

## EAST 530D FOURTH LEVEL CHINESE SYLLABUS 2023-2024

Instructor:

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### COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVE:

The objective of this course is to provide students with the skill to read newspaper articles as well as some literary works on various topics such as political, economic, social, and cultural issues. More literary and higher level of expressions will be introduced. There will be a great number of new words. Students will be required to master those which are useful.

Upon completion of one topic, there will be a discussion to improve students' oral skill. This course also aims at improving students' writing skill. Therefore, in addition to written assignments, students are required to write short essays.

In sum, upon completion of this course, students should have mastered most of basic grammatical structures used in Chinese newspapers and literary works and should be able to read newspaper articles and literary articles with the help of a dictionary and should be able to carry out discussions on these subjects.

### METHODOLOGY:

Each article shall be divided as follows:

1. Practice the use of expressions and new structures
2. Discussions and/or presentations

### TEXTBOOK:

Fall term: some lessons from 汉语阅读教程 第三册 Vol. 3 (available at McGill Bookstore)

Winter term: some lessons from the textbook plus newspaper articles and literary works

Reference: Pleco software (highly recommended); Chinese dictionary app, which can be purchased from Pleco Store ([store.pleco.com](http://store.pleco.com))

MyCourses: There are plenty of supplementary materials.

### CONDITIONS FOR THE COURSE:

1. An unexplained absence from any test or examination, written or oral, counts for zero.
2. No make-up tests/exams are given, except in cases of illness (with a doctor's note), family bereavement, or other emergency. The make-up tests/exams may be different.
3. No "K" (incomplete: the work is to be made up later) marks shall be given, except in cases of illness, family bereavement, or other emergency cases.
4. Students do not have the options of doing extra work to make up or improve marks. This includes students with "J" marks.
5. Late submission within one week of homework/assignments will be subject to 20 points mark deduction. No homework/assignments shall be accepted one week after due day.
6. Assignments/homework must be completed independently. Copying other's answers will be considered as plagiarism. All assignments should be written by hand.
7. Students are required to prepare before coming to class, so that more time can be devoted to practicing the use of new structures and discussions.
8. You are allowed to have 5 absences without excuse. More than 5 absences, each absence for reasons other than sickness (with a doctor's note) will result in a deduction of 0.5 point from your class performance. If there is any mistake, you must bring it up within one week. Checking email, WeChat or chatting with classmates in class shall be counted as absence.
9. Unexcused absences more than 20 class meetings may result in failure in the course regardless of a student's performance in other evaluation categories.
10. If you will be absent for religious observance, or other valid reasons, the day an assignment is due/ the day of exam/test, make alternate arrangements with the instructor in advance.
11. Please note that it will be the responsibility of each student to consult with the instructor to determine whether s/he should switch to a higher/lower level.
12. During quizzes/exams if a student needs to leave the classroom, s/he shall leave her/ his cellphone, ipad or any other electronic devices with the instructor, and return within a reasonable time limit (approximately 3 minutes).

13. Students who arrive after the examination/test has begun will not be given extra time.

**METHOD OF EVALUATION:**

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|--------------------------|------|
| 1. Class performance     | 10%  |
| 2. In-class exams (6 小考) | 24 % |
| 3. Quizzes               | 21%  |
| 4. Assignments           | 20%  |

There are 2 assignments for each lesson: assignment A (can be found in MyCourses) is due at the beginning of the class a new lesson starts; Assignment B (exercises in the textbook) is to be handed in after a lesson is finished. The due dates are indicated in the schedule.

5. Composition (about 1000 characters) 5 %

The composition is due in the first day of the second semester. The content of the composition should be interesting, humorous, or moving/touching. It can also be a comparison between Chinese and western cultures or a discussion on current issues. This composition can potentially be used for the annual speech contest held on the third Saturday of March. It should be about 1 ½ pages double spaced.

6. Two oral presentations 20%

Each student should interview a native speaker of Chinese on topics covered in previous week and present in class the summary of your interview using PPT. You will be evaluated based on the content, grammatical structures, pronunciation, and familiarity/fluency, 25% each. You can have cue cards but cannot read from the written text during the presentation. Otherwise, you will lose 25% on the familiarity.

The duration of the interview should be approximately 30 minutes, and the presentation should be at least 10 minutes. Following the presentation, s/he should lead a discussion on the same topics. The interview (in Chinese only) as well as the oral summary of the interview should be recorded and sent to [jennie.chang@mcgill.ca](mailto:jennie.chang@mcgill.ca) prior to the day of presentation. The typed summary of the interview shall be sent to [jennie.chang@mcgill.ca](mailto:jennie.chang@mcgill.ca) prior to the day of presentation, and on the day of presentation, a hand-written summary of the interview shall be handed to me, both of which constitute part of your grade. A vocabulary list shall be prepared and projected with the PPT.

**IMPORTANT NOTE:**

1. You must keep all the graded assignments, weekly tests, exams, or written presentations, because if your marks do not appear in MyCourses, you must use them as proof.
2. Please do not try to change section for the Winter term, because if you do, you will drop/withdraw from the course.
3. For assignments, quizzes and exams please write with black ballpoint pen.

McGill Policy Statements  
Academic Integrity:

**“McGill University values academic integrity. Therefore, all students must understand the meaning and consequences of cheating, plagiarism and other academic offences under the Code of Student Conduct and Disciplinary Procedures”**

**(see [www.mcgill.ca/students/srr/honest/](http://www.mcgill.ca/students/srr/honest/) for more information).***(Approved by Senate on 29 January 2003)*

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