



KIIS Taiwan Program, Summer 2026

CHIN 333 Chinese Culture and Civilization Course Syllabus

Syllabus subject to change



Course Description and Objectives:

Chinese 333 is an intermediate to advanced Chinese language and culture course. The main purposes of this course include expanding students' vocabulary, improving students' reading comprehension, and advancing students' conversation skills, at advanced-level. This course also has a focused concentration on the training of essay writing in Chinese. In addition to language training, this course is specially designed to integrate cultural learning into language training by turning cultural context into text. Readings are from an excellent book 《文化中文》 (Cultural Chinese) in which students will find themselves deeply immersed in the very fabric of Chinese culture that governs personal behavior and directs social dynamics. The main texts include introductory essays that offer students insights into the Chinese literary, artistic and cultural traditions, and historical or mythological mini-stories that inform them on Chinese values, customs and thoughts.

Required Texts:

1. Zu-yan Chen & Hong Zhang, *Cultural Chinese: Readings in Art, Literature, and History*. (Georgetown University Press, 2012)

* Video and other culturally authentic materials will be employed as they tie in with the theme of each chapter.

Course Requirements:

Course requirements consist of attending all class meetings, preparation before class, completion of assignments on time, and oral/written tests. Final grades will be based on a combination of daily class performance, dictations, quizzes, oral presentations, homework, and essay writings.

1) “Words of the Day” (每天名言). Each student is required to give a short report/presentation in Chinese/English about anything (life, school, food, mood, hobby, friends, etc.) at the beginning of each class. It can be one's own contemplation, or as a piece of advice to others.

2) Dictations. To make sure that students take full advantage of the class, simple dictations of the new vocabulary learned will be given at the beginning of classes on a regular basis. (Please check weekly schedule for specified date/es.) (For dictation, please write characters and the English definitions; if you forget a certain character, write *pinyin* instead, to receive half of the points.)

3) Homework. Homework assignments are from the textbook's homework section, and are to be checked in class.

4) Oral presentations. There will be an oral presentation after each chapter. (Oral presentation on a given text can take the form of retelling a story, contextualizing a cultural concept, summarizing a text, explaining a cultural phenomenon, a common saying or a Chinese idiom, their modern-day use and ramifications.)

5) Final Reflection essay in Chinese and presentation. (2 pages, typed, font 12, double-spaced)

Recommended:

Concise English-Chinese, Chinese-English Dictionary, Oxford Univ. Press, 2nd Edition.

And online dictionary: www.nciku.com and pleco.com

Grading:

Attendance and participation: 15%

Dictation: 20%

Class report (每天名言): 15%

Oral presentations (discussion, presentation, debate): 20%

Final essay and presentation: 30%

Please note that your final grade for the course will be cumulative and will be based on the combination of all parts of exercises and requirements for the course.

Make-up Policy:

All students are expected to take dictations, quizzes and exams at the scheduled times on the set dates. Make-up dictations, quizzes and exams will be permitted, but only with a valid excuse accompanied by appropriate documentation. In the event that you have to miss a scheduled quiz or exam due to an emergency, you must inform the instructor as early as possible. An incomplete will be given only to students whose work is satisfactory as of the end of the semester, but who have missed the final exam due to serious illness or family emergency.

Late Policy:

Late arrival is strongly discouraged. Homework and test-preparation should be done at home. Do not write your homework in class.

Class Schedule will be handed out/posted on site.

Overall KIIS Program Student Learning Outcomes:

KIIS Study Abroad Mission Statement:

KIIS provides high-quality education abroad programs for students from all diverse backgrounds that promote deep international learning, are integrated into the curriculum, and encourage critical and creative thinking. Our goal is to help students understand the wider world and develop personal and professional skills for lifelong enrichment. We strive to go beyond generalizations and cultural stereotypes to help foster a nuanced appreciation of the world in which we live.

Students participating on KIIS study abroad programs aim to:

- 1) Understand contemporary issues of their host country/countries (i.e. KIIS program location).
- 2) Develop skills to interact comfortably in a global setting.
- 3) Understand other cultures.

Prior to your KIIS study abroad program, and again at the conclusion of your program, KIIS will ask each student to a) answer a few multiple-choice questions, and b) write a short reflective essay (two paragraphs in length) related to the elements detailed above. There is no right or wrong answer, and your responses will not affect your grade in any way. The purpose of the exercise is to help KIIS measure the effectiveness of its study abroad programs.

Generative AI Policy:

Generative AI is permitted/encouraged in some ways, with proper attribution, but prohibited in other ways.

Students are allowed, encouraged, and even required to use Generative AI in some ways but are prohibited from using it in other ways. Keep in mind that any content produced by generative AI can “hallucinate” (produce false information), so students are responsible for ensuring the accuracy of any AI-generated content. Examples of citing AI are available at: <https://libguides.wku.edu/stylewrite/ai>.

Students are permitted and encouraged to use generative AI in the following ways:

- Brainstorming: You may use generative AI to stimulate creativity, generate ideas, or brainstorm topics for papers, presentations, and discussions. The generated content must serve as a steppingstone, not a final product.
- Citation Assistance: AI tools can be used to manage, format, and organize citations and references, promoting adherence to academic writing standards and specific style guides required for individual assignments.

- Concept Understanding: Generative AI can be used to explain or simulate concepts taught in class, aiding in a deeper understanding.
- Research Assistance: AI can be used to conduct initial research, compile data, and summarize articles, books, or papers. It should not replace traditional research methods but rather enhance them.
- With Instructor Approval: AI-powered writing enhancement tools may be used to help with spelling, grammar, syntax, and stylistic errors when permitted by the instructor.

You may not use generative AI in coursework in the following ways:

- Plagiarism: Using AI-generated content as your original work. This includes essays, papers, presentations, and exam answers.
- Data Manipulation: Using AI tools to alter data or create misleading information.
- Misrepresentation of Skills: Using generative AI to complete tasks that are meant to assess your knowledge and skills.
- Confidentiality Breach: Using AI tools that might violate KISS/university policies or laws related to data privacy and confidentiality.

Metacognitive Reflection. In addition to a proper citation, the student should include the following statement with any assignment where generative AI is used for assistance.

"I used generative AI [INSERT NAME OF PLATFORM] for assistance in the following ways on this assignment: [INSERT WAYS USED, such as brainstorming, citation assistance, concept understanding, and research assistance, etc.]."

Attendance Policy:

KISS program participants are expected to be punctual to and in attendance at all classes, presentations, meetings and required excursions, and to remain with the program for the full academic period. Unexcused absences from classes and/or mandatory meetings will result in a lowering of the student's final grade, as will excessive tardiness. Multiple unexcused absences could result in expulsion from the program. Any absence from an academic class session must be excused for medical reasons.

Disability Accommodation:

KISS will make every reasonable effort to provide accommodations for program participants with special needs or disabilities, but we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so. Be aware that many foreign countries do not have comprehensive legislation comparable to the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). As a result, businesses and other establishments operating in foreign countries may not be able to provide accommodations.

If you have a disability accommodation need, we recommend you contact your KIIS Campus Representative,

<https://www.kiis.org/about-kiis/contact-us/campus-representatives/> early in your program selection process so that s/he has time to discuss any specific needs, including which KIIS programs may be best suited. You also are welcome to contact KIIS Assistant Director, Maria Canning, maria.canning@wku.edu, to discuss your disability accommodation needs (e.g. housing, transportation, excursions, class schedule, etc.).

Immediately after acceptance, notify KIIS Admissions and Enrollment Specialist, Haley McTaggart, haley.mctaggart@wku.edu, if you have a special need or disability that might require any form of accommodation abroad. Failure to notify KIIS may prevent you from participating on your KIIS program.

If you require any accommodations abroad, you must provide KIIS Admissions and Enrollment Specialist, Haley McTaggart, an accommodation letter from your home campus' disability accommodation office that lists the accommodations you are eligible to receive. Please do not request accommodations directly from your KIIS Program Director or other KIIS Faculty; the KIIS Office will notify your KIIS Program Director and/or Faculty after we have received your above accommodation letter.

In some cases, you may need to make arrangements for a caregiver to join you on your KIIS program, should your physician, campus disability accommodation office, or KIIS make such a recommendation or require it.

Title IX / Discrimination & Harassment:

Recent attention to gender discrimination and sexual harassment at colleges and universities reminds us of the importance of adhering to standards of ethical and professional behavior. KIIS Study Abroad is committed to supporting and encouraging safe and equitable educational environments for our students, faculty, and program directors. Students, faculty, and program directors are required to be civil and treat each other with dignity and respect. As such, harassment and/or discrimination of any kind will not be permitted or tolerated.

Sexual misconduct (sexual harassment, sexual assault, and sexual/dating/domestic violence) and sex discrimination are violations of KIIS policies. If you experience an incident of sex/gender-based discrimination, harassment and/or sexual misconduct, you are encouraged to report it to a) KIIS Assistant Director, Maria Canning (+1-859-200-1000) or KIIS Executive Director, John Dizgun (+1-270-227-2288), b) WKU's Title IX Coordinator, Ena Demir (270-745-6867 / ena.demir@wku.edu) or WKU's Title IX Investigator, Michael Crowe (270-745-5429 / michael.crowe@wku.edu). Please note that while you may report an incident of sex/gender based discrimination, harassment and/or sexual misconduct to a KIIS

program director and/or faculty member, KIIS program directors and faculty are considered "Responsible Employees" of Western Kentucky University and MUST report what you share to WKU's Title IX Coordinator or Title IX Investigator.

If you would like to speak with someone who may be able to afford you confidentiality, you may contact WKU's Counseling and Testing Center, <https://www.wku.edu/heretohelp/> at 270-745-3159.

For more information on KIIS Title IX, see <https://www.kiis.org/students/health-safety/title-ix-clery/>; additional Title IX resources can be found here <https://www.wku.edu/titleix/titleixbrochure2020.pdf>.

Everyone should be able to participate on a KIIS program, attend a KIIS event, or work in a KIIS environment (e.g. KIIS office) without fear of sexual harassment or discrimination of any kind. Be respectful of each other.