Synchronous Online Chinese Language Classes

The Confucius Institute at the University of West Florida will offer Chinese language courses fully online using hybrid synchronous instruction in fall 2014. People in the United States live in locations that are spread over large geographic areas which create economic and practical challenges to complete courses in a campus setting. As a result, some type of distance learning becomes not just an attractive option, but in many cases it is a necessity. The nature of language courses dictates that students need to actually hear from their instructor and receive feedback. The asynchronous e-learning systems (such as Desire2Learn and others) are very useful platforms in which instructors and students can exchange ideas and hold discussions, these systems are insufficient for courses to provide distance students the same immediate feedback that benefits traditional on-campus students.

The University of West Florida has successfully implemented several fully online programs using hybrid synchronous instruction. Distance students are taught simultaneously with on-campus students in the same classes. The assessment results showed that the model is flexible and benefits both groups of students. It also revealed that the online students do as well as the face-to-face students.

Method of Synchronous Instruction

Each course will be taught from a classroom with a computer equipped Smart Podium on which the instructor writes the lecture materials and a web camera that the students can see their instructor. UWF has the license for the synchronous software package that will be used. There is no extra cost for the students to use the software. Each distance student must receive permission before being enrolled in the course. All distance students must be committed to be logged on during all lectures. The distance students attend class by logging on to the Internet at the scheduled time. They ask questions and interact with the instructor and the rest of the class in real time. This setting creates an experience that is similar to being physically present in the classroom. Since all lectures are recorded and posted, all students can later review as needed. This approach creates additional learning opportunities for both distance and face-to-face students.
After students are accepted to the course, an instructor will schedule a 30 minutes interview to show the student how the course be taught. During the interview, the instructor will also show the students how to deal with technology problems that may arise and any other issues to minimize the anxiety the student may have. The interview will be recorded and posted on the class web so that students can review it as needed. The students will have to receive permission from their advisor to enroll the classes. By doing this, we make sure that the students are ready to take the course.

**Students must have:**

1. A computer with web camera, microphone, a scanner, and Internet access
2. Approval from their advisor
3. A proctor for tests

**Fall 2014 Schedule:**

**CHI 1990C, Chinese Language I (4 credit-hour course)**

MWF 8-8:50 am  (CHI 82259)
MWF 11-11:50 am  (CHI 82260)
MWF 2:30-3:20 pm  (CHI 82261)
MWF 4-4:50 pm  (CHI 82262)

**Note:** You will have lectures on MW. For most Fridays, you will practice and enjoy Chinese activities at the “China Corner” in Commons or the 2nd floor in Library.

**Scholarship:**

1. If you successfully complete the class, you can spend two-week summer camp in China. All related expenses in China will be covered by the Confucius Institute scholarship.

2. You are eligible to receive scholarship to study in China for up to a year. All related expenses in China will be covered by the scholarship.

**Contact Information:**

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