



Course Description: AP Chinese Language and Culture

Prerequisites There are no prerequisite courses; however, students are typically in their fourth year of high school-level study. In the case of native or heritage speakers, there may be a different pathway of study leading to this course.

The AP Chinese Language and Culture course in Mandarin Chinese emphasizes communication by applying interpersonal, interpretive, and presentational skills in real-life situations. This includes vocabulary usage, language control, communication strategies, and cultural awareness. The course strives not to overemphasize grammatical accuracy at the expense of communication. To best facilitate the study of language and culture, the course is taught almost exclusively in Chinese. The AP Chinese Language and Culture course engages students in an exploration of culture in both contemporary and historical contexts. The course develops students' awareness and appreciation of cultural products (e.g., tools, books, music, laws, conventions, institutions); practices (patterns of social interactions within a culture); and perspectives (values, attitudes, and assumptions). The three modes of communication—interpersonal, interpretive, and presentation—are foundational to the course.

The course is organized thematically into six units. Each unit targets a primary theme:

1. Families and Communities
2. Science and Technology
3. Contemporary Life
4. Global Challenges
5. Beauty and Aesthetics
6. Personal and Public Identities

College Course Equivalent The AP Chinese Language and Culture course is designed to be comparable to fourth semester (or the equivalent) college/university courses in Mandarin Chinese

High Bluff Academy is accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC). The above course is approved by the University of California system (A-G) and the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA).