

Chinese for Specific Purposes: Legal Chinese
法律中文
CHIN 1148-680/ CHIN6148-680, Spring 2024
Time: TR 3:30-4:50 PM

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Course Description:

Legal Chinese (Chin 1148/6148-680) is a superior-level content-based course providing students with a brief overview of Chinese state laws, legal business cases and the study of legal Chinese terminologies. Through text reading and business case discussion, the class engages Penn professional students and undergraduate social science majors in legal case study, and see themselves reflected in what they read, as well as experience an instruction converging Chinese legal content and Chinese professional literacy training. The goal of the course is to help students better understand the legal language and content so for themselves to be more prepared for specific careers of interest.

Course prerequisites: completion of Chin 1040 (Modern Chinese Literature), Chin 1060 (Advanced Business Chinese), or middle-school education in China

By the end of the semester, students should be able to

1. use of legal Chinese terminologies in written report and oral presentations
2. demonstrate awareness of Chinese legal system and laws
3. participate more confidently in negotiations and meetings
4. describe the differences between Chinese and American legal education and principles
5. summarize and explain how a client won or lose a legal case
6. conduct professional oral presentation using content-specific terms
7. apply legal principles, concepts to one's own discipline and future career

Textbook: 张泰平, 2007. 《法律汉语-商事篇》北京大学出版社。

Useful Website: Chinese Law Databases, Harvard Law School Library

Course topics:

1. Course Introduction: law and society (法律与社会)

2. Comparison of legal education of China and the United States (中美法律教育比较)
3. Constitution of the PRC (中华人民共和国宪法)
4. China Intellectual Property Law (中国知识产权法)
5. China Environment Law (中国环境法)
6. China Anti-monopoly Law (中国反垄断法)