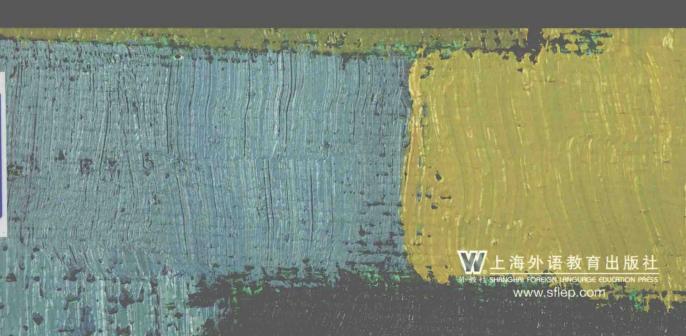


英语专业系列教材

编著·周小进

Western culture A READING COURSE 2
Contemporary Themes

阅读教程 西方文化2



编著·周小进

WESTERN CULTURE A READING COURSE 2 Contemporary Themes

阅读教程 西方文化 2

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前言

编写一套有关西方文化的阅读教程,动机有二。一是西方文化知识的考虑。自上世纪90年代以来,我国的英语教学普遍改用交际法,使学生的听、说能力极大提高,原来重语法、轻交际的教学模式逐渐淡出,"哑巴"式英语也不多见了。但与此同时,教学中分配给读、写能力的时间相应减少,英语国家文化知识的摄入量降低,历史社会、文学文化等课程更多被经济、商务、法律等跨专业选修模块所代替。不少院校英语专业低年级以听说和精读为中心,高年级以跨专业课程为中心,造成学生的英语文化知识相对薄弱,且缺乏系统性。英语学习者能较好地进行日常生活交流,但若就某些重要话题进行深入的讨论或对话,往往捉襟见肘。一些学生出国深造,英语基本上能够满足日常生活的需求,但不能满足课堂上参与讨论、陈述观点、发表演说的要求,难以进行真正意义上的跨文化沟通。

第二个考虑是学生的阅读能力。英语专业的实际教学,重精读轻泛读。精读能够培养学生的英语基本功,重视固然没错,但并不能培养学生高效获取信息的能力。很多学生善于把一篇文章掰开揉碎进行细读甚至背诵,但往往不能在有限时间内通过阅读快速高效地获取主要信息,工作或深造之时,需要阅读、分析大量文献或信息的时候,才发现不足。这个问题在上世纪90年代之前并不突出,因为那时对学生快速获取信息、分析信息的能力要求不高。但随着互联网的普及和信息时代的到来,这种能力的不足就凸显出来。

鉴于以上两个方面的考虑,我们希望能编写一套教材,实现系统介绍西方文化、科学提高阅读能力的目标。教材分为两个分册,一册侧重西方文化历史脉络的梳理,一册侧重西方当下社会的介绍。两册的总体框架是一样的,各为8个单元,每个单元围绕西方文化的一个主题安排四个板块的内容:

Section 1: Reading Skills

这部分对泛读的一些基本习惯、技能、问题进行简要论述,同时提出一些科学的阅读训练方法,供学生练习。需要注意的是,阅读习惯的培养和技能的提高,需要长期的练习,仅仅读完并理解这部分内容是不够的。学生需在教师的指导下,针对自己的阅读习惯和薄弱环节,定期安排课下时间练习,一般一个学期即可形成科学的阅读习惯、掌握基本的阅读技能。

Section 2: Primary Reading: Cultural Overview

这部分是整个单元的主要阅读材料,旨在对西方文化的某个主题进行系统性的介绍。这部分内容需要学生在教师指导下于课内完成。阅读文字的长度和难度有序递进,从1500单词逐步增加到2000单词;阅读时间为15分钟,因此对阅读速度的要求也逐步提高,教材修读完毕时的速度大致在每分钟130-140单词,略高于TEM4要求。对于阅读理解的正确率的要求,从60%逐步增加至80%。

Primary Reading的内容要求学生阅读三遍,每遍有不同的任务。第一遍是限时阅读,即需在15分钟内完成,读完后通过判断题来检测理解程度。学生应记录各单元的阅读时间与理解正确率。第二遍侧重思想内容和篇章结构,要求学生快速判断段落与段落、观点与观点之间的联系,对全文结构和大意有清晰的总体把握。部分题目的设计,旨在培养学生对复杂信息进行宏观梳理的能力。第三遍则是微观层面的语言点的

检测和积累。

Primary Reading之后配有Words to Remember, 学生可以在教师指导下, 通过查阅资料, 搞清楚一些西方文化关键词的来龙去脉和具体含义; 建议背诵, 增加文化知识储备。另配有Being Critical, 要求学生尝试提出文章的一些不足, 鼓励课内讨论。

Section 3: Speed Reading: Cultural Spotlights

这部分是Primary Reading的补充,分为A、B、C三篇,每篇从不同的侧面更生动更微观地表现单元主题内容。一般C篇编选的是相关领域内的经典作品,或者与该单元主题相关的原始文献,难度和思想性比其他篇目高。

在阅读技能上,三篇快速阅读的长度有序递增,从800单词逐步增加到1120单词,每篇递增10单词;阅读时间不变,一律为8分钟,速度从每分钟100单词,逐步增加到每分钟140单词左右,教材修读完时的阅读速度略高于TEM4要求。A、B两篇的练习按照TEM4的阅读题型来设计,要求学生记录时间和理解正确率,以跟踪进度;C篇因为难度和思想性较高,配备10个练习题,以帮助学生理解。

速读部分的内容, 教师可根据班级具体情况设计教学方式, 可安排在课上或课下。程度较好的班级可利用C篇目对西方文化相关议题进行深入讨论。

Section 4: Home Reading

文化知识的累积、阅读习惯的培养与能力的提升,都是个累进的过程。因此编者在这个部分内设计了课外阅读的要求与考核表格。学生应根据自己的兴趣,选择阅读材料,每天阅读20-30页左右,每周完成一本小书,并严格记录阅读进度。教师可根据编者设计的Reading Log对学生课外阅读进行考核,也可根据不同班级甚至不同学生的程度和兴趣,调整相关要求。教师还可根据具体院校课程设置的情况,来指定课外阅读内容的范围。

黄源深先生就本书的编写原则提出了明确的指导意见,并一直关心着教材编写工作的进展,希望这最终的结果没有辜负他的眷注;许高编辑有见识、有想法,讨论中热忱耐心,催稿时温和坚定,是作者不可多得的益友;外籍专家Anthony Ward仔细审阅了书稿,提出了很多细致而中肯的建议;邬安安编辑业务扎实、细致认真,帮我避免了不少疏漏;王珊等同学是书稿的第一批试用对象,提供了通过其他渠道无法获取的试用反馈;我的孩子周见溪帮助我制作了简单的速读辅助工具并拍摄了图片;大部分书稿是我在澳大利亚科廷大学访学期间完成的,该校的中澳写作中心为我提供了各种便利,尤其感谢该中心Liz Byrski、Lucy Dougan、李士林等同事的热情帮助。

本教材中的一些编写方法是初次尝试,与传统教材有一些不同,是否能够实现系统介绍西方文化、科学提高阅读能力的目标,还有待教师与学生在使用中进行检验。我诚恳地邀请广大使用者提出批评和建议,欢迎将使用过程中的情况发送至samzhouxiaojin@163.com,我不能保证每封邮件都能够回复,但我保证每封邮件都会认真阅读。

周小进 2017年7月于珀斯

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Unit 1 Religion



Section 1 Reading Skills

Scanning

Scanning is a natural skill. You do it every day of your life when you travel from point A to point B, scanning the environment for directions, food, people, objects of danger and objects of fascination. In reading, scanning means allowing your eyes to glance over material in order to find a particular piece of information for which your brain is searching. Whether you know it or not, you're scanning something every day. You do it when you are looking up a word in a dictionary, a name or telephone number in the directory, or a particular piece of information in a textbook.

When you practise scanning skills, you need to know beforehand **what you're looking for**. If you're looking for someone to teach you programming, and you come across this board of posters, use your scanning skills and determine which ad may help you:

1.

FOR SALE
SLUMBERKING QUEEN SIZE
ENSEMBLE

NEW BED PURCHASED FOR SPARE ROOM NOT NEEDED AS MOVING EAST \$500.00 (COST \$1000) CONTACT 0401 047 579 2.

Weeding Gardening

\$22/hr.

Fast Worker

CONTACT: Dan

TEL: 99579601

ADDRESS/EMAIL:

DATE: 28/7/18

3.

Scratch (Coding)

- Learn how to program games.
- · Qualified teacher.
- Have fun.
- School environment.

CONTACT: Lenny TEL: 0430487243

ADDRESS/EMAIL: www.lennycode.com

DATE: 10/8/18

House for rent in good area of Bullcreek.

Low maintenance garden.

\$350 a week

4.

CONTACT:

TEL: 0484769796

ADDRESS/MAIL:

DATE

Here is another way of practising both your scanning skills and your eye perception. The following is a block of numbers. For every row of numbers, the first number is repeated somewhere across that row. You need to find it out in the shortest time possible. Then do the same with every column. You can design your own "number blocks" or blocks of letter combinations, and practise often with your friends.

675	568	675	875	639	891	569
625	874	271	018	625	735	906
672	672	875	236	438	282	239
911	743	343	554	277	911	902
764	543	675	764	246	665	322
879	772	544	754	272	879	647
753	258	266	372	753	348	236
844	766	343	568	844	236	543
877	568	235	877	655	235	569
822	544	822	654	266	388	419
103	202	547	103	654	813	113
457	790	235	252	457	746	322
675	198	674	368	675	636	638
848	765	638	848	639	426	853
847	784	737	636	782	844	847
336	772	327	875	336	764	596
379	673	838	379	737	891	811
282	537	282	987	254	654	566

Now grab a textbook, a novel, a newspaper or any reading material. Ask your deskmate to give you a scanning task. It can be as simple as "find all the numbers, place names", or more challenging, like "find all information related to China".

All these exercises can be practised repeatedly or modified to suit your own need. However, please remember the most important thing about improving your scanning skills is to practise **regularly**.

Section 2 Primary Reading

Cultural Overview

You are expected to read the text three times and finish three sets of exercises. Now GET READY by checking if you have ...

- 1. a timepiece at hand;
- 2. a pen and a notebook;
- 3. no sources of distraction, especially electronic devices.

First Reading

Speed and Comprehension

Read the following text for the first time. After you finish the text, note down your time of reading and start doing Comprehension Check exercises.

- In one form or another, religion is found in all known human societies. The earliest societies on record show clear traces of religious symbols and ceremonies, although we have evidence only through archaeological remains. Cave drawings suggest that religious beliefs and practices existed more than 40,000 years ago. Throughout subsequent history, religion has had a strong hold over the lives of human beings for thousands of years. It has continued to be a central part of human experience, influencing how we perceive and react to the environments in which we live.
- Among the many religions in the West, Christianity today commands the greatest number of believers. It emerged in the 1st century AD, largely as a sect of Judaism, in the Eastern Mediterranean. During the reign of Emperor Constantine, Christianity became the official religion of Rome and quickly spread to all parts of the Roman Empire. In the 11th century, Christianity split into two forms, Catholicism in the west of Europe and Eastern Orthodox in the east. So it is often called the East-West Schism. Beginning in the 14th and 15th centuries, another schism took place, but in Western Europe only,

Emperor Constantine
history of Christianity



St. Peters Basilica in Rome

where Christianity split into Catholicism and Protestantism. It was called the Reformation, because Protestants thought the Catholic Church was very corrupt and had to be "reformed". Protestants decided not to acknowledge the supremacy of the Pope, the Bishop of Rome, who is the worldwide leader of the Catholics. This is probably the largest difference between the two.

- Today, Christian Europe can be roughly divided into three areas according to their religious beliefs. In Eastern Europe, Orthodox Christianity is still the dominant religion in many countries, such as Bulgaria, Belarus, Cyprus, Georgia, Greece, Romania, Russia, Serbia and Ukraine. In Western Europe, countries in the north are largely Protestant, such as the Scandinavian countries. Those in the south are often Catholic, including Spain, Portugal, Italy, France, Belgium and Ireland. A few countries, such as Germany and the Netherlands, have both Catholics and Protestants in considerable numbers.
- 4 In the 15th century, many Europe powers such as the Netherlands, Spain, Portugal, France and Britain began to build colonies overseas. As a result, Christianity, in its three forms, spread to the rest of the world and became the largest religion of the globe, with over 2.2 billion believers. According to a 2000 survey, 33% of the world's population are Christians. For example, a large part of Latin America used to be Spanish colonies. Today, in countries such as Mexico and Paraguay, most people follow Catholicism, the dominant religion in Spain. The Philippines was under Spanish rule for more than 300 years. As a result, today nearly 80% of Filipinos were Catholics, making the Philippines the largest Christian nation in Asia.
- 5 <u>Despite</u> the differences among themselves, most Christians share a lot in common, worshiping God and honouring the Bible, for example. Like other

Christian Europe
north-south
difference
three Christian
areas

religions, they also honour "religious freedom" and "the separation of Church	commonality
and state", two universal principles about religious belief in modern times.	freedom
Religious freedom means that people's right to choose what they believe is	separation
protected by law. The phrase "the separation of Church and state" was first used	
by Thomas Jefferson. It means the Church and the government should stay out	
of each other's business, while both are subject to the rule of law.	
6 While Christians remain the majority in Europe, there are many other	faith
religions. Islam is by far the largest non-Christian faith in Europe, with at least	Islam
six million members, making up three per cent of the population. Muslims are	population
the dominant religious group in countries such as Turkey (97.8%), Kosovo (96%)	
and Albania (59%). France has about three to four million Muslims, many of	
whom come from former French colonies in North Africa. Britain's Muslim	
population comes largely from former British Empire countries of the Indian	
subcontinent. Many Muslims in Germany are migrant workers from Turkey and	
South-East Europe.	
7 Jewish people, who practise Judaism, have been living in various parts of	
Europe for a long time. During the Second World War, many Jews were killed	
and many of those who survived fled to Israel and other places. As a result,	
the population of Jews in Europe declined sharply. There are also many other	
religious minorities, including Buddhists and Hindus, but their population is	
small, compared to Christians, Muslims and Jews.	
8 Perhaps contrary to what many may think of the United States, in terms	
of religion, America is actually a quite traditional, conservative and even	
fundamentalist country. According to public opinion polls, around three out	
of five Americans say that religion is very important in their own lives. The	
overwhelming majority of Americans report that they believe in God and pray	
regularly. After all, the earliest settlers of the country were a group of Puritans.	
They thought the Church of England should be "purified" and when they	
couldn't do it, they decided to go to another land, so that they could practise	
religion in their own way. The United States is also the most religiously diverse	
country in the world, with more than 1,500 religions. About 52 per cent of	
Americans are Protestants and 24 per cent are Catholics. Other religious groups,	
such as Mormons, Muslims and Jews, have considerable numbers of members	
too.	
9 Like the United States, Canada has no official religion; but unlike the	Buddhism in the
United States, the largest religious group in Canada is Catholics, not Protestants.	West
The same is true with Australia, where about 25 per cent of the population are	religion in Canada
Roman Catholics. It's worth mentioning that among the religious minorities	and Australia
in Australia, the largest group is Buddhists, who take up about 2.5 per cent of	Catholics in Canada
Australian population, to be followed by Muslims, who take up about 2.2 per	

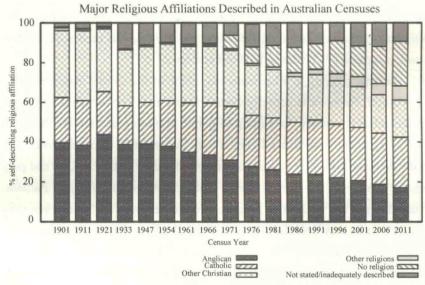
cent.

Huffington Post surveys about religion

declining influence of religion

changes in religion in ten years

Despite these regional and national differences, one thing is common to all Western countries and probably to all religions as well. With the development of modern societies, the influence of religion seems to be waning in the West. Scientific thinking increasingly replaces religious explanation, and ceremonial and ritual activities come to occupy only a small part of individuals' lives. According to a survey published in Huffington Post in the U.K., half of Britain thinks that religion does more harm than good, and that you don't need it to be a good person. In the United States, religion remains very important, but the declining trend is also apparent. The percentage of people claiming no religion in the U.S. has gone from 8% to 20% in the last couple of decades. In the 2001 Canadian Census, 77% of the population said they had a Christian religion. But ten years later, in the 2011 Census, the number of Christians dropped to 67%. If we put it in a longer time span, the trend is even more obvious. Take Australia for example. As shown in the following bar chart, over the past century the number of Christians has been declining, and the number of those claiming to have no religion has been growing very fast in the last several decades.



Although the decline of religion in the West seems unprecedented in world history, in most Western countries, there are still more religious people than non-religious people and their societies remain largely religious. For billions of believers, religion gives them moral compass and spiritual guidance. While the number of people who go to church regularly is dwindling, many still observe important religious occasions, such as Christmas, Easter and Thanksgiving. A lot of political debates are religious in nature. In the United States, for instance, Catholics think birth control and same-sex marriage are against their beliefs. Their participation in the discussion of these issues is not just religious. It is socially and politically significant and can often affect law making and

religion in public life and politics changes in religious and non-religious

importance of

population

Catholic beliefs, birth control and same-sex marriage government policies.

- 12 Churches in the West today are not just places to worship God. They provide rich and important community services. People meet new friends there, share stories, problems and opinions, bear one another's burdens and help those in need. Churches also give free seminars on a wide range of topics, from health and nursing, to career development and contemporary politics. They also organize various forms of charity work and fund-raising events for non-profit purposes. In many cases, churches can enhance neighbourhood cohesion and sense of community.
- 13 For individual believers, however, the foremost benefit of religion is probably their own happiness. According to 2014 U.S. Religious Landscape Study, people who are highly religious (meaning they pray every day and go to church services at least once a week) tend to be happier, because they are more engaged with their extended families, more likely to volunteer, and more involved in their communities. Devout believers often have a strong sense of identity and a rich spiritual life. While happiness can be obtained in many non-religious ways, a healthy religious life can often contribute to one's sense of happiness.
- 14 What's the future of religion going to be like in the West? Many think there will be a downturn and the future is rather bleak, especially for Christians. According to Pew Research Center, by 2050, Muslims will grow to make up nearly equal shares of the world's population as Christians, whose number will decline in both the United States and Europe. Meanwhile, the number of the religiously unaffiliated people, referring to atheists, agnostics and other people who do not identify with a religion, will increase greatly.

religion and happiness religion and identity

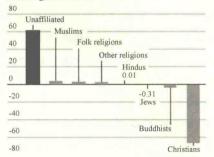
religion and family

A Change of Heart

Projected shifts in religious affiliation

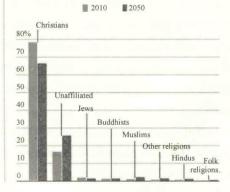
On the World Stage

Between 2010 and 2050, the global Christian population is expected to experience the largest net loss from people switching faiths, and the ranks of those unaffiliated with any religion will see the largest gains. Projected cumulative change due to religious switching, in millions:



Doubts at Home

In the U.S., one-quarter of people are expected to identify themselves as unaffiliated by 2050. Religious composition of the U.S.:



problems facing the	15 However, others
West	world of dramatic cha
need for religion in	fast that many feel ou
the future	very survival of huma
general moral	satisfactory results. We
decline	according to some, is

However, others think religion will become all the more important, in a world of dramatic changes and grave problems. Technology is developing so fast that many feel out-dated and confused. Climate change is threatening the very survival of humanity, and the measures we are taking haven't produced satisfactory results. Western societies are more money-oriented than ever, which, according to some, is causing a general moral decline. Facing these problems, more people may turn to religion for comfort, for emotional and moral strength, and for answers to the many perplexing questions of our times.

(1650 words)

	Me	Peer Performance A	Peer Performance B
Time of Reading (Expected: 15 mins)			
Speed of Reading (Expected: 110 wpm)	and white in the sale		

Comprehension Check

Start doing the following exercises only AFTER your first reading, and when you're doing the exercises, DON'T refer back to the text.

The following statements may be true (T) or false (F) or no conclusion can be made (N) according to the text. Circle the corresponding letter before each statement. (10% each)

- 1 T F N Among Catholicism, Eastern Orthodox and Protestantism, Protestantism has the shortest history.
- 2 T F N In Scandinavian and Eastern European countries, Protestantism is often the dominant religion.
- 3 T F N The Philippines is the only Asian country where Catholics are the majority.
- 4 T F N The largest religious group in Europe is Christians, and the second largest is Muslims.
- 5 T F N America is a quite traditional society in terms of religion.
- 6 T F N The fastest-growing religious group in Australia is Buddhists.
- **7** T F N The percentage of people claiming to be Christians is dropping in all Western countries except Canada.
- 8 T F N Neither the United States nor Canada has an official religion.
- 9 T F N In America, religious debates can sometimes have social and political significance.
- 10 T F N According to the Pew Research Center, by 2050, the number of Muslims in the world will exceed the number of Christians.

	Me	Peer Performance A	Peer Performance B
Total Points: 100			
(Expected: 70)			

Second Reading

Ideas and Relationships

Read the text again. While you're reading, tick the ONE key word or phrase for each paragraph provided in the margin. Where there is a blank, supply your own key word or phrase.

Then do the following exercises. Refer back to the text when necessary.

1	Which of the follo	wing is true about the first para	graph?	
	A. It states the mai	n argument of the text.		
	B. It introduces the	e topic of religion.		
	C. It shows the wr	iter's position on religion.		
	D. It identifies the	main claims of the text.		
2	"The Bishop of Ro	ome" in Para. 2 refers to	digital and the segment	
	A. the Pope	B. the Church	C. God	D. Caesar
3	Para. 5 explains "r	eligious freedom" to show that		
	A. people are now	more tolerant toward religious	difference	
	B. religion is often	protected by law in modern W	estern societies	
	C. different religio	us sects still have something in	common	
	D. the importance	of Thomas Jefferson in the Uni	ted States	
-	2 2			

- 4 What conclusion can be drawn from Para. 4 and Para. 6?
 - A. Spain used to have a bigger empire than France and England.
 - B. Colonizers and colonies influenced each other in terms of religion.
 - C. People from Turkey migrated to Germany because they shared one language.
 - D. The population of Muslims has been growing since colonial times.
- 5 What is the transition phrase or sentence between Para. 8 and Para. 9? Write it down here:

	are used.		
	A. Britain, Canada, Australia and New Zealand		
	B. Canada, the U.S., Australia and New Zealand		
	C. the U.S., Britain, New Zealand and Australia		
	D. Australia, Britain, the U.S., and Canada		
7	According to the bar chart about Australian relig	gions, most Australians were	one hundred
	A. Anglicans	B. Catholics	
	C. other Christians	D. non-Christians	
8	Para. 11 mentions religious festivals, such as Chri	stmas, Easter and Thanksgiving, to	
	A. show how religion is commercialized		
	B. demonstrate cultural differences in the West		
	C. prove religion is still important		
	D. argue that religious people care about politics		
9	According to "A Change of Heart" charts,	Christians will change their min	nd and stop being
	Christians, between 2010 and 2050.		
	A. over 60 million	B. about 5 million	
	C. about 45 million	D. cannot tell from the char	ts

The text quotes the findings of a number of surveys complete the following table.

Para.	Survey	Findings Quoted	Quoted to Show
	a 2000 survey		
	a survey published in Huffington Post		
	the 2001 Canadian Census		
	the 2011 Canadian Census		
	Australian Censuses		
	2014 U.S. Religious Landscape Study		
	"Pew Research Center" survey		