

Wenhao Diao

Lecturer of Chinese

B.A. East China Normal University

M.A. East China Normal University

(expected completion in Jun 2008)



Learning a foreign language is never easy, and Chinese might be one of the most foreign languages to native speakers of English. However after 6+ years pursuing to be a language teacher of Chinese, I find it not only possible, but also enjoyable for an English speaker to learn Chinese, though dependent on the quality of the program and the teacher. That is why I am proud to be here with one of the best Chinese programs in the U.S. in UVA.

My work experience with UVA started in its Summer Chinese Language Program in Shanghai in 2006, and I taught in the same program in 2007 as well. Prior to that I also taught students of different levels and purposes in NYU Shanghai Center and CIEE Shanghai. These experiences together inspired me to study the different textbooks in domestic and study-abroad programs, which eventually may greatly impact on the success of the program. Therefore my current research focuses on textbooks designed for domestic programs in the U.S., i.e., the TCFL setting, and why and how they differ from those being used in study-abroad programs in China, the TCSL setting.

Apart from that, I am also working on a project to design a new textbook for study-abroad students in China. Hopefully it will provide students a more enjoyable learning experience by integrating the language to be learned with their real use in the Chinese-speaking community beyond the classroom setting.

Specializations

I am interested in foreign language pedagogy and Teaching Chinese as a Foreign Language, especially teaching pronunciations, and design and use of textbooks.

Courses

Elementary Chinese I; Accelerated Elementary Chinese I.

Publications

- Diao, W. "Chapter 6: China's Contemporary Education System", "Chapter 10:

Social Manners in China”, “Chapter 14: Pop Chinese”, “Chapter 19: Taoism in Today’s China” and “Chapter 29: Traditional and Modern Chinese Music”. In Gu, W (et al, 2007) *A Cultural Textbook to Chinese Language Majors*, East China Normal University Press.