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Opinions Matter:

The Design of a Chinese Editorial Course in a Transformative Curriculum through Interactive Technology

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Opinions Matter: The Design of a Chinese Editorial Course in a Transformative Curriculum through Interactive Technology

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Course Objectives

- CHIN-4364
- This course focuses on reading and translating level 3/3+ authentic Chinese editorials on a variety of topics such as politics, economics, energy, environment, culture, society and diplomacy.
- By the end of this course, students will be able to analyze a level 3/3+ editorial and answer questions about the writer's intent, tone, and organization of the text and providing details and justification for their answers. In addition, students will gain a deeper understanding of contemporary China.



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Background and Material Selection





The 4 - Phase Model

Phase One - Forming - Forming essential understanding and competence through research

Phase Two - Building - Building critical thinking and competence through learning by teaching

Phase Three - Expanding - Expanding and enhancing competence through different genre

Phase Four - Applying - Applying newly acquired knowledge, skills and competence through problem solving



Phase One - Forming

The Flipped Classroom:

- Preview of the material
- Focused reading
- Additional research and analysis
- Forming essential understanding and competence
- Preparing for teaching

* e-Pub lesson sample



Phase Two - Building

In class:

- Schemata Activation
- Learning by Teaching:
 - FLO skills
 - Critical thinking
 - Discourse analysis
 - Peer assessment
 - Teacher's feedback

* e-Pub lesson sample



Phase Three - Expanding

In class, in depth:

- Socio-linguistic intelligence
- Cultural competence
- Different styles and genre

* e-Pub lesson sample



Phase Four - Applying

In class, real life:

- Problem solving
- Opinion supporting
- Stance justifying
- Debate skills fortifying
- Convincing
- Writing
- Reflecting

* e-Pub lesson sample



Transformative Classroom and Open Architecture curriculum

- **Teacher:**
 - Architect
 - Advisor
 - Opportunity creator
- **Student:**
 - Builder/co-designed
 - Equal collaborator
- **Environment:**
 - Interactive
 - Autonomous
 - Safe and supportive



Students' Feedback -1

- What roles did my peers play to help me with my Chinese learning?
 - Since the teacher adopted a method of making the students take turns teaching sections of the material, I learned quite a lot from my peers.
 - ... More students in the classroom means more discussion from more points of view.
 - They provided a different point of view and understanding of the material, grammar, or argument.
 - My peers in this class were of a higher competency level than previous classes so just having them bring all their understanding to class, asking deeper or more intricate questions was enlightening. Their methods for presenting material in class influenced how I wanted to present as well.



Students' Feedback - 2

- I believe that we were all invested in the learning process and everyone was also willing to participate which helped fuel discussions.
- The most beneficial role my peers played was engaging in debates and discussions with me about the topics being discussed. This allowed us all to practice our speaking skills as well as engage higher level thinking when trying to explain our opinions in Chinese. Also, this helped us ensure a deeper understanding of the material that was being discussed in class.
- My peers were able to point out things that I may have missed in my self-study and also look at things from a different perspective.



Students' Feedback - 3

- How would you describe the learning environment in this class?
 - The classroom environment was relaxed, but structured and conducive to language learning. This was a great learning environment.
 - Open for discussion and opinion, did not hinder personal development when desired.
 - Very supportive, a very productive working and learning environment.
 - It was an open and safe environment where I had a more active approach in learning
 - The learning environment was relaxed but focused, I felt that it was the best type of atmosphere to learn higher level Chinese.



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Questions?

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Thank you!