

## COURSE OUTLINE

### CHINESE

This course was specifically designed for Gap Year students, who have the intention to master Chinese not only in terms of the listening and speaking skills in Chinese but also the writings. The course is taught in individual tutorials and was designed in order to teach the calligraphy, to develop the awareness of Chinese culture, in preparation for a degree course in Chinese.

On this course we will examine how Chinese calligraphy was conceived and crafted by developing an understanding of the underlying rules of radicals and strokes. We will also explore the reasons Chinese characters connect to real life. This is done through a series of units which introduce the student to real life situations they would be likely to encounter when visiting China.

PART ONE: The different writing styles of Chinese calligraphy

PART TWO: Situational conversations

PART THREE: History of new China since 1949

PART FOUR: Transportation and passport control; security

PART FIVE: The media today; films relating to current events

#### **The specific objectives of the course are that students will be able to:**

- To explore and develop an appreciation and the understanding of the different perspectives in learning Chinese language.
- To understand the basic principles of the radicals and the strokes of the Chinese language in written forms
- To master the skills in the different areas of writing Chinese characters with precise orders.
- To enhance the student's ability to pursue the different adaptations of the written forms which link to the spoken PinYin.
- To develop the student's understanding and appreciation of China's culture and recent history.

#### **On completion students will be able to:**

- Understand the origins and the development of most the Chinese characters
- Write Chinese characters with the right order and the correct strokes
- Associate the Chinese characters with the Chinese pronunciation, i.e. Pin Yin
- Be familiar with the most common grammatical structures and conversations in newspapers
- Be aware of the major developments in Chinese history over the last sixty years.

**Recommended Supplementary Reading:**

Duanduan Li, Yanping Xie – Schaum's Outline of Chinese Vocabulary, Schaum's Outlines 2002, *ISBN: 0071378359*

Liang Hongyan – Newest Simulated Tests of HSK, Beijing Language and Culture University Press 2008, *ISBN: 9787561920527*

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