

Course Code & Title: CHIN 9521 The Fundamentals of Chinese Characters (6 credits)

Course Description:

This intensive course is intended for international students whose mother tongue is not Chinese. It is designed to introduce the origins and evolution of Chinese characters. The formation and the structure of Chinese characters will be emphasized to help students to break the puzzles of Chinese written form. This course also familiarizes students with the distinctive features of the Chinese characters as a means to introduce them to the unique characteristics of the Chinese language and culture. Students will be equipped with the writing skills to copy any Chinese language in correct stroke-order and will be familiar with the commonly used components of combined characters after this course. The course will teach up to 220 Chinese characters and about 350 compound words. Students are taught how to use Chinese dictionaries in order to continue learning Chinese characters by themselves.

Learning Outcomes:

On successful completion of the course, students should be able to:

1. Demonstrate a basic knowledge of the history and evolution of Chinese characters.
2. Demonstrate mastery of 220 basic Chinese characters and understand approximately 350 common words.
3. Demonstrate an ability to copy any Chinese characters precisely and learn them through consulting Chinese dictionaries.

Assessment: 100% continuous assessment

Assessment methods	Weighting (%)
1. Writing homework & Class participation	10
2. Dictations & quizzes	30
3. Essay	20
4. Mid-term written test	10
5. Final writing test	10
6. Presentation	20

Course Study Load: 120 learning hours

Course activities	No. of hours
1. Classes contact hours	48
2. Presentation - preparation	2
3. Writing homework	30
4. Preparation & revision	30
5. Out-of-class tasks	10