Chinese Specialised Texts

## Prof. Timon Gatta

***COURSE AIMS AND INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES***

The course aims to train students in decoding complex authentic (primarily written) texts (articles and/or essays from various specialist spheres) in order to improve their ability to understand them, with a view to re-writing, summarising or translating them into their own native language in a professional context.

By the end of the course, students will be able to interpret and understand complex specialised texts of moderate length (1000-2000 characters) in Chinese, to recognise their syntactical, semantic, lexical and orthographic characteristics. Students will be guided by the lecturer in identifying these characteristics; the texts in question will be authentic (or slightly adapted for non-native readers) and journalistic-informative in nature, selected from the following specialist areas: political, technical-scientific, medical or literary. Based on the knowledge acquired from the lecturer’s explanations and commentary of the texts, students will learn the vocabulary, phraseology and grammatical structures that make these texts cohesive in terms of syntax and semantics and will be able to follow the arguments made; finally, they will be able to re-write them, summarise their content and translate them into Italian.

***COURSE CONTENT***

The syllabus is composed of a selection of texts drawn from the sources indicated on the Reading List and of the lecturer's theoretical input regarding these texts of a political, technical-scientific, medical and/or literary nature. The parts of the texts on the Reading List to be prepared for the exam will be identified. The explanations of the texts will be shared on *Blackboard* and in a course pack prepared by the lecturer.

The syllabus will also include a number of texts to be analysed by the students, corrected by the lecturer and presented in class during the course.

***READING LIST***

P. De Troia-Z. Tongbing-C. Romagnoli-S. Pingping, *Il cinese dei giornali. Guida al linguaggio della stampa in Cina,* Edizioni Hoepli, Milan, 2013.

L.M. Paternicò-E. Raini, *Il cinese tecnico-scientifico,Guida alla lettura e alla traduzione di articoli scientifici*, Edizioni Hoepli, Milan, 2014.

Any additional texts and materials communicated by the lecturer during lectures.

***TEACHING METHOD***

Lectures. As well as explanatory lectures delivered by the lecturer, there will also be presentations by the students, individually or in groups of two or three, on texts chosen and analysed, sent by the lecturer to students in advance. Students who do not make a presentation in class will have to complete their analysis of the texts on a separate occasion and send their work to the lecturer for correction.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

Students will be assessed on their knowledge and competences by means of a mandatory exam in two separate parts.

For attending students, the first part will consist of the presentation in class of an article or an essay, as individuals or in groups; alternatively, students can also email their presentation to the lecturer as per the instructions provided by the lecturer at the beginning of the course; non-attending students must email their presentation to the lecturer. Students must demonstrate their ability to analyse texts, recognising their specific characteristics and relative context, present their content and translate them from Chinese to Italian. This part of the exam is worth 40% of the overall mark.

The second part comprises an oral assessment for which student must prepare two sets of texts: those presented by the lecturer during the course (30%) and a selection of other texts analysed by the students on the course (30%), appropriately identified and provided by the lecturer to attending and non-attending students alike. Students must be able to analyse the texts, identify their specific characteristics, translate them and present their contents.

The exam also includes a written language test, which, although not propaedeutic, must nevertheless be passed successfully if students are to add the mark to their curriculum.

Further information will be provided during lectures and made available on Blackboard.

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

Prerequisites: some knowledge of textual linguistics; knowledge of approximately 1,800 characters and of basic vocabulary structures in the formal register; the ability to identify the main grammatical structures of the Chinese language at intermediate level; general comprehension of written texts of medium difficulty; familiarity with specialist, informative texts in Italian (particularly political, technical-scientific and medical text types).

The course is suitable for Chinese exchange students to attend. The exam preparation for these students will be explained at the beginning of the course.

Further information can be found on the lecturer's webpage at http://docenti.unicatt.it/web/searchByName.do?language=ENG or on the Faculty notice board.