CIEE Beijing, China

Course title: Language and Culture Practicum
Course code: CHIN 3005 CBEJ
Programs offering course: Beijing ICL
Language of instruction: Chinese
U.S. semester credits: 1
Contact hours: 15
Term: Fall 2020

Course Description

The Language and Culture Practicum (LP Class) is a constantly evolving course that combines many different teaching and learning formats to cover various topics ranging from test-taking help to bargaining with vendors in Chinese. Through this specialized curriculum, students will be given a solid foundation about Chinese culture and daily life and how to apply it to the world around them.

Learning Objectives

By completing this course, students will:

The main goal of this course is to allow students to understand various Chinese societal and cultural elements through certain practicums and open assignments. At the same time, students will learn how to adapt and how to live in a Chinese environment (especially Beijing) while strengthening their spirit for exploration.

Course Prerequisites

At least two semesters of college-level Chinese (or equivalent)

Methods of Instruction

This class consists of one 90-minute session per week, starting in September to December. One Language and Culture Practicum teacher (LP teacher in short) and two/three students will work together to engage students more in Chinese language usage and cultural exploration. All eight sessions will cover various topics in the form of presentations, debates, engaging in dialogues, mini research projects with all presentations presented in Chinese. Students will complete three cultural activities.
Students may also propose other research ideas that look at other aspects not covered, or research a topic more in-depth than was covered in the course. All of the activities and topics are closely related to student’s daily life and CIEE activities, and will help and encourage students to gain a better understanding of Chinese daily life, culture and people. Over the semester, there will also be group sessions (Chinese table, Dumpling Making etc.) to supplement the eight-week classes.

N.B. Course schedule is subject to change due to study tours, excursions, or local holidays. Final schedules will be included in the final syllabus provided to students on site.

Assessment and Final Grade

1. Three Assignments 45%
2. Oral Presentations 15%
3. Class Participation 40%

TOTAL 100%

Course Requirements

Three Assignments

These is no final exam for this course, but each assignment will be graded and recorded as part of the final grades.

The first assignment will be self-introduction in Chinese. The other three research topics will be focused on different activities outside of the classroom. PPT, pictures, oral presentations, essays, class debate are all welcomed.

For elementary level students:

• written text no less than 200 words
• usage of both narrative and descriptive text

For intermediate level students:

• written text no less than 300 words
• usage narrative/descriptive and argumentations with support ideas

For advanced level students:

• written report based on an interview no less than 500 words
• usage narrative/descriptive and arguments supported by detailed facts and data

Oral Presentations

Oral presentations will be held in the first 10-15 minutes of each in-class session.

Each student can have 2-4 minutes to fully deliver his or her ideas and positions on targeted topic. Good articulation and clear ideas are very essential to get a high grade of this part.

Class Participation

It is expected that students will not be absent unless there is a pressing reason which should be communicated to the instructor. Being punctual, including returning from breaks on time shows respect to your classmates and instructor. As per CIEE academic policy the instructor must deduct points: you will lose 2% for every unexcused absence and 1% every time you are late. This course requires a careful level of preparation, regular attendance and active participation by each student.

Weekly Schedule

Week 1
Class Course Introduction

Instructor: CIEE on-site staff

Content: CIEE will introduce the topics for the semester, pairing students, grading policy, and contact time, classroom location.

Assignment:

• Prepare a detailed self-introduction for next week.
• Oral prep: Do you think is a shame?
Week 2
Class Language Study

Instructor: LP Teachers

Content: Getting to know each other. Discuss and chose activities for this semester. Language Practicum Set: learning necessary sentence patterns, useful expressions and words. Prepare for the activity next week.

Assignment: N/A

Readings:
http://tv.cctv.com/2017/01/19/VIDAtIyRXSWBaJGZ1itGdZFE170119.shtml

Week 3
Class Cultural Activity One - Student-chosen Activity

Instructor: LP Teachers

Content: This week, students will go to their first cultural activity with tasks and assignments depending on the instructor's discretion.

Assignment: To be given by LP teacher.

Week 4
Class Language Study

Instructor: LP Teachers

Content: This week, we will talk about the experience of last week and show your presentation. Language practicum set: learning necessary sentence patterns, useful expressions and words that might be used in next week outing. Prepare for the activity next week.

Assignment: N/A
Readings: https://www.tripadvisor.cn/Attractions-g294212-Activities-Beijing.html

Week 5
Class Cultural Activity Two - Student-chosen Activity

Instructor: LP Teachers

Content: This week, students will go to their second cultural activity with tasks and assignments depending on the instructor’s discretion.

Assignment: To be given by LP teacher.

Week 6
Class Language Study

Instructor: LP Teachers

Content: This week, we will talk about the experience of last week and show your presentation. Language practicum set: learning necessary sentence patterns, useful expressions and words that might be used in next week outing. Prepare for the activity next week.

Assignment: N/A

Week 7
Class Cultural Activity Three - Student-chosen Activity

Instructor: LP Teachers

Content: This week, students will go to their third cultural activity with tasks and assignments depending on the instructor’s discretion.

Assignment: To be given by LP teacher.

Course Materials
Readings
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