

Comprehensive Course Syllabus

Mandarin Chinese II (WLG 620)

Course Description:

Students build upon the skills developed in Mandarin Chinese I. They develop greater proficiency in listening, speaking, reading, and writing with an emphasis on more complex structures and descriptive expressions. Speaking will become more sophisticated as they engage in discourse involving narrations that reflect connectedness and cohesiveness. The topical context is expanded from the student's immediate world to the world of the target cultures in this year.

INSTRUCTOR:

- Name: Christine Zhang 张老师 (Zhang Laoshi)
- Office Number: A127
- Telephone number: 630.907.5469
- Email addresses: czhang1@imsa.edu; shaopingzhang@gmail.com

MEETING DAYS, TIME AND ROOMS:

<u>Meeting Days</u>	<u>Room</u>	<u>Meeting Time</u>
ABCD	Room A129	Mod 1 8:00am – 8:55am
		Mod 3 10:00am-10:55am
	Room A131	Mod 7 2:20pm – 3:15pm
		Mod 6 1:20pm – 2:15pm

OFFICE HOURS:

1:30-3pm on I-days, or by appointment

TEXT (S) / MATERIALS:

Textbooks will not be used in this class. Curriculum outlines and instructor-created materials will be both distributed in class and posted online.

Students are expected to have:

Voice recording equipment (laptop w/built-in microphone, iPad, smart phones, etc.), a 1-inch 3-ring binder, ONE 70 or 100-page composition notebook with YELLOW cover, pencils, and pens of varied colors.

Essential Content:

Level II curriculum is organized around the students' world. It encourages students to communicate at an elementary to intermediate level on topics that reflect their daily lives. Level II topics may include School Life, Food, Clothes & Fashion, Shopping, Health, and Home & Community.

SSLs and Outcomes:

igniting and nurturing creative, ethical scientific minds that advance the human condition

I.A. Students are expected to demonstrate automaticity in skills, concepts, and processes that enable complex thoughts by

- ❖ controlling the linguistic system (syntax, morphology, phonology, semantics, lexis)
- ❖ engaging in oral and written discourse
- ❖ using strategies that enhance the effectiveness of communication
- ❖ applying content knowledge to create with the target language.
- ❖ providing and obtaining information
- ❖ decoding written and spoken language on a variety of topics
- ❖ presenting information, concepts, and ideas to an audience of listeners or readers on a variety of topics
- ❖ transferring content knowledge in alternative scenarios and new problems

II. A. Students are expected to identify unexamined cultural, historical, and personal assumptions and misconceptions that impede and skew inquiry by

- ❖ recognizing that language learning is not simply a word-for-word translation process, but rather the acquisition of an entirely new set of concepts
- ❖ processing information on the nature of language and/or culture
- ❖ identifying patterns among language systems

IV.B. Students are expected to write and speak with power, economy, and elegance by

- ❖ providing and obtaining information
- ❖ presenting information, concepts, and ideas to an audience of listeners or readers on a variety of topics
- ❖ controlling the linguistic system (syntax, morphology, phonology, semantics, lexis)
- ❖ using strategies that enhance the effectiveness of communication
- ❖ engaging in oral and written discourse on given topics
- ❖ recognizing the linguistic and cultural differences that contribute to the distinctive viewpoints that are only available through the foreign language and its cultures
- ❖ compensating for linguistic inadequacies and cultural differences when they occur, and applying knowledge of cultural perspectives governing interactions between individuals of different age, status, and background

IV.D. Students are expected to develop an aesthetic awareness and capability by

- ❖ recognizing that language learning is not a word-for-word translation process, but is the acquisition of an entirely new set of concepts.
- ❖ recognizing that people of other cultures view the world from a perspective different from their own
- ❖ experiencing more fully the artistic and cultural creations of other cultures

VA. Students are expected to identify, understand, and accept the rights and responsibilities of belonging to a diverse community by

- ❖ recognizing the existence of other peoples' world views, their unique way of life, and the patterns of behavior which order their world
- ❖ assessing the linguistic and cultural differences that contribute to the distinctive viewpoints that are only available through the foreign language and its cultures
- ❖ engaging in oral and written discourse
- ❖ providing and obtaining information
- ❖ expressing feelings and emotions
- ❖ exchanging opinions
- ❖ compensating for linguistic inadequacies and cultural differences when they occur, and applying knowledge of cultural perspectives governing interactions between individuals of different age, status, and background

igniting and nurturing creative, ethical scientific minds that advance the human condition

- ❖ explaining the process of stereotyping and the role stereotypes play in forming and sustaining prejudice
- ❖ demonstrating mutual cultural understanding and respect
- ❖ engaging in meaningful direct interactions with members of other cultures sharing their knowledge of language and culture

Instructional Design and Approach:

World Languages teachers establish an immersion classroom where the goal is communication in the target language with correct, uninhibited, and creative expressions. "Communication" includes speaking, reading, listening, and writing. We denote, and help students to develop skills in, three modes of communication: presentational, interpersonal, and interpretive. Our instructional design provides the opportunity for students to develop core competency learner characteristics. We empower and enable students to discover what they personally need in order to acquire and use a foreign language; we place responsibility on the individual student to collaborate, utilize problem-solving skills, and critical and creative thinking. We ask students to persist through frustration, and to maintain a tolerance for ambiguity; we demand that they look at problematic situations from various viewpoints and perspectives, and we design instruction so that they must develop and go beyond automaticity, actively construct meaning, seek connections and interactions that deepen understanding, and appreciate the value of knowledge from multiple sources and perspectives. We help students develop the cultural sensitivity that is necessary to guard against miscommunication or misunderstanding. We assume that students will display the motivation, maturity, and personal responsibility necessary to participate in this sort of language acquisition environment.

Student Expectations:

Students are expected to be in class daily, to be punctual and to be prepared. In our immersion-based classroom, primary emphasis is on comprehension and communication in the target language. Don't be afraid to make mistakes. The goal is uninhibited, creative expression and communication in Chinese, stressing a language comprehensible to the native speaker. In addition, students are expected to develop a cultural sensitivity which is necessary to guard against miscommunication or misunderstanding.

The amount of time outside of class that a student needs to spend in order to acquire proficiency in Chinese varies from individual to individual. A reasonable expectation is 20-30 minutes (e.g. 10-15 minutes on listening/speaking, 10-15 minutes in writing characters) per day. Shorter daily study sessions are much more conducive to language acquisition than one or two longer periods during the week. Active class **participation** is essential to student success and to the success of the course. Also students are encouraged to take advantage of the opportunities to be able to practice and reinforce what they have learned in the classroom with so many native Mandarin-speaking students on campus.

Homework is assigned daily to help students achieve the identified learning targets for the level. Students are expected to complete homework assignments, but they will not be graded. In addition, completion of designated homework assignments will also be required prior to any student-initiated re-assessment.

Illinois Mathematics and Science Academy®

igniting and nurturing creative, ethical scientific minds that advance the human condition

Bathroom passes: If the student absolutely needs to use one, the student is expected to request politely **in Chinese**.

The WL team follows Academy's attendance policy. Tardiness and absences may adversely affect student's learning.

Although students are expected to work collaboratively both inside and outside of the class; most homework assignments are to be completed individually. Please refer to Student Handbook for IMSA academic dishonesty policies.

Assessment Practices, Procedures, and Processes:

Assessment is an ongoing process of goal setting and measuring involves both the teacher and the student. The teacher provides regular feedback on student performance. Students incorporate the teacher's feedback to improve their proficiency. Students are encouraged to engage in self-assessment regularly. Emphasis is on continuous efforts to improve language proficiency instead of completion of tactical tasks.

Students are assessed **daily** on the production of spoken and written language, and on reading and listening comprehension. Summative assessments are held towards the conclusion of each unit. There are two types of assessment: formative and summative. **Formative assessments** are used throughout instructions to provide the teacher and students with the indications of students' progress. They are given frequently to help you master the necessary skills. In general, there are 20-30 formative assessments per semester. Failure to do well in one quiz will not significantly affect your grade. This approach was designed to allow you to take risks and learn while making mistakes. **Summative assessments** are unit tests. They provide evidence on whether you have achieved the unit objectives and targeted proficiency. There are 3 modes of assessments: interpretive, interpersonal and presentational. In each unit, you will be asked to demonstrate your mastery in all three modes. These summative assessments assess what the students can do with language in spontaneous and unrehearsed fashion in terms of speaking, writing, listening, and reading in simulated real-world situations in familiar contexts.

Make-up assessments are given at the discretion of the instructor. Students with unexcused absence will not be entitled to the privilege of make-up exams. Students who miss a test due to excused absence should notify the instructor **before** exam time if at all possible. If a make-up test is appropriate, students should arrange to take a make-up exam as soon as possible within one week of the scheduled time of the exam.

Re-assessments are available for students who receive grades less than 80% within two weeks after the test date. There will be requirements to be fulfilled prior to the re-assessments, examples are, but not limited to, completions of homework or satisfactory results on highly relevant quizzes.

In addition, missing current homework assignments will revoke students' opportunity to re-assessments. Students will receive 85% of the grade of the reassessment. The maximum grade that students will receive for the reassessments is 85%.

World Language Expectations for End of 2nd Year Mandarin Chinese Students

	Exceeds Expectations	Meets Expectations	Does Not Meet Expectations
ACTFL Proficiency Level	Intermediate Low	Novice High	Novice Mid
Power School Grade	A/A-	B+/B/B-	C+/C/C-/D

Grading

Type		# of Assignments per Quarter	Total %
Formative	Homework assignments, quizzes, and Tingxies (character dictation), in-class task-based activities	10-15	10
Summative	Interpretive: listening and reading assessments	1-2	90
	Presentational: oral presentation, skit, text messages, short essays, story narration	1-2	
	Interpersonal: simulated conversations, discussions, interviews, email nonresponses and Wechat posting.	1-2	

Cut-off values for grades:

- A 92.5
- A- 90
- B+ 87.5
- B 82.5
- B- 80
- C+ 77.5
- C 72.5
- C- 70

Sequence of Topics and Activities

Further explanation, including targeted SSLs, grammar, and vocabulary, will be provided at the start of each unit.

High School Life 高中生活: talking about recreational activities, making plans, describing challenges in high school, exchanging information on ways to balance school and life, and comparing school schedule and extracurricular activities in the US and in the target culture

Essential Questions:

1. How is my high school experience?
2. How do I balance schoolwork and life?
3. How does my high school life differ from others in a typical high school in the US and in the target culture?

igniting and nurturing creative, ethical scientific minds that advance the human condition

Food 食物: expressing and inquiring about food preference, presenting/choosing from alternatives, ordering food at a restaurant, describing flavors and tastes, requesting service at a restaurant, complaining about food/service, and providing basic commentary on food

Essential Questions:

1. What do people eat in the US vs. in the target language culture?
2. How is eating at a restaurant and at home like in the target culture?
3. How does food reflect cultural practices and perspectives?

Clothes & Fashion 服饰和流行(时尚): describing clothing and accessories, expressing likes and dislikes in fashion, making clothing suggestions for different occasions and weather conditions, discussing what is “fashionable” in the US vs. in the target culture

Essential Questions:

1. What clothing do teenagers wear?
2. What do I like to wear and why?
3. How are American fashion trends similar to and/or different from the target culture?

Shopping 买东西: interpreting nominal prices and determining actual prices out of sales signs and flyers, understanding marketing strategies, engaging in shopping activities, seeking assistance in a shop; developing negotiating strategies

Essential Questions:

1. What and where do teenagers shop?
2. What is shopping like in the target language culture?
3. How is shopping here in the US different than shopping in the target culture?

Health 健康: describing symptoms of common illnesses, making suggestions about getting well and seek medical assistance; interpreting medical product and medication instructions, reporting medical emergencies or needs, talking about the target culture’s views and uses of herbal cures, home remedies, and/or superstition in health care

Essential Questions:

1. How do I communicate my health or state of being to others?
2. What do people in the US vs. other cultures do when they do not feel well?
3. How does traditional Chinese medicine differ from western medicine?

Home and Community 家和社区: describing one’s room, home, and community, explaining where things are in their rooms, homes, and communities, describing how to get from one place to another in their communities; making comparisons between communities in America and in the target culture

Essential Questions:

1. What’s special about my home/community/?
2. How does one’s home and community influence one’s life?

To reference IMSA’s World Language Learning Standards:

<http://www.imsa.edu/learning/standards/wlang.php>