

CHIN1010 Elementary Chinese I

Class time: 5:00-5:50PM, Mo,Tu,We,Th

Office hour:2:00-3:00PM,Mo,Tu,We,Th

Instructor: Wei Jiajun

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Course Introduction

This course allows students with no or minimal prior experience in Mandarin Chinese to start acquiring basic linguistic knowledge of Mandarin Chinese. No matter how tone-deaf you think you are, you will start to hear the melody of the tones before long. However hard might it be to learn those characters, you will surely be intrigued by the beauty and wisdom displayed in them once you get to know them better. This course also helps you start developing skills of listening, speaking, reading and writing at the basic level, which will enable you to function in everyday situations such as greetings, carrying polite conversations about self and family, sharing school life experiences, etc. Culture is also a critical component of this course. You will learn the Chinese cultural products, practices and perspectives relevant to any given language task on hand. This course also provides opportunities for you to apply your language abilities to serve our community in authentic and meaning ways.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

In this course, you will start an exciting journey of understanding a new language, a new culture and hopefully an equally if not more exciting journey of self-discovery. You will constantly find yourselves pushing your personal boundaries to acquire a challenging foreign language, reaching out to new friends and viewing the world from multiple perspectives. By the end of the semester, you will be able to:

1. engage in oral and written communications with native speakers of Chinese in various everyday situations by applying basic linguistic knowledge of pinyin, 500 characters and 60 grammar items covered this semester with fluency and accuracy (oral proficiency and literacy)
2. recognize and explain the linguistic and cultural differences and similarities between the Chinese and your native language and culture(comparison);
3. demonstrate understanding of the Chinese culture by communicating with native speakers in a socio-culturally appropriate way (cultural literacy);
4. create digital media in Chinese that will be useful for future students and the community (digital literacy and community);
5. master a networking method that will allow you to manage characters you already learned and organize new characters you will learn in the future (learning of how to learn); and
6. develop an interest and ability to broaden personal or professional opportunities with your newly acquired Chinese skills (connecting to personal and professional life).

ASSESSMENT AND EVALUATION

As you can see from the following distribution of grades, I value your effort (open book preparation and practice) as much as or more than your performance (close book quizzes and tests). Your regular and constant engagement in and outside class with the course materials and activities is the key to your success.

1) Class Engagement	10%
2) Daily Dictation	20%
3) Homework	10%
4) Chapter Tests	20%
5) Roommate Time	10%
6) Practicum task	10%
7) Final Test	20%

1. Class Engagement 10% (100 points) (特别强调)

In the first class I will give you the rubric by which I will be assessing your participation over the semester. My main objective in assessing your participation is to incentivize you to attend class and participate in class discussions and activities in a prepared manner. We aim to create an immersion environment where students are required to speak Chinese in class with the teacher and with each other most of the time. Various contributions to creating a supportive learning community for all of us are valued and awarded. I will give you feedback when necessary in person or at the comments area of the Grade book.

2. Daily Dictation 20% (200 points , counting the best 40 out of 50 or so)

Dictation is a form of character quiz when the teacher reads out a couple words or sentences and the students write these sentences down in Chinese characters (first with pinyin (alphabet) , then with tones only). We will have dictation almost everyday starting from week 2 unless there is already a quiz/test scheduled on that day.

40 best dictation quizzes will be recorded out of all the dictation quizzes and the quizzes cannot be made up because of lateness or absence. In the first 2 weeks (adaptation period), every wrong character will result in 0.1-point deduction. After 2 weeks, every completely wrong character will result in 0.2 points deduction and half wrong character will result in 0.1 point deduction. Corrections are allowed and half of the points deducted will be given back if the corrections are done correctly.

3. Homework 10% (100 points)

Homework must be turned in on time unless a valid excuse connected with an excused absence is presented. 6 points off for homework turned in late. Homework/writing assignments turned in 1 day later than the due date will not be accepted or graded. The deadlines are firm.

4. Chapter Tests 20% (200 points)

We will have three review tests covering Lessons 1-3, 4-6, 7-9, respectively. Each review test contains listening, reading, grammar, writing and oral.

5. Roommate time 10% (50×2=100 points)

Every week, you have to talk with your Chinese roommate 20 minutes, during the conversation, you have to speak Chinese and your Chinese roommate will give the feedback to me. 50 points for the attendance and other 50 points for your performance. The purpose of this task is to encourage you to speak Chinese with your roommates.

6. Practicum task 10%(100 points)

In each week, you will need to complete a practicum task interview the question (you can make your own if you want) given on the last day of each week. You need to interview at least 2 native Chinese people to answer the given question, and give a presentation by the first day of each lesson. The *presentation need* to share the interview result and your thoughts with your classmates. The purpose of this task is to encourage you to deeply think of the topic, more interact with Chinese native speakers, understand Chinese people's perspectives on the topics we learn, and compare the similarities and differences of people's perspectives.

* If you have any concerns about this interview task, please feel free to come to talk me.

7. Final Test 20% (200 points)

The final test is to measure how much you have gained by the end of the semester. The test includes a written test including character, reading, grammar and writing as well as an oral proficiency test.

GRADING THRESHOLD

1000-980 A+ 899-870 B+ And so on
979-940 A 869-840 B
939-900 A- 839-800 B-

Students will be given rubrics for each assignment/homework/project and feedback will be given promptly to improve learning results and/or experience.

HOW TO SUCCEED IN THIS COURSE

Work hard. Work smart. Be nice.

COURSE MATERIALS

1. The 3rd edition of Textbook, Workbook and Character Workbook of Integrated Chinese Level I Part I (all in simplified character edition) by Yao et al.
2. Other materials will be distributed by teacher.

POLICIES AND EXPECTATIONS

- 1) Submit work on time and finish it independently.
- 2) If a student is found improperly placed into this course, the instructor has the right to move the student to a different level. Such adjustment can happen before the Add deadline.
- 3) This is a "Graded" course. The Pass/Fail option is not an option.