

Course: Contemporary Expository Chinese (165:371)

Instructor: Yanhong Zhang

Email address: yanhongz@rci.rutgers.edu

Office: Scott Hall 341

Office hours: Friday 12pm -1 pm; or by appointment

Lectures: W 11:30-12:50pm; F 1:10-2:30pm

Classroom: Scott Hall 205

Required Textbooks

Bai, Jianhua., Sung, Juyu., Xing, Zhiqun. Janet. 2006. *Beyond the Basics (2nd Edition)*. Boston: Cheng & Tsui Company.

Bean, Cathy Bao., Chen, Dongdong. 2008. *The Chopsticks-fork Principle*. Paramus: Homa & Sekey Books.

Recommended Textbook

Lin, Vivian. 1997. *The Independent Reader*. SMC Publishing

Course Objective

This is an advanced Chinese language course for students who are learning Chinese as a foreign language. Students will read and discuss a broad range of topics and issues concerning Chinese culture, history, philosophy as well as politics and social phenomena based on selected writings in Modern Chinese prose. Students will learn to analyze relevant structural patterns and gain lots of practice in Chinese writing.

Class Format and Assignment

The class will be organized in the form of lectures and group discussions. Students will have weekly assigned readings from your textbooks. Students will have writing assignment for each week. Each writing assignment will be collected before class on Friday of the following week. Writing requirement: 12 points font, single line spacing, left-hand side.

Grading

Students will not have quizzes or exam. But as it is said before, you will have writing assignment. Your grading will be based on class participation and group discussion (20%) and writing assignments (60%) as well as final project (20%).

Course Agenda

Topic 1. Childhood. To cultivate your ability to narrate things, for example, to tell what you have experienced or what you have witnessed. Following this topic, get ready for the group discussion in class about childhood issues.

- Assignment #1. *My Childhood memory* (at least 1 page)

Topic 2. Describing a person. To Learn to describe someone in terms of his or her personality or character. Talk about your opinion about privacy difference between Chinese culture and Western culture as far as writing a resume is concerned.

- Assignment #2. *My favorite person* (at least 1 page)

Topic 3. Master Salesperson. To understand the use of language skills in advertisement and product sales. Find your language partner in class and be prepared to (pretend to) sell your stuff using persuasive and credible language.

- Assignment #3. *An advertisement* (no limit)

Topic 4. Every field of work. To learn to express the advantage and disadvantage of one event. Talk about your opinion about different occupations.

- Assignment #4. *My ideal occupation* (at least 1 page)

Topic 5. Problem-solving. To cultivate your explanatory ability in writing. Be prepared to provide your suggestions or way for solving problems you might face in life.

- Assignment #5. *If I were a teacher* (at least 1 page) (to tell what subjects you would teach and how you would teach)

Topic 6. Lunch. To learn to combine description and argument together in an essay. Talk about issues about diet, vegetarian and different food and eating habits between Chinese people and American people.

- Assignment #6. *My favorite restaurant* (at least 100 characters)

Topic 7. Music. To cultivate your ability to describe the abstract concepts. Talk about your understanding about music.

- Assignment #7. *I like music* (at least 100 characters)

Topic 8. Crime. To learn to analyze an event, and make your judgment with enough evidence. Choose a specific category of crime and give suggestion regarding how to avoid this kind of crime in the form of group discussion.

- Assignment #8. *Drug problem* (1 page)

Topic 9. Love. To talk about issues concerning love (any kind of love).

- Assignment #9. *On love* (1 page)

Topic 10. Poverty. To talk about issues about poverty around the world.

- Assignment #10. *On Poverty* (1 page)

Topic 11. Culture. To make a contrast between Chinese culture and American culture. Tell about the cultural shock you have experienced. Readings on Chopstick-fork book.

- Assignment #11. Chinese culture in your eyes

Topic 12. Happiness. Free talk about happiness.

- Assignment #12. *The moment I feel happy* (1 page around)

Topic 13. Election.

- Assignment #13. Refer to textbook Lesson XIII.19

Topic 14. Movie. Watch a movie

- Assignment #14. *A Chinese movie review* (at least 1 page)

Topic 15. Extemporaneous speech. To choose a specific topic you are interested in and make an extemporaneous speech individually (5-8 minutes).

Final Project

You can choose a topic pertaining to cross-cultural communication, experience of learning Chinese, or experience of studying or touring in China, or social issues you are interested in. Write up a 3-page essay which should consist of your opinion and some supporting details.