

ASIAN PERSPECTIVE: Learn Mandarin and Uncover Southeast Asia

Chinese Language Level descriptions

(Levels are offered on demand basis, and advanced levels are not likely to be offered every summer)

Elementary I

Speak Mandarin 101

This is a conversational course for beginners. It starts with an introduction to the Mandarin speech sounds which is represented by Hanyu Pinyin. Texts are written in characters with Pinyin annotations. While focusing on listening and speaking skills, this course also deals with basic grammar. At the end of the course, students are expected to be able to conduct simple daily conversations.

Chinese Characters 101

This course is complementary to Speak Mandarin 101; characters for the vocabulary items used in Speak Mandarin 101 are systematically introduced with reference to their text frequencies. About 500 Chinese characters are taught in one term (12 weeks).

Elementary II

Speak Mandarin 102

This course is a continuation of Speak Mandarin 101. A wider range of vocabulary items and more grammatical rules are introduced. At the end of the course, students are expected to be able to conduct simple daily conversations in Mandarin. They should also be able to express their ideas or opinions in their newly acquired language.

Chinese Characters 102

This course is a continuation of Chinese Characters 101; an additional 400 Chinese characters are introduced.

Short Essays/ Stories 102

Short and simple essays/stories on various topics are selected for intensive reading, which is to be followed by discussion. This course introduces students to textual content, to help them understand reading materials.

Intermediate I

Selected Readings 201

Prose Passages and short stories are selected for intensive reading. Students will participate in the interpretation and discussion of the text in class. This course is designed to introduce the students to Chinese traditional values while expanding their vocabulary.

Newspaper Readings 201

Reading materials are selected from leading Chinese newspapers published in Singapore as well as other countries, with the emphasis on international news. The aim of this course is to guide students into reading Chinese newspapers.

Listening & Reading Comprehension 201

In order to prepare students for the HSK Chinese Proficiency Test, students are systematically trained, from the intermediate course onwards, in mastering listening and reading comprehension skills. The module is based on Chinese words which have been taught in the earlier modules. Students will find their vocabulary strengthened appropriately to enable them to manage the HSK test.

Daily Conversation 201

The course deals with topics related to daily life. Students are expected to expand their vocabulary and improve their conversational ability through the exposure to, and familiarity with, thematic conversation. Chinese proverbs, set phrases and idioms will be introduced.

Intermediate II

Broadcasting Materials 202

Teaching materials are selected from radio broadcast mainly on news, advertisements, interviews, short plays and fables. Classroom activities include discussion and role-playing. The objective of the course is to improve students' listening comprehension.

News & Editorial 202

This course covers social and international affairs through readings of news items and editorials in leading Chinese newspapers in Singapore as well as other areas. Radio materials are also used in class. It is designed to prepare students for reading as well as listening to news and editorial materials.

Listening & Reading Comprehension 202

Students taking this course must have completed Listening & Reading Comprehension 201. A more extensive vocabulary will be taught to prepare students for the HSK Elementary Chinese Proficiency Test. Students will also learn to sharpen their listening and reading comprehension skills.

Business Conversation 202

The course deals with topics on industry and commerce, including business administration and management. It is designed to equip students with the relevant language skills to do business in/with China.

Advanced I

News and Editorial Readings 301

This course covers local and international affairs through readings of news articles and editorials in leading Chinese newspapers in Singapore, as well as news articles published in other countries such as mainland China and Taiwan. Radio broadcasting materials are also used in class. The course is designed to help students read the newspapers more effectively and develop their listening skills .

Broadcasting Materials 301

Teaching materials are selected from radio broadcasts, mainly in the form of news items, advertisements, interviews, short plays and fables. Classroom activities include discussion and role-play. The objective of the course is to improve students' listening skills.

Preparation for HSK 301

This course is designed to prepare students for the HSK Chinese Proficiency Test (elementary and intermediate). Students taking this course must have completed Listening & Reading Comprehension 202. Students will learn the most relevant vocabulary and grammatical structures necessary to help them do the test well. They will also be taught the various question and answer modes they can expect in the test.

Business Communication 301

This course is a continuation of Business Conversation 202. It deals with topics on economics and is designed to acquaint students with basic economics terms. Students are expected to be able to converse on topics such as finance, shares, inflation, profit and loss, capitalisation and return on investment. In this course, students will learn vocabulary related to business and acquire basic communication skills to deal with the wide range of ordinary worklife situations such as entertaining guests, conducting negotiations, signing contracts and making business announcements.

Chinese History and Culture 301

This course highlights readings on selected topics concerning the cultural history of China, including the development of the early dynasties to late imperial China. Topics include the significance of Chinese festivals, folk customs, and urban, rural, elite and popular cultures in Chinese society.

Advanced II

News and Editorial Readings 302

This course is a continuation of News and Editorial Readings 301. It covers social and international affairs through readings of news articles and editorials in leading Chinese newspapers in Singapore, as well as other countries such as mainland China and Taiwan. Students are trained to discuss on the related topics.

Broadcasting Materials 302

This course is a continuation of Broadcasting Materials 301. More teaching materials are selected from radio and TV broadcasts, mainly news, advertisements, interviews and current affairs programmes. Classroom activities include discussion and role 27 May, 2008 ents' listening and written skills.

Preparation for HSK 302

This course is a continuation of Preparation for HSK 301. Students taking this course must have completed Listening & Reading Comprehension 301. Students will learn more vocabulary relevant to the test and acquire knowledge of grammatical structures. They will also be trained to answer the test questions in an effective manner.

Business & IT 302

This course covers articles on economics and IT teaching the students various terminologies and unique protocols used in the respective areas. Student's conversational ability and analyzing skills are further enhanced. The main areas of study include IT prevailing in the market, stock markets, investments and the economy.

Chinese History and Culture 302

This course is a continuation of Chinese History and Culture 301. It highlights readings on selected topics concerning the cultural history of China, including the development of

the early dynasties to late imperial China. More topics related to Chinese festivals, folk customs, and urban, rural, elite and popular cultures in Chinese society will be taught. In addition, selected historical figures and events will be appraised. Students are expected to use Mandarin to discuss topics related to Chinese history and culture.