Chinese Course Syllabus

Course Description:
This is an entry-level Chinese class designed to introduce some basic knowledge about Chinese language and culture. Participants will not only be exposed to authentic language contexts, but also to situations where their abilities to use the Chinese language to do creative dialogues. All the learning materials chosen reflect the value system, traditions, daily life, social development and business oriented conversations of the current Chinese society.

Course Objective:
By the end of the program, participants will be able to use their Chinese language skills to conduct conversations on daily life, including greetings, buying products, transportations, as well as business topics, such as at a bank, real estate, marketing, advertisement, corporation cultures, etc.
Meanwhile, participants will have the basic knowledge of how to further their Chinese language study by themselves in their future development in China.

Course Materials:
Teaching Materials: Topic-based selected teaching materials
Suggested reading materials: “River Town” written by Peter Hessler
“My Country and My People” written by Lin Yutang
“Insider China” by Lifeng Han with Emma Lejun Wu and Hua Cai
“A Journey to the West” by Wu Ch‘eng-en
“Outlaws of the Marsh” by Shi Nai‘An
“The Joy Luck Club” by Amy Tan

Grading Policy
1. Attendance and participation: 30%
2. Final examination: 70%

Course Outline
Chapter 1: Greetings
Basic Vocabulary—how to say hi, ask names, nationalities, greetings
Sentence Patterns—
Authentic (daily-used) expressions Vs. Textbook expressions of greetings
Activity—“I live in the global village”
Cultural Note—Chinese Names (formation + history)

Chapter 2: Numbers
Warm-up activity—how to count 1-10 in Chinese (with hand-gesture expressions)
Basic expressions in asking time
Basic expressions in asking price
Activity—counting game (clap your hand without speaking up the number when it comes to number 7)
Cultural note— (1) semantic meaning of numbers in Chinese culture
(2) bargaining cultures in China
Chapter 3: Transportation
*Basic vocabulary*—means of transportation; directions; taxi language
*Sentence patterns*—asking ways; communicating with taxi drivers (drive slowly, drive fast, turn left/right, stop, etc.)
*Activity*—role play
*Cultural note*—road names in China, road designing ideas in China, Fengshui and directions

Chapter 4: Food
*Basic vocabulary*—fruit and vegetables; meats
*Sentence patterns*—buying food, asking price, ordering food, making reservations
*Activity*—role play
*Cultural Note*—Chinese people consider “Food is the first happiness”; eight types of Chinese food; Chinese food philosophy and Taoism

Chapter 5: Family
*Warm-up activity*—introducing the formation of Chinese character 家
*Basic vocabulary*—family members, measure word for people, professions
*Sentence patterns*—introduce family members, introduce family members’ professions
*Activity*—family album
*Cultural note*—different family concept; one-child policy; different addressing in Chinese family