



THE LANGUAGE FLAGSHIP

Creating Global Professionals



UNIVERSITY OF OREGON

***Bridging Identity and Culture: A Hybrid Chinese Course for Advanced Learners***  
***Frequently Asked Questions***

- 1. What is this course?** *Bridging Identity in Culture* is a hybrid online Chinese course that was developed by the Center for Applied Second Language Studies in collaboration with Portland Public Schools to meet the specialized needs of secondary language learners who are at an Intermediate High/Advanced Low proficiency level. Typically, these students are from the immersion context or are heritage learners. However, it is possible that other learners will be able to take the course, and we encourage them to do so.
- 2. What will this course cover?** This course is aligned to ACTFL standards for Intermediate High and Advanced Low language learners. The topics covered include leisure, appearances and fashion, issues related to gender, issues related to race, and human rights. At the end of the course, the learners will work together to design a place-based mobile experience that explores a social issue of relevance to the local community.

It should be noted that this course is designed on the principles of place-based learning. Thus, students who do not take the course in the Portland area may wish to work with the instructor to find alternative source texts when engaging in some of the assigned activities.

- 3. Who is teaching the course?** Li-hsien Yang holds her K-12 licensure in Mandarin and will serve as the instructor for the course. She will work to support all students enrolled.
- 4. What technical knowledge will students need to be in this course?** No prior technical knowledge is required to participate in this course, but all students should feel comfortable with learning to use various technological tools and with working on an online platform.
- 5. What technological tools are required to participate in the course?** Learners will need to engage in video and audio recording as well as be able to take pictures. Any devices (including cell phones) that can engage in those functions and transfer files to the online platform are permissible. Also, learners need a computer with an internet connection and would benefit from a web camera. Learners will work on Canvas and will communicate via Zoom and Slack. Both Zoom and Slack can be downloaded for free.
- 6. When does the course meet?** Students may take the course at any time. However, the instructor may select a time immediately before or after school in which all participants are expected to log onto a meeting to touch based.

- 7. How should the course be scheduled?** There are a variety of options for scheduling the course that may be explored by districts. The first is to create a course code and have the learners meet in an agreed-upon space with access to computers. This space could be an office, computer lab, or library within the school. Another option is to put the learners in a study hall so that they can complete the course during that time. A final option is to allow learners to participate in the course after school, but given that it is designed to be a full academic course, this option will require great commitment from the students.
  
- 8. How will learners receive language credit on their high school transcripts for the course?** Districts may create a world language course code for the class or use an existing course code that correctly conveys the level of rigor in the course. Districts that choose to give the learners study hall time to complete the course must figure out an alternative way for it to show on the students' transcripts provided that the students want to earn course credit for their work. School counselors should be advised to explain the nature of the course to universities in recommendation letters if its content or level of rigor is not clearly denoted by the course code chosen.
  
- 9. How will learners receive a grade for the course?** Home institutions should convey grade reporting deadlines to the teacher of record so that he or she may report grades at the necessary times.