

Georgia Institute of Technology

School of Modern Languages

CHINESE 3693: CONVERSATION PRACTICUM LBAT 2012 (SYLLABUS)

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Description: The objective of this course is to raise your level of language proficiency by putting the Chinese you are learning in your 3691 “Chinese for Current Events” and 3692 “Business Chinese” classes into practical use in a variety of everyday situations in the community *outside* the classroom. A key component of the course is the **Language Pledge**, a total language immersion approach. The Pledge requires you “to use Chinese as your only language of communication while attending the Chinese LBAT program in Shanghai, particularly during the weekdays.”

Your activities may be tailored to your particular interests and language level, and may be conducted in pairs at first until you become familiar and comfortable with the area. During the activity you will be required to make contact (i.e. conversation) with at least two Chinese native speakers. The contact may be simple at first, such as greetings and asking names and directions. Record the name, place and a couple notes about each local you meet. This can be easily accomplished by introducing yourself, explaining that you are a student and asking for directions to the primary site of your practicum that day. As you become more familiar with the local community and accustomed to speaking Chinese on a daily basis your contacts with Chinese speakers should become more complex. Ask questions relating to the activity but feel free to discuss some other subject that might arise spontaneously. You will report on your activities in a journal and presentation.

- 5 practicum activities each week including site visit as one (may be observed by instructor).
- Attend group cultural or business site visit (to be reported in journal & debriefing)
- Debriefing Presentation: 3-5 minute presentation during the individual session. Organization of your debriefing presentation should be reflected in your journal.
- 100-200 character journal entry for practicum and site visits. Organization of your journal should be reflected in your debriefing presentation.

ML PERFORMANCE GOAL #1: PROFESSIONAL COMMUNICATION	
ML Learning Outcome 1 : Demonstrate oral and aural proficiency in the target language	CHIN 3693: <i>Students will demonstrate oral proficiency at the Intermediate low ACTFL level</i>
ML Learning Outcome 2: Demonstrate effective presentation skills in the target language	CHIN 3693: <i>Students will demonstrate the ability to present in individual tutorial for 3-5 minutes with minimal notes</i>
ML Learning Outcome 3: Demonstrate writing proficiency in the target language	CHIN 3693: <i>Students will produce a quarter page to half page journal entry for each practicum at the Intermediate-Low level on the ACTFL scale</i>
ML Learning Outcome 4: Demonstrate proficiency in comprehension of authentic written texts in the target Language	CHIN 3693: <i>Not Applicable to this Conversation Practicum</i>
ML PERFORMANCE GOAL #2: INTERCULTURAL SKILLS AND KNOWLEDGE	
ML Learning Outcome 5: Demonstrate in-depth knowledge of a <i>specific</i> target-language country or region	CHIN 3693: <i>Students will learn to successfully pursue out of class informal interviews and research regarding topics related to culture and business in China drawn from a list of specified practicum assignments and their own personally designed assignments</i>
ML Learning Outcome 6: Demonstrate the ability to analyze an issue from target-culture perspective(s)	CHIN 3693: <i>Students will display the ability to analyze basic conversation practicum topics related to doing culture and business in China from the perspective of the informants in informal interviews</i>
ML Learning Outcome 7: Demonstrate critical reflection on cultural complexity and context	CHIN 3693: <i>Students will display the ability to analyze and compare cultural and business conversation practicum topics to their home culture</i>

Weekly Format Outline:

- Monday-Friday: Language Pledge in effect; conduct practicum activities
- Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday individual session: including 3-5 minute debriefing presentation
- Fridays: 1:00 – 6:00 pm; group cultural or business site visit (to be reported in journal & debriefing)

Topical Schedule:

Week 1: Practicum focuses on survey of types **small businesses** in the immediate vicinity of SJTU.

Week 2: Practicum focuses on survey of varieties of **major local corporations** in Shanghai city center.

Week 3: Practicum focuses on survey of **major international corporations** in and around Shanghai.

Week 4: Practicum focuses on survey of **modes of transportation** in and around Shanghai.

Week 5: Practicum focuses on survey of **cultural sites** in and around Shanghai.

Week 6: Practicum focuses on survey of **business at tourist sites** in and around Shanghai.

Recap Practicum Requirements:

- minimum of 12 conversations with Chinese locals outside the classroom
- well organized 3-5 minute presentation of days activities
- 100-200 character journal entry (total of 27 entries, each week five entries except May 31, June 1, and 22)
- vocabulary list of critical words/expressions used during practicum activity (15 – 20 vocabulary per entry)
- list of unfamiliar words/characters encountered (at least 3 per practicum)
- one practicum activity observed by instructor(s)

Grading:

Based on quality and organization of 27 journal entries, 16 presentations, one final oral proficiency interview, and observed practicum activity.

- **Adhering to Language Pledge: 35%**
- **27 journal entries: 35%**
- **16 debriefing presentations: 20%**
- **1 observed practicum activity: 5%**
- **1 final oral exam: 5%**

Journal Entry and Presentation:

One page journal entry (about 100 – 200 characters) reflecting on the activity. It is interesting to make comparisons with your experiences in the US. Do not procrastinate. Turn in to your individual session teacher each Thursday.

Presentation. Prepare a 3-5 minute presentation of your activity in Chinese. **The final oral proficiency interview will be conducted on Thursday of the 6th week in Shanghai during your last individual session.**

Critical vocabulary list. Include with the Journal Entry a list of 15 to 20 words, phrases, or expressions that you attempted to employ. Try to use words from the day's lesson.

Note: In your journal entry please demonstrate insofar as possible that you used the items in your listed vocabulary. Always remember to review corrections we make and try not to repeat the same

errors in the next journal entry.

Example Practicum Activities (While you may follow the example activities, you are encouraged to design your own according to your own interests – please be creative).

1. **Map out SJTU University campus.** Get to know the campus by interview students, reporting on activities, find out where to shop, etc.
2. **Internet Cafe:** Find an internet cafe. Obtain prices for use, describe the surroundings, describe the clientele. Talk to customers as well as staff, inquire about specifics of the business: operating hours, who comes when, their costs to ISP, etc.
3. **Bookstore:** Locate dictionaries, Chinese language texts, books on domestic politics, books on international politics, books on modern Chinese literature, and books on a topic of special interest to you (e.g. martial arts or tea). Record the titles, names of authors, and prices for at least one book in each of these 6 categories. Find out what other items the bookstore sells in addition to books.
4. **Department store:** Locate and price items in a variety of categories. Price out rice cookers, TV's, items of clothing, teapots, radios, etc. Find something you can't find in American department stores.
5. **Restaurant:** Draw a map of a variety of restaurants from different provinces in China. Try to find food from places such as Beijing, Hunan, Sichuan, Guangdong, and Taiwan. Also try to find restaurants of differing quality and expense. Write the names of the restaurants on your map.
6. **Compare modes of transportation:** Riding in a taxi, bus, bicycle, train, subway. Compare costs, crowds, comfort and efficiency getting to different points in the city and surroundings.
7. **Interview tourists at Weekend sights:** Talk with some students or other Chinese tourists about where they are from, why they are here, what they like about the sight, how long they will be here, what other sights they plan to visit on this vacation, where they are staying, how they got her, how much they expect to spend on the entire trip, etc.
8. **Hotel:** Suppose your parents are coming to Shanghai to visit and you have to find them a room for a week. Explore a variety of options (at least 3) at different levels of price, quality, and convenience to the university.
9. **Morning Exercises:** Find out who is exercising in the morning and where. Explore demographics: What types of activities are performed by whom?
10. **Music Store:** Find out where to buy music in Shanghai. Are there any Tower Record stores? Best Buy? Price domestic and imported DVD's, CD's for a variety of music. Find out what is popular. Explore demographics of music sales: Who buys what kind of music? What singers are currently popular and who is already out?
11. **Interview tourists at local Shanghai sights:** Talk with some students or acquaintances about what "must see" sights and other places of interest for the Chinese tourists as well as locals and foreigners. Possible sights include: Shanghai Museum, Jade Buddha Temple, Lu Xun Museum, Yuyuan Garden, the Bund, etc. Choose one sight to visit and write about it.
12. **Tea.** Go to a teashop or tea seller and find the following information: What do people drink at what time of year and day. Where are the best teahouses? Where can you buy tea at the best prices? What

tea is available from other parts of the country? How do you know if the tea you're buying is appropriate quality for the price you're paying. How is a particular type of tea prepared? What is the price structure for varying levels of tea?

13. **Chinese movies:** Price out and go to a movie. Interview local Chinese about the movie. Did the movie have subtitles in Chinese? How much did you understand by reading verses listening? Compare going out for a movie and watching the DVD at home. As always, remember to compare to your own experience in the US (or elsewhere).
- 14-29. **Arranged by student proposal.** Must be approved in advance. Creativity is highly encouraged. Some suggestions include Shanghai Municipal Stadium, a real estate office, a mall, an old style Chinese neighborhood, Shanghai train station, etc.