Advanced Placement Chinese Language and Culture Course Syllabus

Course Overview

The textbook entitled Integrated Chinese Level 2 Part 1 and 2 are one of the primary textbooks used for the Chinese AP course at Dublin High School. Jiā Yóu ! Part 1 (加油 ! ) is another supplementary textbook that will be using in this class. Besides the materials in this textbook, there is also a collection of readers that cover current events (news), short passages, articles and literature, cultural festivals, historical stories, Chinese philosophy from Chinese newspapers, online resources and books. From supplementary textbooks, movies, documentaries, TV shows, as well as songs in Chinese are all covered more or less. AP Chinese course is also integrated with Microsoft Chinese input methods in every lesson so students can get the necessary opportunity to be familiarized with the online testing in May. All lessons are designed to follow 5Cs (Communication, Cultures, Connections, Comparisons, and Communities) with 3 modes (Interpersonal, Interpretive, and Presentational) in order to meet the requirements set by the College Board. The whole course is taught and all activities throughout the course are conducted only in Mandarin Chinese.

AP Chinese Course Objectives:

- To meet the national guidelines in oral and writing proficiency and performance.
- To be fluent in Chinese word processing on computer.
- To perfect written and spoken Mandarin Chinese.
- To be able to listen to the teacher, other students and news reports, tapes and movies for listening comprehension.
- To use Chinese as the language of communication in the class.
- To read selections of Chinese authors, to discuss and answer questions on content and analyze selections by theme, characters, plot, time, place and tone.
- To read newspapers, magazines, and other readings of thematic units.
- To be informed of current events in the Chinese speaking world/community
- To write essay and exams
- To appreciate the various Chinese-speaking cultures by learning the Chinese language.
- To be able to apply all of the four skills and other knowledge learned from the class to the daily lives.
- To prepare and get ready for the Chinese AP test

Chinese AP Materials

- Xu, Jialu, 2008, Jiā Yóu, Volume 1, Cengage Learning and Beijing Normal University Publishing
- A variety of materials that selected from the books, novels, newspapers and online resources.
Recommended Prep Book

Barron’s AP Chinese Language and Culture, $29.99, can be purchased online.

Supplementary Resources and Materials

Websites:
- Chinese Newspapers: http://www.onlinenewspapers.com/china.htm
- Chinese Magazines: http://www.w3newspapers.com/chinese/magazines/
- Chinese Reading World: http://collections.uiowa.edu/chinese/index.html
- Chinese Culture: http://www.cultural-china.com/

Listening

Since the class is conducted exclusively in Mandarin Chinese, students must listen attentively to both the teacher and other students. Students practice listening comprehension through short dialogues and long narratives. On a weekly basis, students are required to answer 20 questions as they watch a twenty-minute news broadcast in Mandarin Chinese. Following the broadcast, students work in groups to exchange opinions regarding the week’s news.

Students watch short films in Mandarin Chinese (selected TV series) and work individually at listening stations.

Students create listening activities for the whole class using songs in Mandarin Chinese.

Students listen to taped material and complete the spaces in blank. (Selected stories on tapes or listening materials)

Speaking

In the classroom environment, Chinese is to be used at all times both during the class time and during my office hours. Speaking is practiced in a variety of ways to make the experience as authentic as possible. Students receive points for in class oral participation.

Students record themselves in simulated conversations. In interpersonal activities like this, students must use the correct register, appropriate vocabulary and distinguish between informal and formal speech.

Every chapter of the textbook includes speaking exercises, each of which contain six to ten questions. These speaking exercises will be conducted orally in pairs, groups, or with the whole class. The students will be timed to improve their speech efficiency. Story-telling activities will also be integrated into the speaking practices. Students will be given some related pictures to compose stories within a certain time period and will present their story to the class individually or in a small group afterwards.

Oral presentation is of much more formal in nature than the simulated conversation. Topics for the oral presentation vary from the family, health and smoking, censorship, immigration to the roles of adults and teens. Using written and audio prompts regarding a certain topic, students prepare a two-minute oral presentation. Depending on what they are asked, they may state their opinion, highlight important points, describe, narrate or persuade.
Individual oral presentations are of less formal in nature. Students choose a topic they feel passionate about and make a five-minute informal oral presentation to the whole class and answer students’ questions.

Students answer questions or retell portions of the novel or plays so that I can determine their levels of understanding. Students discuss and analyze the stories, poems, novels and plays that are read. This is done in pairs, small groups and entire class discussions. These discussions are of a much more interpretive nature. Students are encouraged to justify their opinions by finding a quote.

Students are directed to do projects based on readings, videos, and movies done in class, in pairs or small groups. These projects can be illustrations of materials read, creation of individual poems, acting a portion of a play or a novel in front of the class.

**Sample literature speaking questions:**

1. 本文使用什么方式开头？这样的开头有什么好处？
2. 为什么作者说我们一定见过或听说过“差不多先生”呢？
3. 作者想通过“差不多先生”这样一个并不真实的人物说明什么？

**Current events questions and discussions.**

Each student is responsible for leading the class in a discussion regarding the week’s news. The student acts as the teacher. He/She provides the video news broadcast, the written questions for students. Answer all the students’ questions and leads the discussion.

Students present spontaneous dialogues after being given specific situation cards.

**Reading**

Each week in class, 30 minutes will be spent reading short articles and current events taken from Chinese media to gain further knowledge towards Chinese politics, culture, community, economy in comparison and contrast with those aspects of the US. After reading, students will write down the main ideas of the reading, answer the questions provided by the teacher, or write a passage about their reflections. Periodically, additional longer articles will be assigned to students to read at home for more practice. Students have frequent pop quizzes on homework readings to make sure they read for meanings. Students also retell what they have read or act out what they have read to demonstrate understanding. Students do practice AP reading comprehension on a regular basis.

**Writing**

Students will be provided time for quick writes in class regularly. They will be asked to write about the main ideas of a lesson, a video clip, a recording, or a newspaper clipping in class. Compositions will also be assigned to students based on the lesson or the theme they are learning at the moment. Students are encouraged to do their homework on computers to gain maximum opportunities of Chinese word processing. From time to time there will be in-class essays in which students will be given a specific topic to write a complete essay in a set time period. These in-class compositions will sometimes take place in the computer lab for practice in timed Chinese word processing.

**Sample essay topics:**

1. 我最喜欢的一个中国节日
2. 你觉得该不该用动物做实验？
3. 请谈谈你今年暑假的旅行计划。

Vocabulary and Character Studies

Students are responsible for learning the new vocabulary in the readings. Teacher provides lists of vocabulary derived from the readings. Tests and quizzes require students to give the definition of vocabulary words in Chinese, to give a synonym or an antonym and write/use the word in sentences to demonstrate understanding. Students also learn vocabulary on a thematic basis in conjunction with the simulated conversation.

Students are assigned homework on identifying radicals of Chinese characters, and on using that knowledge to categorize characters that appear in readings. This exercise helps students better understand the meanings of a character and its uses in context.

Testing

At the end of each lesson, a comprehensive test including listening, speaking, reading, and integrated writing containing cultural components will be given. For example: a sample topic which is given in Lesson 9 of Integrated Chinese, Level 2 Part 1 is “Comparing Chinese education and U.S. education”. Part I is Listening Comprehension. Three short passages or dialogues are given orally in Chinese (from the tapes); students answer 15 multiple-choice questions in English. Part II is Reading Comprehension for the vocabulary and grammar. Sentences and dialogues with blanks are provided. Students need to be able to comprehend the whole sentence or the content of the dialogue to answer questions correctly. Part III is Reading Comprehension. Five short Chinese jokes and short passages about culture from a variety of resources will be provided. In correspondence, students will answer five open-ended questions in Chinese perceptively. We will also use many simulated tests to practice for AP test.

Chinese Word Processing

Students are provided opportunities to work in the chrome books or laptops to practice and master their skills on Chinese word processing using the MS Pinyin or BoPoMoFo input method as set by the College Board. Students are also trained and required to set their home computers for Chinese word processing purposes.

Students are required to use a computer to type in Chinese to complete their written homework.

Students are provided with additional online listening, speaking, reading, and writing practices for use in class and at home so as to get familiarized with the online testing formats.

What should I bring to the class every day?

- Textbook Book
- Workbook
- Notebook: Bring a 3-ring binder with the following sections:
  1. Exercise
  2. Notes
  3. Homework/worksheets
  4. Current class-work
  5. Lined paper
- Pencils/Pens: All the homework, quizzes and tests MUST be done with a pencil. An additional blue or black pen will be used to correct your works. A maker, sharpie, or red/pink pen is NOT acceptable.
Class Expectations and Rules (Categories and Details)

Participation & Citizenship 20%

You will receive a 20 points participation grade every week, four points per day. To get the full points, you need to follow the requirements below:

- Come to class on time and prepared with your learning materials. You are considered TARDY if you are not sitting in your seat ready for instruction when the bell rings.
- Actively participate in class drills, discussions and activities. During group work time, be sure that you and your group are being productive. You will receive a participation grade that reflects your degree of positive involvement in classroom activities.
- Practice speaking Mandarin whenever possible.
- Food and drinks (except water) are prohibited inside the classroom.
- Cell phones and other electronic devices are prohibited in the classroom unless your teacher tell you to do so for instruction purpose. You will be warned for the first time use. For the second time, your cell phone will be kept in the attendance office, and needs to be picked up by your parents after the school.
- You can go to the restroom if you need during the instruction. However, if it happens too excessively or it takes too long, you will get a detention to make up your instruction time after the school.
- Raise your hand before answering the questions or presenting your opinion.
- Being respectful to the teacher and your classmates. Listen carefully and keep quiet while they are talking.
- When the bell rings, do NOT stand up or walk around in the classroom until the teacher dismisses you.
- Detention or Referral will be assigned for behavior disruptive to the learning process or to the school environment.

Homework 20%

- Each assignment will be graded out of a total of 5 points.
- Homework is due at the beginning of every class.
- Homework submitted during or in the end of the class will be considered as late work and will be given half credit.
- Late homework (24 hours late) will receive half credit. Late homework (more than 24 hours) without an acceptable excuse will receive a “0”.
- For excused absence, if the work was assigned before your absence, it is due upon your return. If the work was assigned during your absence, it is due at the second class meeting after your return. Absent without an acceptable excuse will lose all the class-work, homework, quiz or test points for the day(s) involved.
- No make-up quiz or test is given for unexcused absence.
- If you miss class due to school activities, the assignments must be turned in at the second class meeting after your return.
- If you miss many classes due to excused absence, talk to your teacher to set up a deadline.
- Please note that copying or making your work available for copying will result in a “0” for your credit.
- Check the teacher site on the school’s website in daily bases for the homework.
- Once new material has been presented in class, you are responsible to review it at home.

Presentation and Projects 20%
You will be assigned to do a few individual and group projects and presentations throughout the semester. It is important that you participate actively and work respectfully with your group members. The role you play in the group will contribute to the grades.

Late projects and presentations will receive 10% deduction per class meeting.

Tests and Quizzes 30%

Each lesson will have oral and written quizzes and a chapter test, and you will be informed prior to the quiz or test (except some in class oral assessments and listening quizzes etc.)

Make-up quizzes and tests will only be allowed for excused absences and must be done during the week you return.

Make-up quizzes/tests cannot be done in regular classes. It is the student’s responsibility to make arrangement with the teacher for the time to take the test.

3 make-up quizzes and tests will be allowed per semester due to legitimate absences, however, you can ask for taking the test prior to the absence. An automatic “0” will be recorded if the student doesn’t show up at the arranged time to take the test without prior notice to the teacher.

Semester Final Exam / Project 10%

Grading Scales

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>92.5% or up</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>89.5-92.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>82.5-87.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>79.5-82.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>72.5-77.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>69.5-72.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>62.5-67.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D-</td>
<td>58-62.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>57.9 and under</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Each quarter grades will be determined using the following categories:

- 20% Participation (class behavior, class participation, attendance, group activities, class works, etc.)
- 20% Homework (workbook, worksheet, voice recording, graded from Points 1-5 based on completion)
- 20% Projects and Presentation (cultural projects, presentation, interview, reports, etc.)
- 30% Tests and Quizzes (quiz & Lesson test for listening, speaking and writing characters)
- 10% Final Exam/Project

Note about Academic Integrity:

Xu Lao Shi has very clear rules for appropriate test-taking behavior and independent work, such as homework, quizzes, and tests. It is important that she is able to accurately assess each student’s learning. During test administration, students cannot have any devices or notes out, and cannot communicate with each other in any way. Homework should reflect a student’s own work; copying form others is prohibited. Your Workbook will be checked on daily bases to see if you have done the homework properly. If a student has cheated, s/he will be given a zero on the assignment.