

**MVLA
2024-25
COURSE INFORMATION SHEET**

Course Title: AP Chinese Language and Culture

School: Los Altos High School

UC/CSU requirement: Yes

Textbook and/or other learning resources: Authentic and adapted materials based on themes and topics described by [AP Chinese Course and Exam Description \(CED\)](#); CollegeBoard [AP Classroom](#), and other supplemental resources as assigned by the teacher

Course Description/Student Learning Outcomes:

AP Chinese is a continuation of Mandarin 4 Honors. This class is a challenging, rigorous class that will require time and dedication on the part of the student since it is equivalent to a college-level intermediate course. It is understood that a student will have many obligations in all of their classes and extracurricular activities throughout the school year. Nonetheless, the student must be willing and able to make a serious effort to read, write, speak, listen to and practice Mandarin both inside and outside of the classroom. Students will acquire and review vocabulary and grammatical structures in context within the framework of the 6 AP themes and three modes of communication (Interpersonal, Interpretive and Presentational) as defined in the [World-Readiness Standards for Learning Languages](#). The course work will provide students with opportunities to demonstrate their proficiency in each of the three modes in the intermediate to pre-advanced range as described in the [ACTFL Performance Descriptors for Language Learners](#). Students who enroll in this course should have a good command of grammar and considerable competence in listening, reading, speaking, and writing at the minimum of an Intermediate-mid proficiency level. The curriculum will take you beyond the level of linguistic and cultural competency you have already achieved to help you succeed on the AP Exam.

The AP course provides students with opportunities to demonstrate their proficiency in each of the three modes in the **Intermediate to Pre-Advanced range** as described in the [NCSSFL-ACTFL Can-do Statements](#). Specifically, students, to the best of their ability, will be able to

1. Write stories in a cohesive and coherent manner with linguistic accuracy.
2. Write argumentative essays/emails on a variety of topics using 2-3 sources to support opinions
3. Speak formally about various aspects of Chinese culture.
4. Speak informally in Chinese on a variety of topics using a high level of Chinese vocabulary and structures.
5. Read, listen and understand a variety of authentic texts in Chinese by deriving meaning from context
6. Investigate, explain, and reflect on the practices, products, and perspectives of the Chinese cultures

By using Chinese only in class, students will increase their skills across the board in all skill areas. Having exposure to Chinese Language newscasts, podcasts, films, music and recording by native Chinese speakers, students will interact with large amounts of authentic language. Practice and assessment of skills will feature the use of simulated and released AP Exams.

Course Outline/Units of Study:

As we follow the [ACTFL](#) standards, each level is a progression and continuation of the next. These are the units of study this course:

Semester I	Semester II
Unit 1: Families and Communities <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Family Structures in China● School Life in China and the U.S.● Gifting customs in the East and West	Unit 4: Science and Technology <ul style="list-style-type: none">● The Four Great Inventions of Ancient China● The Four Great New Inventions in Modern China● Teens and Smartphones
Unit 2: Personal and Public Identities	Unit 5: Contemporary Life

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● China and features of the Chinese Language ● Idiom Stories ● Cultural symbol: Chinese Dragon 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Festivals and Customs ● Diet and Health ● Tourism in the Chinese-speaking regions
Unit 3: Beauty and Aesthetics <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Traditional Art Form ● Chinese history and historical figures ● Literature: Journey to the West 	Unit 6: Global Challenges <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Environmental Protection ● Gender Equality ● Migrant Workers in China

Assessment and Grading (BP 5121 / AR 5121): To ensure that every student has an equal opportunity to demonstrate their learning, the course instructors implement aligned grading practices and common assessments with the same frequency.

1. Grading categories and their percentage weights:

Formative Activities and Summative Activities that help move our students through the [ACTFL proficiency](#) scale at a pace that takes into account each student's individual learning style.

30% Speaking: Interpersonal and Presentational Communication: You should expect to speak in the target language daily in class. For each of the six themes of AP Language and Culture, you will be given multiple opportunities to practice your language skills in spontaneous oral conversations and in formal presentations such as cultural comparisons. The AP Rubric will be used to assess these assignments.

30 % Writing: Interpersonal and Presentational Communication: You should expect to write in the target language daily in class. For each of the six themes of AP Language and Culture, you will be given multiple opportunities to practice your language skills in email correspondence and writing argumentative essays, etc. The AP Rubric will be used to assess these assignments.

30% Listening and Reading Interpretive You will be constantly reading and listening to authentic texts. You will need to show how you are able to interpret these texts for meaning by taking multiple choice quizzes, writing summaries, and vocalizing opinions based on a theme. These activities will come in the form of nightly homework, reading/listening quizzes in class, synthesizing written work, etc.

10% Final Activity: The activity will serve as an opportunity for you to show mastery in areas of vocabulary, grammatical and language concepts that you have learned during the year. (***First semester final** is a mock AP exam; **second semester final** will assess a final activity that can be prepared and presented either individually or collectively.

2. Achievement evidence collected within each grading category:

Students will be assessed in their Interpersonal, Interpretive, Presentational skills through listening, reading, speaking, and writing assessments. The aligned quantity, weight, and due dates of assignments/assessments in each grading category will be provided as much in advance as possible.

3. Grading scales:

A+ 100%	A 92.50 to 99.99%	A- 89.50 to 92.49%
B+ 86.50 to 89.49%	B 82.50 to 86.49%	B- 79.50 to 82.49%
C+ 76.50 to 79.49%	C 72.50 to 76.49%	C- 69.50 to 72.49%
D+ 66.50 to 69.49%	D 62.5 to 66.49%	D- 59.50 to 62.49%
F 50 to 59.49%		

4. Homework/outside of class practices (AR 6154):

About 4-5 hours of work may be assigned weekly. Homework should include daily review and preparation for future assessments. Students should use Canvas (unless otherwise specified) to complete assigned activities as

well as review previously done activities prior to testing. Homework on the Workbook needs to be handwritten. All homework **must** be completed **prior to the following class**. When required, you need to take clear photos of your work and submit them to Canvas. Late work will generally not be accepted unless there are extenuating circumstances that **YOU** clarify with your teacher in **advance**. It is a World Language department policy to not accept late work without penalty. To get full credit, your homework is expected to demonstrate your efforts and good quality.

5. Excused absence make-up practices ([Education Code 48205\(b\)](#)):

Absent students are expected to contact their teacher **within 48 hours of absence** to arrange any make-up work.

The Departmental Make-Up policy for missed assessments due to an excused absence will be enforced. You will have **7 school** days to make up missed assessments.

6. Academic integrity violation practices ([LAHS Academic Integrity Policy](#) / [MVHS Academic Integrity Policy](#)):

Violations of Academic Integrity will be dealt with in a manner consistent with the MVLA-LAHS Academic Integrity Policy. If a violation of the academic integrity policy occurs, you will not receive credit and have no opportunity for a retake. Please keep in mind that inappropriate use of Google Translate, Chat GPT, or other online tools that are also considered academic dishonesty and cheating. Forms of academic dishonesty may include but are not limited to plagiarism, copy and paste of web resources or documents owned by others, use of prohibited texts, cellphones/devices or resources during an assessment, and/or identity misrepresentation. Please refer to [this document](#) for additional information.

7. Late work practices:

No late homework or projects will be accepted after the due date. This includes long-term presentations and/or written homework assignments. Students with extenuating circumstances **must** speak with/email the teacher immediately.

8. Revision practices:

Per department policy we do not allow retakes or revisions for a higher grade. The assessments are revised in class for learning purposes only. Please contact your teacher if you have extenuating circumstances.

9. Extra credit practices: Refer to [BP 5121](#) / [AR 5121](#).

10. Additional grading practices:

Grades will be posted on the Aeries Student Information System. If at any time you have a question regarding your grade, please ask your teacher and we can clarify the situation. If you do not turn in an assignment or have an excused absence you may have a **blank** for a particular test and/or assignment. **Blanks are filled in as work is assessed.** It is your responsibility to keep track of your grade. An organized binder with all assignments/quizzes can be a great way to help clarify a mistake in the grade book.

11. LMS Used: Canvas

Instructors' email addresses:

Ms. Connie Chen: connie.chen@mvla.net

Available during ACT (Academic Collaboration Time) and by appointment.