

Elementary Mandarin Chinese

(Assuming a 6-week course with 90-minute class meeting per weekday)

Course Description

This is a Chinese language course for beginners. Its aim is to help students to develop communicative competence in the four basic skills of listening, speaking, reading, and writing the Chinese language. Students will learn basic vocabulary and sentence structures for use in essential everyday situations through various forms of oral practice. Pinyin (the most widely used Chinese phonetic system) will be taught as a tool to learn the spoken language. Students will also learn Chinese characters in order to be able to communicate effectively in real Chinese situations. While linguistic aspects of the Chinese language are the primary focus, introduction to the social and cultural background of the language will also form an important part of the course.

Course expectations:

All participants in this course will show mutual respect for one another and for course instructors and guest speakers at all times. Students are expected to arrive to class on time, prepared and to participate actively in class activities. Students should expect 1-2 hours of homework per night for this course.

Chinese in the classroom:

Through the course we will gradually be using more and more Chinese in the classroom. By the end of last week, most of our class will be conducted exclusively in Chinese. We will be focusing our class experience on *using Chinese* and to do that, we have to speak in Chinese. After all, you can't learn to swim without getting wet! We will have a lot of pair and group activities when you will be assigned to complete a task in Chinese; you are expected to use Chinese in these situations, even if you have to work your way around a word or concept you don't know.

Suggested textbooks:

- Conversational Chinese 301, by Kong Yuhua & Lai Siping, Beijing Language and Culture University Press 2006.
- Integrated Chinese: Level 1 Part 1 Textbook, 3rd Ed(Simp.), by Yuehua Liu, Tao-chung Yao, Nyan-Ping Bi, Liangyan Ge, Yaohua Shi 2009.

WEEKLY CLASS SCHEDULE

1st week

- Course introduction; Syllabus
- Introduce to Chinese
- Classroom Expressions

---Pronunciation and Spelling of Mandarin Chinese

---Greetings

2nd week

---Review I

---Making an Acquaintance: Exchanging name, Introduction

---Making an Inquiry: Time, family

3rd week

---Review II

--- Making an Inquiry: Location

---Needs: Buying foods

4th week

---Review III

---Needs: Buying clothes, changing buses, changing money

5th week

---Review IV

---Needs: Taking picture

---Making an Appointment: Peking Opera, Zoo

6th week

---Review V

---Welcome: Having a Trip, Welcome

---Reception