essays by Friday (02/05) and respond to comments on your own and discussion wraps up by Monday (02/08). <u>To receive a grade for the unit, after receiving revision suggestions from your teacher, you must re-submit your revised essay by re-posting the new version in the same thread below the original.</u> II. <u>Say No to Luxury</u> 1. Reading activities Activity 1: Pre-reading Activity 2: Orientation to topics Text 1: Read the text Activity 3: Comprehension discussion Activity 4: Choose the best summary Activity 5: Background knowledge	Reading Activity Homework DUE: Monday, 02/08, at 10 p.m. Essay DUE: Wednesday, 02/03, at 10 p.m. Comments DUE: Friday, 02/05, at 10 p.m. Responses DUE: Monday, 02/08, at 10 p.m.
5	02/09 - 02/16 Tuesday - Tuesday 02/15 <i>HOLIDAY: President's Day (non-instructional day)</i>	2. Identify structure and organization Tutorial 1: Evaluative mode of the text Activity 6: Reaction to the whole title Text 2: Numbered version of the text Tutorial 2: Tutorial on organization of the text Activity 7: Identify text organization 3. Vocab activities Activity 8: Working with synonyms	Reading Activity Homework DUE: Tuesday, 02/16, at 10 p.m.

		<p>Activity 9: Working with antonyms</p> <p>Tutorial 3: Getting the meaning of a new word</p> <p>Activity 10: Working with unknown vocab</p> <p>Activity 11: Working with emphatic words</p>	
6	<p>02/16 - 02/22</p> <p>Tuesday - Monday</p>	<p>4. Sentence analysis</p> <p>Tutorial 4: Rhetorical sentences</p> <p>Activity 12: Identify rhetorical sentences</p> <p>Tutorial 5: Parallel constructions</p> <p>5. Writing an essay (Minimum 800 characters)</p> <p>Please SUBMIT ESSAY BY WEDNESDAY (02/17) EVENING; then comment on your classmates' essays by Friday (02/19) and respond to comments on your own and discussion wraps up by Monday (02/22).</p> <p><u>To receive a grade for the unit, after receiving revision suggestions from your teacher, you must re-submit your revised essay by re-posting the new version in the same thread below the original.</u></p>	<p>Reading Activity Homework DUE:</p> <p>Monday, 02/22, at 10 p.m.</p> <p>Essay DUE: Wednesday, 02/17, at 10 p.m.</p> <p>Comments DUE: Friday, 02/19, at 10 p.m.</p> <p>Responses DUE: Monday, 02/22, at 10 p.m.</p>
7	<p>02/23 - 03/01</p> <p>Tuesday - Monday</p>	<p>III. McDonald's & World Food Culture</p> <p>1. Orientation to the text</p> <p>Text 1: The homepage of the <i>Weekly World Journal</i></p> <p>Activity 1: Questions about the nature of the articles in the <i>Weekly World Journal</i></p> <p>Activity 2: Pre-reading</p> <p>Text 2: Original text of the article</p> <p>Activity 3: Choosing the best summary</p> <p>Activity 4: Comprehension discussion</p> <p>2. Title and organization</p> <p>Tutorial 1: Working with the organization of the article</p> <p>Activity 5: Section summaries</p> <p>Tutorial 2: Working with the title</p> <p>Activity 6: T-F on McDonald's background info</p>	<p>Reading Activity Homework DUE:</p> <p>Monday, 03/01, at 10 p.m.</p>
8	<p>03/02 - 03/08</p> <p>Tuesday - Monday</p>	<p>III. McDonald's & World Food Culture (cont'd)</p> <p>3. Vocabulary and grammar</p> <p>Tutorial 3: Chinese words from foreign languages</p> <p>Activity 7: Matching and categorizing borrowings</p> <p>Activity 8: Transliteration of proper nouns</p> <p>Tutorial 4: The metaphoric use of Chinese words and expressions</p> <p>Activity 9: Explaining metaphoric usages</p>	<p>Reading Activity Homework DUE:</p> <p>Monday, 03/08, at 10 p.m.</p> <p>Essay DUE: Wednesday, 03/03, at 10 p.m.</p>

		<p>Tutorial 5: Mixed modes – fact and opinion Activity 10: Identifying text modes</p> <p>4. Followup reading</p> <p>Text 3: Honolulu Advertiser Activity 11: Article discussion</p> <p>5. Essay & revisions</p> <p>Please SUBMIT ESSAY BY WEDNESDAY (03/03) EVENING; then comment on your classmates' essays by Friday (03/05) and respond to comments on your own and discussion wraps up by Monday (03/08).</p> <p>To receive a grade for the unit, <u>after receiving revision suggestions from your teacher</u>, you must re-submit your revised essay by re-posting the new version in the same thread below the original.</p>	<p>Comments DUE: Friday, 03/05, at 10 p.m.</p> <p>Responses DUE: Monday, 03/08, at 10 p.m.</p>
9 & 10	<p>03/09 - 03/22</p> <p>Tuesday - Monday</p> <p>SPRING BREAK 03/15 - 03/19</p>	<p>Midterm Project</p> <p>Find "Class Project" on Course Menu.</p> <p>Read "Class Project Overview & Requirements" and "Sample Midterm Analysis."</p> <p>This week you will start to do the Class Project - Midterm Portion.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First, select a topic and a related article based on your own interest; • Then "add a new discussion topic" at the "Midterm Portion" forum; • Post the article and your detailed analysis according to the "Project Requirement - Midterm Portion Task." 	<p>Midterm Project DUE:</p> <p>Monday, 03/22, at 10 p.m.</p>
11	<p>03/23 - 03/29</p> <p>Tuesday - Monday</p>	<p>IV The Rules of Face</p> <p>Activity 1: Questions on sina.com Activity 2: Activating background knowledge Activity 3: Pre-reading Activity 4: Read the text Activity 5: Choose the best summary Activity 6: Comprehension discussion Tutorial 1: Why this article is Level 3 Activity 7: Identifying modes of text Numbered version of the text Activity 8: Identifying arguments and opinions in extended discourse Additional text Activity 9: Identifying opinions in extended mode</p>	<p>Reading Activity Homework DUE:</p> <p>Monday, 03/29, at 10 p.m.</p>

		2. Title and organization Tutorial 2: Working with the title Activity 10: Reacting to the whole title Tutorial 3: Organization of the text Numbered version of the text Activity 11: Working with the parts of the text	
12	03/30 - 04/05 Tuesday - Monday	IV The Rules of Face 3. Vocabulary and grammar Activity 12: Working with key vocabulary Tutorial 4: Understanding Chinese sayings Activity 13: Working with Chinese sayings Tutorial 5: Getting rich connotations: beyond semantic meaning Rhetorical effects Activity 14: Identifying distal connotations	Reading Activity Homework DUE: Monday, 04/05, at 10 p.m.
13	04/06 - 04/12 Tuesday - Monday	IV The Rules of Face 4. Essay & revisions Please SUBMIT ESSAY BY WEDNESDAY (04/07) EVENING; then comment on your classmates' essays by Friday (04/09) and respond to comments on your own and discussion wraps up by Monday (04/12). <u>To receive a grade for the unit, after receiving revision suggestions from your teacher, you must re-submit your revised essay by re-posting the new version in the same thread below the original.</u>	Essay DUE: Wednesday, 04/07, at 10 p.m. Comments DUE: Friday, 04/09, at 10 p.m. Responses DUE: Monday, 04/12, at 10 p.m.
14	04/13 - 04/19 Tuesday - Monday	V Indescribable Hangzhou 1. Orientation to the text Activity 1: Pre-reading: questions to consider Text 1: Original text of the article Activity 2: Comprehension discussion Activity 3: Choose the best summary Tutorial 1: The geography of Hangzhou Activity 4: Match geographic facts 2. Title and organization Tutorial 2: Title and genre of the text Activity 5: Reaction to the title Text 2: Text with numbered paragraphs Tutorial 3: Organization of the text Activity 6: Working with the parts of the text	Reading Activity Homework DUE: Monday, 04/19, at 10 p.m.

15	04/20 - 04/26 Tuesday - Monday	V Indescribable Hangzhou 3. Vocabulary and grammar Activity 7: Hangzhou Scenic Spots Activity 8: Working with words commonly seen in Chinese prose essays Tutorial 4: The effect of parataxis / parallel sentences Activity 9: Identifying parataxis 4. Essay & revisions Please SUBMIT ESSAY BY WEDNESDAY (04/21) EVENING ; then comment on your classmates' essays by Friday (04/23) and respond to comments on your own and discussion wraps up by Monday (04/26). <u>To receive a grade for the unit, after receiving revision suggestions from your teacher, you must re-submit your revised essay by re-posting the new version in the same thread below the original.</u>	Reading Activity Homework DUE: Monday, 04/26, at 10 p.m. Essay DUE: Wednesday, 04/21, at 10 p.m. Comments DUE: Friday, 04/23, at 10 p.m. Responses DUE: Monday, 04/26, at 10 p.m.
16	04/27 - 05/07 Tuesday - Friday	Final Project Go to the "Class Project" in Course Menu and click " Final Portion " and " Sample Reading Guide ." Please be sure to complete your Final Project by Friday, 05/07.	Final Project DUE: Friday, 05/07, at 10 p.m.
17		Wrap-up -- all work is done!	