

CHIN3010 三年级中文课

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INTRODUCTION

This is a Chinese course for students who have successfully completed CHIN 2010 and 2020 at UVA or have acquired knowledge equivalent to successful completion of CHIN2010 and 2020 elsewhere with confirmation achieved Intermediate-mid/high level through the Chinese program's placement test one day before class starts this semester.

CHIN3010 provides you with opportunities to expand your understandings of the Chinese language and culture as well as to improve your listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills, enabling you to process and produce multi-media materials in Chinese at the advanced level. The topics covered in this course introduce you to various social issues in modern China from protecting environment to people's attitude toward homeless people. Students will be orally and textually engaged in narrative, descriptive, analytical and argumentative discourse on these issues.

CHIN3010 is also when students start learning a great deal of formal and literary expressions, or "shumianyu (书面语)". Although it literally means "written language", it is widely used in formal spoken language when sounding educated and intelligent is expected and desired. A lot of effort will therefore go to upgrading your casual way of expressing ideas into the more formal and educated way of expressing the same ideas. Analytical and critical thinking skills are called for and thus further trained in all course activities.

During this semester, 7 lessons covering different topics will be introduced and discussed in our class. Each lesson will usually take 4 classes. The first three classes will be used to learn the text, usage of vocabularies and grammar patterns, and the fourth class will be for discussion and activity. We will have a dictation in every class, and a written and an oral test in the end of every two lessons.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

In this course, you will be engaged in reading, discussing, presenting, and writing on various topics related to modern China with proper use of a formal and educated style. By the end of the semester, you will be able to:

1. Understand important issues related to modern China and their historical and cultural reasons by comprehending multimedia materials including texts, news articles, videos, etc.;
2. Talk and write about these issues as narratives, expositions, comparisons, argumentations (and combination of them all) in class orally, and outside class in various written formats of exploratory paragraph writings as blog posts, short essays, and longer papers;
3. Think analytically and critically in your oral discussions/presentations as well as in your writings by clearly and logically communicating your own original thoughts and analysis on these issues instead of merely gathering facts and information or stating simplistic personal opinions without supporting evidences;
4. Present in a formal and sophisticated manner in both oral and written communications by diligently using sufficient proportion of "shumianyu".

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 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. Please submit your assignments by the beginning of class of its due day. 20% of your assignment grade will be deducted for one day of your late submission, and no homework will be graded if you turn it in later than the next day.

1. Class performance	10%
2. Dictation	20%
3. Homework (preview + review)	15%
4. Essay	10%
5. News Report	5%
6. Test (Oral +Written)	20%
7. Final Project	10%
8. Lesson Tasks	10%
In total:	100%

1. Class Performance 10%

The main objective in assessing your class performance is to incentivize you to attend class and participate in class discussions and activities in a prepared manner. This course aims 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 the comments area of the grade book at Collab or in person.

Since daily attendance and participation is absolutely ESSENTIAL in language learning, skipping classes is strongly discouraged. It will affect not only your own performance but also slow down the progress of your peers and the whole class. Therefore, you are expected to attend every class. Lateness and absence will seriously impact your grade. However, under the consideration of the nature of humanity, you are allowed to have 3 absences for whatever reasons this semester. However, I will appreciate your email notification in advance. Just a reminder— if your grade is on borderline, overall attendance and participation will be the determining factor for your final grade. Yet, unfortunately, based on the Program principle, over 3 absences for unknown reasons a semester will cause your grade of “incomplete”.

2. Dictation 20%

You will have a dictation at the beginning of every class. The first three dictations of every lesson usually include 3 new vocabularies, 1 sentence and 2 reading comprehension questions, and in the fourth dictation of every lesson, you need to answer the given question with offered vocabularies and

sentence patterns. You can drop 5 lowest dictation grades during this semester if you are absent or just have a bad day... Yet, missed dictations cannot be made up for whatever reason.

3. Homework (preview + review) 15%

We have preview and review exercises before and after each lesson (review homework mostly), and you will need to turn in your review homework in paper at the beginning of each class.

4. Essay 10%

This is a writing-intensive course. You will need to write 3-4 small paragraphs to compose a formal essay every lesson (1 paragraph after each class. At least 120-150 characters each paragraph. Please use the newly learned vocabularies and grammar patterns as much as you can). Detailed requirements and prompts will be provided. Please compile, revise and post the final draft of your essay on your blog to receive your grade. Remember to give your essay an appealing and meaningful title.

5. News Report 5%

All students need to make an oral news report during the semester in turns. The format will include a 5-minute report and the following 3-minute Q&A session. You can choose any topics related to the focus of the lesson.

6. Test 20%

We will have a written test and an oral test every 2 lessons. There are totally 4 tests this semester. Topics and formats of oral test will be announced accordingly.

7. Final Project 10% (written paper 5% + oral presentation 5%)

The final project is the best opportunity to share what you have learned and your interest to all of your classmates. The format of final project will be announced during this semester.

8. Lesson task 10%

In each lesson, you will need to complete an authentic task answering the question (you can make your own if you want) given on the first day of each lesson. You can work independently or with 1-2 classmates. You need to interview at least 2 native Chinese people (and at least 2 people from another culture) to answer the given question, and write a task report on “Wall” by the 4th day of each lesson. After having laoshi’s feedback, you can revise your task report by the 5st day of that lesson to obtain a better grader. On the 5th or 6th day of each lesson, you will thorough the *presentation* 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. Detailed instruction and rubrics will be offered later.

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

GRADING THRESHOLD

1000-980 A+	899-870 B+	799-770 C+	And so on
979-950 A	869-840 B	769-740 C*	

949-900 A- 839-800 B- 739-700 C-

*Students need to earn a C or above to continue to the next level of class.

* Notice: NONE of grade in this course will be curved.

HOW TO SUCCEED IN THIS COURSE

At a higher-level language class, the quality of your thinking becomes increasingly important.

Oftentimes when students perform poorly, it's not only because of their language skills, but also their poor thinking skills. Be a good thinker and writer, so that you can make good contributions to class discussions and writing high-quality essays.

1. The syllabus is subject to change with notice. Please be flexible with the changes of our syllabus and course schedule due to students' various learning demands and situations.
2. Please feel free to let me know if you have any concerns, questions or comments on the course. I am happy to hear your feedback and will adjust our class accordingly.