

WORLD LANGUAGES OVERVIEW



CHINESE

CI

CHINESE I: this course will introduce students to Standard Mandarin Chinese through the development of four language skills (i.e., listening, speaking, reading, and writing) and cultural knowledge. It will focus on teaching students the skills to communicate in Chinese with not only linguistic accuracy but also cultural appropriateness, and help students develop an understanding of Chinese interpersonal behavioral culture and related thought patterns. Topics include, but are not limited to: greetings, family, time & date, hobbies, friend-visiting, making appointments, Chinese-learning, school life, shopping, and transportation. Upon successful completion of the course, students will attain approximately the Novice-High level on the ACTFL ETS (American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages) proficiency scale.

STUDENTS USING THEIR LANGUAGE KNOWLEDGE

Davidson Academy alumni have lived in China, Japan, Peru, Spain, Chile, Germany, and France after graduation. One of the alumni teaches English in China. Many students have participated in programs like National Security Language Initiative for Youth (NSLI-Y) and have gotten scholarships to live abroad and continue their language studies.

CII

CHINESE II: students will continue to learn the language and cultural knowledge in Standard Mandarin Chinese through talking about topics such as weather, dining, directions, birthday parties, seeing a doctor, dating, apartment-renting, sports, and travel. Students will develop proficiency in more sophisticated conversational Mandarin and start to write compositions. Upon successful completion of the course, students will attain approximately the Intermediate-Low level on the ACTFL ETS proficiency scale.



CHINESE III/IV: in this course, students' interpersonal, interpretive, and presentational skills will be enhanced by expanding vocabulary and target expressions on new topics such as working part-time, early childhood education, and geography of China, while revisiting some learned ones such as school life, dining out, and shopping, to name a few. Students continue to develop abilities in conversational Mandarin, to practice giving oral presentations and write compositions, and to discuss and narrate Chinese films. Upon successful completion of the course, students will attain approximately the Intermediate-Mid Level on the ACTFL ETS proficiency scale. Students who continue with both semesters of this course, will earn two credits in recognition of how much they've learned by this point (as will all the Chinese classes that follow this one).



CHINESE V/VI: while continuing to refine and develop students' Chinese language and cultural knowledge in all aspects, this course will emphasize introducing the differences between the two discourses: colloquial or conversational language and literary or formal language. Students will read increasingly formal texts and produce formal language in more sophisticated oral presentations and written compositions. Upon successful completion of the course, students will attain approximately the Intermediate-High level on the ACTFL ETS proficiency scale.



CONTEMPORARY CHINESE NARRATIVES I/II: in this course, students move away from textbooks into authentic and original Chinese texts, news footage, talk shows, and TV series. Students will continue to study the difference between colloquial and literary discourses, and develop an advanced level of speaking, listening, reading comprehension, and writing skills in Standard Mandarin Chinese, and greater sophistication in utilizing appropriate discourse strategies. Upon successful completion of the course, students will attain approximately the Advanced-Low level on the ACTFL ETS proficiency scale.

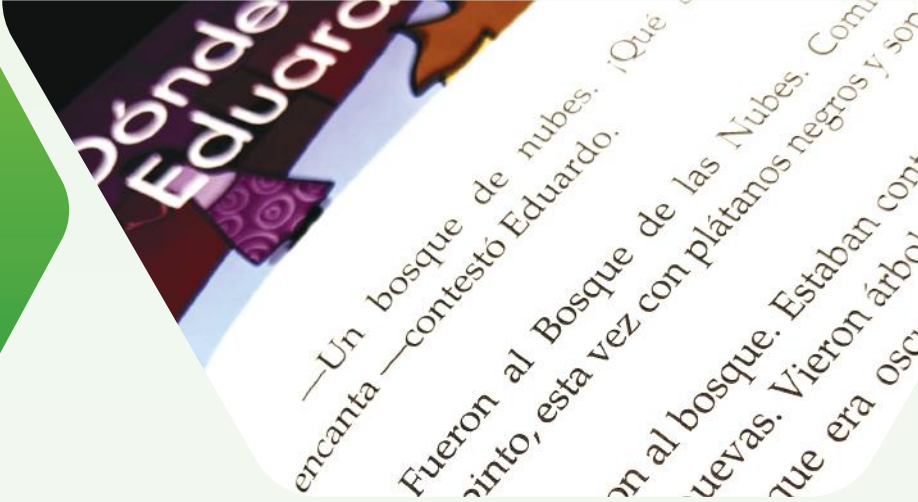
PLACEMENT AND CREDITS

Students may take a placement exam to see if they can test into a higher level of any language. If students place into anything above a beginning level, they will get a Credit by Exam (CBE) for the level(s) they were able to skip. Our classes move much more quickly and with much more depth than most high school classes, so oftentimes, students do not place into the level they expect to be based on their previous coursework. Please keep in mind that our beginning classes covers about two years of what is covered in classes at other high schools.



REQUIREMENTS FOR GRADUATION

All world languages courses are for high school credit unless families elect for them to be taken for middle school credit. For graduation, students need to have three foreign language credits, and at least two of them must be in the same language. Some universities require three years in the same language, so it's a good idea to look into this requirement if you're looking at specific schools.



CLASSICAL CHINESE: READING AND TRANSLATION I/II: This course introduces the essentials of grammar, syntax, and vocabulary of Classical Chinese through close readings of authentic texts, and aims to develop both the students' reading comprehension skills and translation techniques. Through reading the highly stylized form of written language, and translating it into modern Mandarin, the course acquaints students not only with classical Chinese cultural heritage, but also the underlying working mechanism that is in many ways still largely relevant to the form and usage of Mandarin Chinese today.

SPANISH



SPANISH FUNDAMENTALS I/II: this course prepares students for interpersonal, presentational, and interpretive communication in Spanish. Students participate in a variety of reading, writing, speaking, and listening activities through topical units of study. As a part of the process of acquiring proficiency, the teacher and students will aim to speak, listen, read, write, view, and create in Spanish for 90% or more of total in-classroom time.



INTERMEDIATE SPANISH I/II: students will continue to master skills in speaking, listening, presenting, and interpreting the Spanish language. They will also continue to increase their cultural, geographical, and historical awareness of Spanish speaking countries. This class will complete the text *Sol y Viento*, focusing on the more complex grammatical nuances of the language.

OTHER LANGUAGE OPTIONS

Many students choose to take foreign language classes at other accredited institutions. We've had students take German, French, Latin, Greek, Russian, Italian, American Sign Language, Japanese, Arabic and even Northern Paiute! Students who would like to pursue a language not offered at DAO need to get course approval before enrolling.



ADVANCED SPANISH I/II: this class focuses on putting into practice everything learned over the previous two years. Using the book Punto y Aparte, students will apply the grammar points they have previously learned and improve on seven core communicative functions: descripción, comparación, narración en el pasado, reacciones y recomendaciones, hablar de los gustos, hacer hipótesis, and hablar del futuro. To acknowledge how much students learn, completion of this course will generate two credits for the year.



HISPANOPHONE LITERATURE AND HISTORY: in this semester-long, one-credit course students will study the history of the Spanish language and the different varieties of Spanish in the Iberian Peninsula, Latin America, and the United States. They will learn about the different groups that conquered and lived in the Iberian Peninsula and how the Spanish language arrived to the Americas during colonization. Students will be also be introduced to different literature texts, including poetry to short stories.



SPANISH PRACTICUM: this semester-long, one-credit course is designed to learn different translation techniques, the importance of accurate translations, translator's qualifications, and translation problems that translators must face when performing translations. Through different readings, the students will participate in class discussions, translation activities, community-based activity, and weekly reflections. The students will work on a research project to understand the importance of the language and its applications in different community organizations. Finally, they will put in practice their knowledge and work on their translation project.



SEAL OF BILITERACY

DAO students can earn a Seal of Biliteracy to affix to their diplomas and have added as a notation on their transcripts. This seal demonstrates proficiency in one, or more, world languages. The exam for this seal is through the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL) and is called the AAPPL (ACTFL Assessment of Performance toward Proficiency in Languages). This opportunity is available to any bilingual student in any language (not just those who take DAO classes).