Overseas Professional and Intercultural Training (OPIT)

CNSE 020 / Beginning Chinese I

American Councils for International Education 美國國際教育委員會

Shih Chien University 實踐大學





Program Objectives

The Overseas Professional and Intercultural Training (OPIT) program, Taiwan will provide eight weeks of intensive Chinese language instruction. The program will take place at Shih Chien University (SCU). The curriculum will focus on intensive speaking, listening, reading, and writing practice through 10 class hours of Chinese instruction per week. Students will also participate in a language agreement and strengthen their language skills with locals through activities and excursions designed to reinforce their understanding of Chinese culture and language. The eight-week intensive summer program is equivalent to two semesters of study in the US.

Curriculum Overview

The Chinese Language Center (CLC) at Shih Chien University provides a Chinese immersion program for participants in the Overseas Professional and Intercultural Training (OPIT) program. Classes are held five days a week, with two sessions per day. From Monday to Thursday, students attend two Chinese immersion sessions each day. On Fridays, two sessions are dedicated to role-playing activities and oral presentations. Students are required to actively participate in all classes, cultural activities, excursions, and program ceremonies. Student performance will be evaluated based on attendance and class participation, daily quizzes and weekly tests, midterm and final exams, oral presentations, and homework assignments.

Through immersive language instruction, role-playing activities, oral presentations, and cultural experiences, the program aims to strengthen students' Chinese comprehension and communication skills while encouraging them to apply what they have learned in real-life situations and cross-cultural interactions.

Policies

Attendance and Participation

Students who 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 enrichments, excursions, and ceremonies.

Preparation and Self-Study

This program is highly demanding, and students should expect to spend four to five 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

Program Chinese instructors at the Chinese Language Center at Shih Chien University will administer all quizzes, tests, and exams. Quizzes focus on new daily materials introduced in class and are held during lecture and drill classes. Weekly tests mainly review what students have learned during the week. The one-hour long midterm and final written exams are to help students review what they have learned during the preceding four weeks. Two oral exams will be conducted, one during the course and one on the last day of the program.

Oral Presentation

Throughout the course, students will give two formal oral presentations. They are required to prepare three minutes of content and present it orally to their peers in class. All presentations should be reviewed for grammatical accuracy under the guidance of the course instructor.

Chinese Language Agreement

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

- In all program classes
- On the grounds of the program institute (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. A Course in Contemporary Chinese 1
B. PowerPoint Notes
C. Supplemental Materials
D. Authentic Materials (e.g., menus, receipts, reservation confirmations, boarding passes, and flight information)

Evaluation

Participant grades are determined by the following components:

Attendance & Participation (in all language classes, cultural activities, and excursions)	20%
Weekly Tests	10%
Homework	10%
Oral Presentations	10%
Written Midterm Exam	10%
Midterm Oral Exam	10%
Performance	10%
Final Written Exam	10%
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	64-66	1
D-	61-63	0.6
E/F	Below 60	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

Daily Schedule

Date/Time	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
10:00-11:00	Mandarin Language Instruction				Communicative Activities	Free	
11:00-12:00	Mandarin Language Practice				Role-Playing and Oral Practice		
12:00-	Lunch Break						

Weekly Course Outline

Week	Topic	Key Communication Tasks
Week 1	Chinese Pinyin and Pronunciation	Introduction to Mandarin initials, finals, four tones, and tone changes. Practice in pinyin reading, pronunciation, sound recognition, basic greetings, and simple self-introductions.
Week 2	Lesson 1: Welcome to Taiwan	Greetings, self-introductions, names, nationalities, and basic interpersonal communication. Practice introducing oneself and others using simple sentence patterns.
Week 3	Lesson 2: My Family	Family members, kinship terms, personal introductions, and basic descriptions. Practice talking about family members and family backgrounds.
Week 4	Lesson 3: What Are You Doing This Weekend?	Leisure activities, time expressions, invitations, and responses. Practice asking about weekend plans, making invitations, and arranging activities.
Week 5	Lesson 4: How Much Is It Altogether?	Numbers, prices, shopping expressions, and payment-related language. Practice asking about prices, selecting products, and completing simple shopping transactions.
Week 6	Lesson 5: Beef Noodles Are Really Delicious	Food vocabulary, flavors, preferences, and dining expressions. Practice describing food, expressing preferences, and ordering meals in everyday situations.
Week 7	Lesson 6: Their School Is Up in the Mountains	Learn to describe locations, distances, and surrounding environments. Practice identifying locations, describing nearby facilities, and making simple comments about places.
Week 8	Lesson 7: Going to KTV at 9 O'clock in the Morning	Learn to tell time, describe daily schedules, discuss habitual activities, and make appointments. Practice arranging meeting times, discussing activities, and expressing time and duration. Comprehensive review and final assessments of listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills.