

Taiwan Intensive Semester Language Program

CNSE 201/541: Intermediate Chinese Speaking and Listening
CNSE 202/542: Intermediate Chinese Grammar, Reading, and Writing
SOCL 320/520: Culture and Society of Taiwan

American Councils for International Education 美國國際教育委員會
Tamkang University 淡江大學



淡江大學
Tamkang University



Program Statement of Purpose

The Taiwan Intensive Semester Language Program in Taipei, Taiwan, will provide fifteen weeks of intensive Chinese language instruction and will take place at Tamkang University (TKU) in Taipei, Taiwan. The curriculum will focus on intensive speaking, listening, reading, and writing practice through 18 class hours of Chinese instruction per week. Students will also participate in a Chinese language pledge and strengthen their language skills with locals through activities and excursions designed to reinforce their understanding of Chinese culture and language.

Curriculum Overview

The Chinese Language Center (CLC) at TKU provides a highly demanding, total immersion academic program to Taiwan Intensive Semester Language Program participants. Classes are held five days per week, with two to four sessions per day. On days with four sessions, students will attend three lecture or drilling classes and one situational conversation or discussion class. On days with three sessions, students will attend two lecture or drilling classes and one situational conversation or discussion class. On days with two sessions, students will attend one lecture or drilling classes and one situational conversation or discussion class. Participants also receive one hour of personalized instruction each week. Students are required to actively participate in all classes, cultural enrichment activities, excursions, and ceremonies. Evaluation will include attendance and participation, quizzes and tests, midterm and final exams, oral presentations, and homework.

Policies

Attendance and Participation

Students who routinely miss classes or excursions without a valid medical excuse or other approved reason will be subject to verbal and written warnings and the possibility of lowered grades. Students are required to actively participate in all classes, cultural enrichment activities, excursions, and ceremonies.

Preparation and Self-Study

This program is highly demanding, and students should expect to spend a minimum of three hours on class preparation and self-study daily. This preparation should include both written and audio texts, as well as vocabulary and sentence patterns.

Completion of Homework

Students are assigned homework in each class and are expected to complete it by the date indicated by their teacher. Instructors factor student work into planning for future classes; timely completion of all assigned homework allows teachers to more accurately gauge student progress and effectively utilize class time. Homework is graded and will factor into students' overall course grades.

Daily Quizzes, Weekly Tests, Midterm, & Final Exams

TISLP Chinese instructors at the Chinese Language Center at Tamkang University will administer all quizzes, tests, and exams. Quizzes focus on new materials introduced in daily classes and are held during the lecture and drill classes. Weekly tests cover what students learned during the week. The two-hour long midterm and final written exams help students review what they have learned during the preceding two months. A final oral exam is held on the last day of the program.

Oral Presentation

Students will give two formal oral presentations over the course of the program. Students are required to organize three minutes of content and orally present it to their peers in class. All presentations should be reviewed for grammatical errors in collaboration with one-on-one class instructors.

Chinese Language Pledge

Students will sign a language pledge and are expected to speak Chinese both to classmates and to teachers throughout the duration of the program. This language pledge requires students to speak only Chinese in the following settings:

- In all program classes
- On the grounds of Tamkang University (including in hallways and cafeterias)
- On group excursions and trips
- With other program students
- With their host families/roommates
- With their language partners
- When speaking with local staff, officials, and teachers

Materials

- A. Textbooks
 - Modern Chinese, Volume 2
- B. PowerPoint Notes
- C. Supplemental Materials
 - a. Selected articles from Modern Chinese, Volume 3
 - b. Online listening and reading tests
 - c. Related articles

Evaluation

Participant grades are determined by the following components:

Attendance & Participation (All language classes, cultural activities, and excursions)	15%
Daily Quizzes	10%
Weekly Tests	10%
Homework	15%
Oral Presentations	15%
Written Midterm Exam	5%
Performance	15%
Final Written Exam	5%
Final Oral Exam	10%

Students will be graded according to the following grading scale:

Letter Grade	Percent Grade	4.0 Scale
A+	97-100	4
A	93-96	4
A-	90-92	3.7
B+	87-89	3.3
B	83-86	3
B-	80-82	2.7
C+	77-79	2.3
C	73-76	2
C-	70-72	1.7
D+	67-69	1.3
D	65-66	1
E/F	Below 65	0

Classroom Behavior

Students are expected to make an effort to act in a culturally appropriate way. They are also expected to treat their fellow students, instructors, and Chinese Language Center staff respectfully. Students should raise their hands before speaking in class. If a student needs to leave the classroom, she/he should ask for permission to leave. During classes, students are expected to follow the rules below:

- No eating
- No cell phones or any digital devices
- No feet on desks
- Be cooperative (be on time, etc.)
- Actively participate
- Be respectful to the instructor and classmates
- Be respectful to the local culture and others' cultures
- Be appropriately dressed

Sample Daily Schedule

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
09:10am-10:00am	Free	Free	Free	Mandarin Class	Free
10:10am-12:00pm	Mandarin Class	Mandarin Class	Mandarin Class		Mandarin Class
12:00pm-1:00pm	Lunch Break	Lunch Break	Lunch Break	Free	Free
1:10pm-3:00pm	Mandarin Class	Mandarin Class	Mandarin Class		
3:10pm-4:00pm	Teacher Tutoring or Free				
4:10pm-5:00pm					

Please note: The schedule is subject to change depending on student progress, interest, and other factors.

Course Descriptions

CNSE 201: Intermediate Chinese Speaking and Listening
(1.5 units of Bryn Mawr College academic credit — 6 undergraduate credit hours)

CNSE 541: Intermediate Chinese Speaking and Listening
(1.5 units of Bryn Mawr College academic credit — 5 graduate credit hours)

This course is designed for those who have previously studied one academic year of Mandarin Chinese at the university level and have already achieved some intermediate fluency in Chinese communication skills. This course aims to help students develop mastery of colloquial language and daily conversation skills and focuses on conversation, presentation, listening, and drilling through practical usage and content while discussing topics including the following themes:

- Expressing admiration for others and responding to compliments
- Asserting knowledge in certain areas
- Describing clothing features and suitable occasions
- Expressing gratitude in different ways when receiving gifts
- Describing disaster scenarios and how to avoid them
- Persuading others to accept invitations
- Describing pleasant and unpleasant travel experiences
- Commenting on others' attire
- Simulating interview scenarios for brief self-introductions and self-analysis of strengths and weaknesses
- Outlining the convenience and cautionary aspects of cloud technology
- Briefly discussing current events, such as a global food crisis

This course includes a daily lecture and drill session focusing on conversation and discussion patterns. Through this course, students develop and improve their interpersonal, interpretive, and presentational skills in a variety of authentic contexts and situations through meaningful conversation, oral presentations, speeches, and debates. All discussion topics reinforce content introduced in lecture and drill sessions.

CNSE 202: Intermediate Chinese Grammar, Reading, and Writing
(1.5 units of Bryn Mawr College academic credit — 6 undergraduate credit hours)

CNSE 542: Intermediate Chinese Grammar, Reading, and Writing
(1.5 units of Bryn Mawr College academic credit — 5 graduate credit hours)

This course is designed for those who have previously studied one academic year of Mandarin Chinese at the university level with exposure to some intermediate-level vocabulary and grammar patterns. In this course, students learn fundamental intermediate Chinese vocabulary and patterns while reading a variety of intermediate-level texts. Students are expected to learn approximately 900 new words and 80 new grammar patterns. Regular assessments include daily quizzes, weekly tests, homework, and class participation.

In addition to a daily lecture and drill session, this course also includes a daily reinforcement instruction class. In this session, students will improve their reading and speaking abilities according to their individual needs and interests. Teachers will provide corrections of students' language output as well as work closely with students to refine written projects, oral presentation drafts, field tasks, exams, and homework.

SOCL 320: Culture and Society of Taiwan

(1 unit of Bryn Mawr College academic credit — 4 undergraduate credit hours)

SOCL 520: Culture and Society of Taiwan

(1 unit of Bryn Mawr College academic credit — 5 graduate credit hours)

This course emphasizes not only seeing (e.g., detecting, experiencing, and interacting) but also interpreting observed facts according to value assumptions in local contexts. Course design thus features lectures, field work, and self-exploration through a mini project.

Lectures will provide the necessary background information on local social conditions and issues, including geophysical and socioeconomic conditions, structural problems, and prevailing values and their corresponding rationales.

Field work provides opportunities for direct exposure to the pulse of local life, allowing students access to the imagination and aspirations of local people. The act of collecting and interpreting immediate sensory inputs offers a deeper understanding of social reality.

The mini project emphasizes self-learning with clear direction. Students are challenged to raise relevant and interesting questions to investigate and to seek answers through field work and consulting with local experts.