

China - IP Bulletin 2011-12

Introduction

The IP Bulletin is the International Programs "catalog" and provides academic information about the program in China.

General

The California State University International Program in Beijing is affiliated with Peking University (PKU). Founded in 1898, as Capital University, PKU adopted its current name in 1912 and in 1952 it merged with Yanjing University and moved to the current location, the original Yenching University campus, near the old summer palace. PKU has five divisions: humanities, physical sciences, social sciences, information and engineering, and health sciences. Its library is the largest of any university in Asia. Almost 2,500 international students from a wide range of nations attend PKU. CSU International Program at PKU started in 2002 and it has maintained an on-campus office to provide services to the IP students.

Academic Calendar

The academic year at PKU is divided into two semesters. Fall semester begins early September and ends in mid-to-late January. Spring semester runs from mid-February to the end of June. The end date for fall and start date for spring are widely variable as they are based on the winter break around Chinese New Year.

Academic Culture

Many students find workload at PKU heavier than their home campuses. Instructors tend to be less interactive and require a lot of homework and memorization. Most professors at the International College for Chinese Language Studies teach part-time and do not have offices and office hours. They are accessible by email or in the hallway between classes. Grading primarily consists of attendance, homework, and exams. Students whose attendance falls below a certain percentage will not be credited with a grade in the course. There is usually no opportunity for make-up exams and assignments or extra credit work. Although students come from around the world, East and Southeast Asian students tend to be placed in higher level classes and European and American students in lower levels. It's very common for students to form study groups and hire tutors.

Academic Reporting

In addition to units and grades, the OIP reports each course attempted to the student's campus by reporting the title of the course taken and the CSU home campus department in which the course is closely related. This method of reporting means that students will need to furnish course descriptions, syllabi, and other course materials to their advisors in order to apply for credit towards specific major, minor, or general education requirements. Students should expect to complete campus-based forms (petitions or course substitution requests) with the assistance of their advisor(s). If courses are not needed for specific degree requirements, then it is usually not necessary to complete any other forms.

Unit and Grade Conversion

Below is the unit conversion that is used to convert PKU credits to CSU semester units.

PKU credits/hours	CSU units
8	6
6-7	5
5	4
4	3
2-3	2
1	1

For CSU students attending a quarter-based campus: To convert the value of CSU semester units into CSU quarter units, multiply the CSU semester units by 1.5.

Below is the grade conversion that is used to convert grades earned at PKU to the CSU.

PKU grade	CSU Grade
90-100	A
85-89	A-
82-84	B+
78-81	B
75-77	B-
72-74	C+
68-71	C
64-67	C-
60-63	D
0-60	F

Academic Program

International Programs students spend most of their time in the International College for Chinese Language Studies (<http://hanyu.pku.edu.cn/info/>), located in PKU's Shao Yuan compound in the west side of campus.

Students take a language placement examination at the beginning of each semester and are placed at the elementary, intermediate, or advanced level. Each of these three broad levels is further divided into several sub-levels of classes based on the textbooks used in them.

At the elementary level, students are required to take 20 hours per week of intensive language classes emphasizing grammar, reading, speaking and listening. They are not allowed to take electives. At the intermediate and advanced levels, special topics and electives are available, and writing is emphasized. Students who score high enough on their Chinese Placement Test may be permitted to take classes from regular departments as visiting students, subject to permission from the department and Resident Director. Special programs that require separate admission and fees are not available to CSU students.

All students, regardless of the level in which they are placed and the curriculum they are following, are required to take 14 to 15 CSU units each semester (but no more than 18 units per semester, unless approved by the OIP).

Course Offerings: International College for Chinese Language

Note that not all courses listed below are offered each year and are subject to change.

Course Coding

100-299 lower division - elementary and intermediate
 300-399 upper division - advanced I
 400-499 upper division - advanced II

Students who are placed at the elementary and intermediate level will take the required courses (100 - 200 level courses) only. They do not have the option to take electives or special topic courses. Students who are placed at the advanced level will take two required courses and one or more elective courses at appropriate levels. Elective courses are marked by an "*".

CSU unit values are listed in semester units next to the course title in parenthesis. Note that CSU units are based on the credit values assigned by PKU for courses offered and are subject to change if PKU makes changes to PKU credit values.

With regard to the required language classes (the Intensive Chinese sequence and the Spoken Chinese sequence), PKU transcripts only specify the three levels (elementary, intermediate, and advanced). Each level includes several sub-levels, distinguished by textbooks. The following listing of these required courses are based on the textbook used in each.

PKU 100A Elementary Intensive Chinese A (8)

The course will provide a basic instruction on grammar and vocabulary. Students whose vocabulary is around 1,000 words and who can use fewer than 500 characters will take this course.

PKU 100B Elementary Intensive Chinese B (8)

Continuation of PKU100A.

PKU 101A Elementary Spoken Chinese A (8)

This course prepares the beginning language student to learn rudimentary skills for getting around ordinary situations in Chinese. Question and answer patterns and basic pronunciation are emphasized.

PKU 101B Elementary Spoken Chinese B (8)

Continuation of PKU 101A.

PKU 102A Elementary Listening Chinese A (3)

Students learn to hear tones and basic vocabulary in Chinese. Recordings, drills and comprehension are emphasized.

PKU 102B Elementary Listening Chinese B (3)

Continuation of PKU 102A.

PKU 200A Intermediate Intensive Chinese A (6)

This course builds upon a basic instruction on grammar and vocabulary. Students whose vocabulary is fewer than 3000 words and who can use fewer than 1000 characters will take this course. The main goal of this course is to complete the students' understanding of grammar and enlarge their vocabulary with the aid of text books.

PKU 200B Intermediate Intensive Chinese B (6)

Continuation of PKU 200A.

PKU 201A Intermediate Spoken Chinese A (6)

In this course students learn to actively use the vocabulary they have learned in their reading and writing. They move beyond everyday needs and common topics and learn to handle a variety of speaking situations.

PKU 201B Intermediate Spoken Chinese B (6)

Continuation of PKU 201A.

PKU 202A* Intermediate Chinese Listening A (3)

This course supplies listening materials for students at a level higher than their written and spoken Chinese level. Students learn to develop passive skills and listening in context.

PKU 202B* Intermediate Chinese Listening B (3)

Continuation of PKU 202A.

PKU 300A Advanced Intensive Chinese IA (6)

This course is for students who have a vocabulary of at least 3,000 words and who can read and write at least 1,000 characters in various combinations. The main goal of this course is to complete the students' understanding of grammar and enlarge their vocabulary with the aid of textbooks.

PKU 300B Advanced Intensive Chinese IB (6)

Continuation of PKU 300A.

PKU 301A Advanced Spoken Chinese IA (5)

In this course students build upon their active use of the vocabulary they have learned in their reading and writing. They learn to handle a variety of speaking situations.

PKU 301B Advanced Spoken Chinese IB (5)

Continuation of PKU 301A.

PKU 310* Chinese Characters (2 or 3)

Students analyze the etymology and the internal structures—the different types of radicals—of Chinese characters as well as learn to recognize and write them.

PKU 312A Chinese Listening Comprehension A (2 or 3)

Students are taught different methods and skills to improve listening comprehension skills. Common mistakes and aspects of Chinese culture that may cause difficulty in listening are addressed.

PKU 312B Chinese Listening Comprehension B (2 or 3)

Continuation of PKU 312A.

PKU 313* Chinese Readings I (2 or 3)

Students learn to read Chinese articles on diversified topics to improve Chinese reading skills and develop scientific reading habits. Readings include essays from a course textbook as well as supplementary readings from the teacher.

PKU 314* Chinese Pronunciation (2 or 3)

This course approaches Chinese phonetic from several angles. Students are trained to distinguish sounds aurally as well as to articulate them verbally. Special attention is paid to consonants that are unique in Chinese and patterns of tonal change in actual speech.

PKU 315* Chinese Composition (3)

This course provides basic training in Chinese composition. Students learn punctuation, sentence and paragraph structure. Through practice and exposure, they learn the basics of narrative, description, exposition, argument, correspondence and other discourse genres.

PKU 316* Chinese Grammar (3)

Students are introduced to the basic rules of Chinese grammar in such areas as parts of speech, sentence structure and function, tense and aspect, and mood and modality. The course is designed to solve practical problems in students' learning processes and to develop their analytical skills.

PKU 317* Business Chinese (3)

Students learn Chinese commonly used in business and economics settings, emphasizing typical business settings.

PKU 320 "Home with Kids" Multi-skill Chinese (3)

This course helps students understand Chinese daily life and culture through audio-visual-oral exercises based upon this popular television series. Students

improve their Chinese proficiency level, especially in intercultural communicative competence.

PKU 321* Chinese Newspaper Readings (3)

This course helps students familiarize themselves with different types of Chinese newspapers and periodicals, their characteristics and the language commonly used in them. Through reading newspaper and periodical articles, students are expected to understand and show more concern to Chinese society, culture and current issues.

PKU 353* Tradition and Modernity (3)

The course embeds language learning in a cultural context. It looks at ancient and contemporary Chinese cultural practices in a variety of perspectives. The course covers the following six areas: customs (food, wine, tea, Moon Festival, birth years of 12 animals); languages (Chinese characters, dialects, idioms); art (embroidery, paper-cutting, Chinese knots); history (dynasties, Confucius, the first Emperor of Tang Dynasty); entertainment (martial arts, boat racing); and contemporary memorials (Beijing, the Great Wall, the Royal Tomb of Qin Emperor in Xi'an).

PKU 390* Lectures on Chinese Culture (2)

Students listen to and write about a series of guest lectures to help them improve Chinese language levels and learn the history, culture and current conditions in China from various angles.

PKU 400A Advanced Intensive Chinese IIA (5)

Students improve ability in reading, comprehension and appreciation of language styles through articles on a variety of topics, literary forms and styles.

PKU 400B Advanced Intensive Chinese IIB (5)

Continuation of PKU 400A.

PKU 400C Advanced Intensive Chinese IIC (5)

Continuation of PKU 400B.

PKU 401A Advanced Spoken Chinese IIA (5)

Students increase vocabulary and develop ability to talk on abstract topics in a variety of styles.

PKU 401B Advanced Spoken Chinese IIB (5)

Continuation of PKU 401A.

PKU 401C Advanced Spoken Chinese IIC (5)

Continuation of PKU 401B.

PKU 406* Classical Chinese (3)

Students learn grammar and structure of ancient Chinese through classic works and exercises.

PKU 410* Advanced Chinese Composition I (3)

Students learn punctuation, sentence and paragraph structure. Through practice and exposure, they learn the basics of narrative, description, exposition, argument, correspondence and other discourse styles. The course emphasizes writing practice as well as group discussion, presentations, and designing entire compositions.

PKU 411* Advanced Chinese Composition II (3)

Students develop writing skills and obtain guidance in practical writing, description, narration and exposition on the basis of reading and analyzing model articles.

PKU 413* Advanced Chinese Readings (3)

Students develop their understanding of new words, widen their vocabulary and increase reading speed.

PKU 414* Advanced Chinese Pronunciation (3)

This course continues the analysis of Chinese phonetics, developing the ability to hear and produce the different combination of tones in a variety of structural contexts. Special attention to common mistakes and difficulties in Chinese pronunciation and tones.

PKU 416* Chinese Function Words (3)

This course teaches the use of function words (so-called "empty words") in Chinese grammar and expressions.

PKU 417* Advanced Business Chinese (3)

This course enhances students' skills in listening, comprehension, with focus on business issues. Reading and writing of Chinese language needed in business activities and deepening their understanding of economic life, society and culture of China in relation to business.

PKU 418* Chinese-English Translations (3)

This course emphasizes the learning of Chinese through translation practice. Teaching materials are selected from textbooks and newspaper articles. Topics include politics, economics, culture, literature, and social issues. With a step-by-step training from simple to complex passages, students improve their Chinese writing skills in aspects ranging from daily communication to academic styles.

PKU 421* Advanced Chinese Newspaper Readings (3)

Through broadcast and print media, students develop a sophisticated understanding of the linguistic devices and rhetorical strategies found in the media genre.

PKU 430* Selected Readings in Modern Chinese Literature (3)

This course focuses on discovering the structures and meanings of literature. It includes readings in fiction, essays, and poetry designed to improve students' reading skills and develop their understanding of the modern Chinese society, particularly its transformations in the 20th century.

PKU 431* Selected Readings in Classic Chinese Poetry (3)

This course uses poetry to teach vocabulary, principles of pronunciation, semantics, and classical Chinese grammar, with an emphasis on contemporary usage and the relevance of ancient poetry. It provides a path for students to understand Chinese traditional language, culture as well as the psychology of the Chinese people.

PKU 450* China: A General Overview (3)

Students learn Chinese history, demographics, geography, politics, economics, science and technology, education, traditions, literature, art, customs, travel, ethnic minorities, and international communication. Content is delivered by lectures, videos, readings and discussions.

PKU 451* Chinese Culture (3)

The course combines the teaching of cultural knowledge with the enhancement of the Chinese language skills. Topics include lineage organization and naming, language systems, marriage and death rituals, architecture, interpersonal communication, and other aspects of culture.

PKU 456* Chinese through Cinema (3)

This course improves language learning and understanding of Chinese culture, society, and ideology through viewing and interpreting film, including both the narrative and the documentary genre.

PKU 457* Chinese Media (3)

Through broadcast and print media, students develop a sophisticated vocabulary and understanding of the linguistic and rhetorical features of the media discourse.

Course Offerings: Regular University Courses

Course offerings for each department can be found on the web at <<http://www.pku.edu.cn/academic/>>. Offerings and availability vary widely from semester to semester, and many courses do not appear in the department webpage listings. Departments post printouts showing current courses at the beginning of each semester.