

**CHINESE 3693 : CONVERSATION PRACTICUM SYLLABUS**  
**18May--27JUL Tuesday and Thursday 11:30am-13:30pm**  
2026 LBAT

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**Description:** The objectives of this course are 1) to raise your level of proficiency in speaking, listening, and writing Chinese by applying classroom learning to real life situations; and 2) to develop cultural awareness via interacting with local people. You will raise your level of language proficiency by putting the Chinese you are learning in your Chinese 3691, 3692, 3696, and/or other CHIN courses that you've learned into practical use in a variety of everyday situations in the community outside the classroom. Everywhere you go will be your classroom and every Chinese you meet will be an informant. Guided by questionnaires, you will learn in situ about Chinese history, landscape, language, nationalities, social and political structures, education, transportation, manners and mores, cuisine, festivals, medicine, health maintenance, family, housing, and attitudes toward the United States and their own country, etc. Interviews and conversations with locals will enhance your speaking and listening skills; writing reports and making presentations will give students a unique opportunity to express personal experiences in Chinese.

This course will be held over nine weeks onsite in Xian, Qingdao and Shanghai, in addition to the first two weeks of online guided practicum. Course activities include 1) guided interviews/conversations with local people, 2) topic-oriented, faculty/staff-led field trips, 3) report writing (about 300 characters) based upon field trips, 4) one-on-one Tuesday tutorial sessions from 11:30am-13:30pm, and 5) student "debriefing presentations" (about 10 minutes on Thursday from 11:30am-13:30pm).

**Practicum topics can be tailored to student interests and language levels.** Conversation practicum can focus upon suggested topics, but they can encompass other subjects that arise spontaneously. Students will present written activities reports weekly.

**Course Agenda:**

- Attend group cultural or business site visits (to be reported in writing & presentation): each week at least 6 hours.
- Write two journal entries each week.
- Tuesday 10-minute tutorial sessions.
- Thursday 10-minute debriefing presentations.
- Weekends and free time: Practicum activities, report composition, and presentation preparation.

**Course Requirement Recap:**

**One page activity report/journal entry** (about 300 characters). Try to include comparisons with your experiences in the US. Turn in your journal entries to tutors during twice-weekly tutorials. Do not procrastinate.

**Debriefing Presentation.** Prepare a 10-minute Chinese language debriefing presentation weekly. This should include Q & A with your classmates, who will quiz you with questions about your practicum, and may also be quizzed by you!

**One sheet of your time log.** A minimum of 6 hours of field trips/excursion/practicum activities (keep a time log of the dates, time, duration, and brief description); turn in by the end of the program.

**New vocabulary list:** compile a list of words, phrases, or expressions that you have learned, accumulated, and applied throughout this summer.

**Grading:**

- **Practicum activity hours: 22% (2% each week x 11 weeks)**
- **20 journal entries: 50% (2.5% each)**
- **8 debriefing presentations: 16% (2% each)**
- **Tutoring performance: 8%**
- **New vocabulary list: 4%**

**Suggested Practicum Topics (Conversation topics include but are not limited to the following):**

<b>Week 1</b>	
跟 AI 练习中文	1.1 跟 ChatGPT 聊一聊你最近的生活和你要去中国生活和学习两个月
	Conduct a chat on your recent life and your upcoming travel to China
	1.2 write a journal entry on this experience (pros and cons 好处和坏处)
<b>Week 2</b>	
跟 AI 练习中文	2.1 出发前，你要准备什么东西？
	2.2 Create a 5-minute video in Chinese to introduce yourself to your future tutor in Shenzhen
<b>Week 3</b>	
对西安的看法	Views of Xian
	3.1 你对西安的印象；你觉得西安现在发展得怎么样？你最喜欢西安哪些方面？
在西安旅行	3.2 西安最有名的地方；西安的交通、美食和中西文化
<b>Week 4</b>	Cultural: Daily Rituals and Festivals
中国节日	4.1 中国人互相怎么称呼？客气是什么意思？
	4.2 中国有些什么节日、怎么过？你最喜欢哪些节日？为什么？ 中国人怎么庆祝端午节？
<b>Week 5</b>	Cultural: Culinary Culture
饮食文化	5.1 青岛菜的特点；饺子、包子、炒饭；饮食与健康；
	5.2 青岛有特色的餐馆
<b>Week 6</b>	Family and Marriage
家庭婚姻	6.1 独生子女；剩女；离婚率；孝顺父母(filial piety)

医疗保险	6.2. 相信中医吗？在中国看病难吗？有医疗保险吗？
<b>Week 7</b>	<b>History, landscape, languages</b>
历史	7.1 上海的历史、中国历史、美国历史、外国人在上海
地理和语言	7.2 上海的公园、自然风景；
<b>Week 8</b>	<b>Chinese Nationalities and Government Structure</b>
民族	8.1 汉族/少数民族；请你介绍两三个中国的少数民族
行政机构	8.2 中央机构和地方机构；多少个省、直辖市、自治区
<b>Week 9</b>	<b>Travel in China and Transportation</b>
旅行	9.1 中国著名旅游胜地/文化景观和自然景观；最喜欢去哪儿旅游？为什么？
交通	9.2 上海的交通；飞机/火车/高铁
<b>Week 10</b>	<b>Chinese Education and Health</b>
教育	10.1 中国的教育（幼儿园、小学、中学、大学）
健康	10.2 运动；健身；养生；太极拳
<b>Week 11</b>	<b>Eleven Weeks in China</b>
居住	11.1 你最喜欢中国的哪个城市？为什么？
幸福指数	11.2 你在中国十一周的生活中收获最大的是什么？（你最喜欢中国的什么？最不喜欢什么？）