

HS Chinese II

Curriculum Guide (including Course Objectives, Weekly Content, and Scope and Sequence)

Course Description

Students continue their introduction to Chinese with fundamental building blocks in four key areas of foreign language study: listening comprehension, speaking, reading, and writing. The course consists of 180 lesson days formatted in an intuitive calendar view, which can be divided into two 90-day semesters. The course represents an ideal blend of language learning pedagogy and online learning. As students begin the course, they construct their own Avatar that accumulates “Avatar bucks”—by performing well on course tasks—to use to purchase materials (clothing, gadgets, scenery, etc.) at the “Avatar store”. Each week consists of an ongoing adventure story, a new vocabulary theme and grammar concept, numerous interactive games reinforcing vocabulary and grammar, reading and listening comprehension activities, speaking and writing activities, and multimedia cultural presentations covering major Chinese-speaking countries. The course has been carefully aligned to national standards as set forth by ACTFL (the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages).

Course length: Two semesters

Materials: though not required, students may wish to purchase a Chinese-English dictionary

Prerequisites: WLG140: Chinese I, Middle School Chinese 1 and 2, or equivalent

Overall Course Objectives

The High School Chinese II course helps students:

- Engage in language learning
- Master common and some specialized vocabulary terms and phrases (in both Pinyin and Chinese characters)
- Comprehend a wide range of grammar patterns
- Instigate and continue simple conversations, and respond appropriately to increasingly nuanced conversational prompts
- Generate language incorporating basic and some specialized vocabulary and a range of grammar patterns
- Read, write, speak, and listen for meaning in Chinese (including Pinyin and Chinese characters)
- Analyze and compare cultural practices, products, and perspectives of various Chinese-speaking countries
- Write and input Chinese characters
- Regularly assess progress in proficiency through quizzes, tests, and speaking/writing submissions

Recurring Content

- **Thematic Adventure Story**
 - Each week students will read a different chapter to an adventure story that helps to introduce new language and themes into their weekly vocabulary and grammatical modules. This story provides a narrative for the entire course and is about a treasure hunt involving a family secret in modern China.
- **Vocabulary Theme**
 - Each week presents a new set of vocabulary words through various self-correcting activities. A printable vocabulary list, which includes pronunciation, is also provided.
- **Grammar Concept**
 - Each week introduces a new grammatical pattern. The concept is introduced through sentence comparisons and presented in a printable explanation of the pattern.
- **Character Demonstrations**
 - An animated drawing of a single character appears each week. This helps teach stroke order and radicals for characters.
- **Reinforcement Activities**
 - A range of interactive games (incrementally increasing in challenge) helps students reinforce vocabulary and grammar concepts. These activities may be completed multiple times so that students can better retain and apply the new information. Students accumulate “Avatar bucks” by performing well on these and other interactive challenges.
- **“Stretch” Activities**
 - Each week students work through an inventive and challenging activity to comprehend involved passages in Chinese, or to generate their own sentences in Chinese. Stretch activities include zany performances, core content-based instruction, familiar folktales presented in Chinese, simple narratives that students string together from basic building blocks, and many more. These activities help students work creatively in Chinese to communicate and make meaning.
- **Presentation of Culture through CultureGrams™, Culture Lessons, and Culture Videos**
 - Each week students learn about various cultural aspects (e.g. practices, products, and perspectives) of a Chinese-speaking country. CultureGrams™ are multi-media cultural presentations that cover a wide range of topics such as gestures, etiquette, history, food, and more. Culture Lessons focus in depth on a particular product or practice of Chinese culture. Culture videos present students with short video explanations about cultural aspects of various Chinese-speaking countries from a native of that country.
- **“Gameshow” Review**
 - Each week students review material from the week’s content in a “Gameshow” that builds on the motivations and friendly competition of familiar television game shows. Students are pitted against a virtual opponent and earn “Avatar bucks” as they demonstrate their mastery of the week’s material. The burden of review for the weekly assessment is thus transformed to a fun and engaging game.

- **“Out of Seat” Activities**
 - Several times during the year, students are given opportunities to use the language “outside” the course. These are specific assignments directing students to interact in a genuine way with the Chinese language or Chinese-speaking cultures.
- **Oral and Written Activities**
 - Each week, students complete oral and written activities. These activities give students a chance to become more familiar with the speaking and writing patterns of Chinese by applying them in communicative situations.
- **Assessments**
 - Culture comprehension quizzes verify that students have captured facts and understandings from the cultural presentations.
 - End-of-week quizzes assess students’ mastery of the vocabulary words and grammar concept presented that week, and include an oral or written assessment.
 - Midterm and Semester Exams assess students’ mastery of the semester’s contents up to their current place on the calendar, and include oral and written assessments.

Course Scope and Sequence

Semester 1

	Vocabulary Topic	Grammar Pattern/Language Point	Culture
Week 1	Simple words and phrases (review from Chinese I)	Introduction to pinyin and Chinese characters. Inputting character instruction.	Welcome to China 1 and 2
Week 2	Counting (review from Chinese I)	Measure words	Royal architecture in Beijing
Week 3	Body parts and adjectives	Describing differences / Common mistakes that occur while learning Chinese	China CultureGrams
Week 4	Sports / Olympics	Ordinal numbers / Choosing the right verb for the right sport	2008 Beijing Olympics
Week 5	Seasons and activities	Making comparisons	Chinese seasonal holidays
Week 6	Feelings and emotions	How to express feelings in Chinese / The fable of the snow doll	The family in China
Week 7	Internet, TV, and gaming	Grammar points from the dialogue bored Saturday (a little...to hold etc.)	Chinese TV shows

Week 8	Places in a city / What to do in a city	expressing arriving with dao *Out of seat activity: describe where you live	Nanjing
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	Vocabulary Topic	Grammar Pattern/Language Point	Culture
Week 9	Midterm Review and Test - no topics		
Week 10	Hobbies	Using different buts	Chinese games and pastimes
Week 11	Weather	Talking about weather / Weather report for the summer and winter / learning a poem about weather	Hong Kong CultureGram
Week 12	Chinese animals	More measure words	Wolong Reserve and panda bears
Week 13	Foreign Countries	Reading Chinese aloud (making foreign names from Chinese characters)	The Great Wall
Week 14	International Cities	Using "if..."	Overseas Chinese
Week 15	Professions	Professions character study	Four great inventions
Week 16	Air travel	Using when...	Tips for traveling in China
Week 17	Transportation	Using superlatives	Taiwan CultureGram
Week 18	Final Review and Test- no topics		

Semester 2

	Vocabulary Topic	Grammar Pattern	Culture
Week 1	Spring Festival / Gong xi fa cai	How to express spending time / Celebrating Chinese New Year	Chinese New Year riddles
Week 2	Music and instruments	Making Poetry / Singing the song Beautiful Jasmine	Chinese folk songs
Week 3	Holidays	Expressing understanding	National holidays
	Vocabulary Topic	Grammar Pattern	Culture
Week 4	Chinese cooking	Expressing what you can do	Dim Sum
Week 5	Utensils / Eating in a restaurant	Talking about food / Compliments descriptions	Dumplings won tons and buns
Week 6	Chinese love story	Expressing before and after / The Chinese Romeo and Juliet	Women and society
Week 7	Marriage	Expressing the common phrase “and with me go..”	Wedding customs
Week 8	Extended Family	Using fillers	China CultureGram
Week 9	Midterm Review and Test - no topics		
Week 10	Common verbs	Using verbs / Sample sentences with different verbs	Hong Kong CultureGram
Week 11	Common verbs II	Using verbs II / More sample sentences	Taiwan CultureGram
Week 12	A dairymaid’s dream	Expressing passives	Agriculture in China
Week 13	The price of beauty	Grammar points for the price of beauty (phrases used for compliments and how to use them)	Chinese concept of beauty

Week 14	The most beautiful thing in the world	Expressing “this way...that way...”	The four gentlemen (plants in paintings)
Week 15	Cognates / Shared English Chinese Words	The many meanings of “xiang”	Gong fu
Week 16	Dialects / Colloquialisms	Using metaphors	Auspicious expressions
Week 17	Idioms and philosophy	Giving advice / Chinese philosophers	The bamboo painter (idiom)
Week 18	Final Review and Test- no topics		