

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. However, 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. 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.

The Academic Program

International Programs students will spend most of their time in the International College for Chinese Language Studies (<http://hanyu.pku.edu.cn/info/>). It is located in PKU's Shao Yuan compound in the west side of campus. Students who get high scores on their Chinese Placement Test are allowed to take classes in the PKU regular departments as visiting students. Almost all departments are open to visiting students although some are not. Even those who “test out” of the language center are normally not quite ready for a full load of regular PKU courses.

Grading

Below is the grade conversion table 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 Reporting

In many cases, the OIP will use a special course designation number when reporting these courses to CSU campuses. This is especially true when reporting any courses for students from Channel Islands, Chico, Long Beach, Sacramento and quarter campuses due to reporting arrangements with individual campuses or unit variations between host university and campus courses.

This type of reporting will allow the student to receive CSU resident credit in the subject area in which the course was taught. The title of the course taken will also be reported to the CSU campus and posted to the student's CSU academic record. This reporting method means that students will need to furnish course descriptions, syllabi and other course materials to their home campus advisors in order to apply for credit towards specific degree (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 at your campus.

Course Offerings: International College for Chinese Language

Students take a language placement examination at the beginning of each semester and are assigned to appropriate classes at the elementary, intermediate, or advanced level. At the elementary levels, students are required to take 20 hours per week of intensive 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. In addition to the two required classes (Chinese and Spoken Chinese), these students may take additional courses as electives to meet the full-time enrollment status. Not all courses are offered each year and are subject to change.

Course Coding

100-299 Lower Division
300-399 Upper Division

Students who are placed at the elementary level will take the required courses (100, 101, and 102) only. They do not have the option to take electives or special topic course. Students who are placed at the intermediate level will take two required courses (200 and 201) and one elective from a list of 20X elective courses. Advanced level students will take two required courses (300 and 301), but they can take up to two electives from the 30X elective courses. Elective courses are marked by an "**". CSU unit values are listed in semester units next to the course title in parenthesis.

PKUIP 100A Elementary Chinese I (6)

The course will provide a basic instruction on grammar and vocabulary. Students whose vocabulary is fewer than 3,000 words and who can use fewer than 1,000 characters will take this course. Taught in Chinese.

PKUIP 100B Elementary Chinese II (6)

Continuation of PKUIP 100 A.

PKUIP 101A Elementary Spoken Chinese I (6)

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.

PKUIP 101B Elementary Spoken Chinese II (6)

Continuation of PKUIP 101A.

PKUIP 102A Elementary Listening Chinese I (3) Students learn to hear tones and basic vocabulary in Chinese. Recordings, drills and comprehension are emphasized.

PKUIP 102B Elementary Listening Chinese II (3)

Continuation of PKUIP 102A.

PKUIP 200A Intermediate Chinese I (6) 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 text books.

PKUIP 200B Intermediate Chinese II (6)

Continuation of PKUIP 200 B.

PKUIP 201A Intermediate Spoken Chinese I (5)

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.

PKUIP 201B Intermediate Spoken Chinese II (5)

Continuation of PKUIP 201A.

PKUIP 202A* Intermediate Listening Chinese I (2)

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.

PKUIP 202B* Intermediate Listening Chinese II (2)

Continuation of PKUIP 202A.

PKUIP 210* Intermediate Chinese Characters (3) Students learn to recognize and write Chinese characters along with etymologically-related terms. They are introduced to relevant fundamental theory about Chinese characters and vocabulary, including phonetic and semantic units.

PKUIP 211A* Intermediate Chinese Readings I (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.

PKUIP 211B* Intermediate Chinese Readings II (3)

Continuation of PKUIP 211A.

PKUIP 212* Chinese Pronunciation and Tones (2)

This course approaches sound in Chinese from several angles, training the ear to hear and produce the different combination of tones, and refining the consonant initials that are distinctive to Chinese.

PKUIP 213* Intermediate 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 literary styles.

PKUIP 214* Chinese Grammar (3)

Students are introduced to the basic rules of Chinese grammar, including sentence structure, functional analysis, vocabulary classification and other difficult points. The course is designed to solve practical problems in students' learning processes and to develop analytical skills.

PKUIP 230* Business Chinese (3)

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

PKUIP 300A Advanced Chinese I (5)

Students enter this course with a 5,000-word vocabulary and 2,000 to 3,000 characters. This class is designed to enlarge and refine the students' vocabulary. They learn to write essays and prepare presentations.

PKUIP 300B Advanced Chinese II (5)

Continuation of PKUIP 300 A.

PKUIP 301A Advanced Spoken Chinese I (5)

Students learn to express themselves in conversation, and learn to master cultural norms in speaking including proper registers and customs. They practice public speaking and speaking on specialized topics.

PKUIP 301B Advanced Spoken Chinese II (5)

Continuation of PKUIP 301A.

PKUIP 310* Chinese Characters (3)

Builds and expands upon students' previous learning of Chinese characters. This course teaches about the elements of Chinese characters in relations to their pronunciation and meanings.

PKUIP 313* Advanced Chinese Composition (3)

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

PKUIP 314* Chinese Function Words (3)

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

PKUIP 316* Chinese English Translations (4)

Emphasizes the learning of Chinese through translation practice. Teaching materials are selected from the textbooks and from 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.

PKUIP 319* Classical Chinese (4)

This course teaches Chinese language used in ancient times (“classical Chinese”), including readings from the classic texts of Confucianism and Daoism.

PKUIP 320* Chinese Newspaper Readings (4)

Through readings from newspapers and magazines, students develop the vocabulary needed to read and understand a range of publications, from Party newspapers to special interest journals. Through these reading they gain an understanding of Chinese politics, economy, culture, and entertainment.

PKUIP 321* Media News Today (4)

Through broadcast and print media, develop a sophisticated vocabulary and understanding of the patterns and methods used to understand the news as well as the Chinese politics, economy, and culture described.

PKUIP 322* Selected Readings in Modern Chinese Literature (4)

Readings in fiction, essays, and poetry designed to improve reading skills as well as understanding modern Chinese society and the transformations of the 20th century and how they reflect the struggle inside the minds of Chinese people. Focus on discovering the structures and meanings of works.

PKUIP 323* Selected Readings in Classic Chinese Poetry (4)

This course uses poetry to teach vocabulary, principles of pronunciation, semantics, and classical Chinese grammar, with an emphasis on contemporary usage and 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.

PKUIP 330* Advanced Business Chinese (4)

Students learn Chinese used in business and in writings about economics and prevailing business practices in China.

PKUIP 350* China: A General Overview (4)

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

PKUIP 351* Chinese Culture (2)

The course combines the teaching of cultural knowledge and Chinese language. Topics include lineages and naming, language systems, marriage and death rituals, architecture, interpersonal communication, and other aspects.

PKUIP 353* Tradition and Modernity (4)

The course embeds language learning in a cultural context. It provides modern ways of looking at ancient and contemporary Chinese cultural practices. Six units: 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).

PKUIP 356* Chinese through Cinema (4)

Improves language learning and understanding of Chinese culture, society, and ideology through viewing and interpreting movies, both narrative and documentary.

PKUIP 390* Seminar on Chinese Culture (2)

Chinese nationalism, ethnic and folk architecture, food culture, holidays and arts, spiritual cultivation, tea and liquor arts, literary and museum arts are covered in a series of lectures. Specialized experts provide a concrete perspective through which to observe and analyze the Chinese people.

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.