

Beginning Chinese

CHIN 1003-1503 Online Course

(3 Credits)

China: Chinese Language

This syllabus is representative of a typical term. Because courses develop and change over time to take advantage of unique learning opportunities, actual course content varies from term to term.

Course Description

This online intensive Chinese language course is designed specifically for students who want to quickly learn a critical language through nine weeks of online study. Combined with synchronous and asynchronous learning via online learning management system (e.g., Moodle, Zoom) during the program, students who choose the online intensive Chinese language course can earn three language credits and will rapidly expand and improve your Chinese language skills through a combination of interactive online class learning and conversing with native speakers during everyday interactions, and supporting materials sharing via multimedia.

This three-credit *Beginning Chinese* course is designed for students who have no previous Chinese language skills and intend to quickly build a solid base for further Chinese language study. Emphasizing oral expression and listening comprehension, the goal of this course is to develop students' basic communicative skills in speaking, listening, reading and writing. The course provides students a grammatical foundation and facilitates language use, with special emphasis on Pinyin system introduction, grammar, correct syntax, and verbal expression and helps students develop culturally appropriate language skills.

Each class is taught by two experienced, professionally trained, native-speaking teachers of Chinese language using oral proficiency-based methods. One teacher focus on grammar and comprehension, and another on listening and speaking. Students who have to miss the live class would be able to watch the video replay provided by the language faculty.

Instruction consists of 45 class hours online with additional assignments and daily homework. Various teaching methods are employed, including drills, role play, in-class discussions on Chinese and American subjects (in simple Chinese), recitations for aural comprehension and grammar exercises. The final oral and written exams will be given at the end of the program.

Students who have completed this online course are strongly encouraged to continue reviewing the learned materials and to practice their Chinese language skills in the form of sending additional homework to their language teachers, hopefully once in two weeks. All of our language teachers

would be happy to keep contact with their students between the end of the online program and the beginning of the in-country program. The teachers will continue to provide their feedback on the students' additional homework in hope to help students to consolidate what they have learned and to prepare them for the upcoming in-country Chinese language study.

Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of the course, students will be able to:

- Understand the pinyin system and basic syllabic structure of Chinese characters;
- Use pinyin as a tool to pronounce Chinese characters;
- Understand the basic Chinese radicals and follow rules of stroke orders for writing Chinese characters;
- Gain a general idea of the uniqueness of Chinese grammar (word order, measure words and etc.);
- Exchange greetings with each other and make self-introduction;
- Discuss family members and describe others in more detailed ways (physical appearance, age, hobbies and etc.);
- Describe their own rooms, classrooms and the neighborhood;
- Count in Chinese from 1-100 or more;
- Read a calendar and tell time and days of week;
- Talk about their school subject and school schedule;
- Describe hobbies, interests, and habits;
- Ask and describe someone's favor and taste;
- Describe clothing and food.

Course Requirements

Reinforcement exercises, both oral and written, are assigned. On average, students are required to complete at least 1 hour of homework daily. Class attendance is required; preparation and participation are highly emphasized. Active engagement and meaningful involvement in class activities are expected. Students should complete their assignments individually, on time, and with full efforts. A late assignment will result in a lower grade.

Required Texts

The textbook for this course is *SIT Beginning Chinese* created by SIT language faculty Luo Xiaolei in 2017, or *Boya Chinese, Elementary Starter I & II*, (Li Xiaoqi, Beijing University Publishing

House, 2004). Li Xiaoqi's communicative and structurally based approach is well suited to the needs of foreign students living in a Chinese-speaking environment wishing to acquire a solid foundation of Chinese grammar. SIT language teachers' text materials are aimed at increasing students' ability to communicate with native Chinese peoples and to conduct their fieldwork in the future. The electronic version of the language text materials will be provided to students.

Recommended Materials

Chinese Situational Dialogues, By Chen Ru, Peking University, 2002.
Oxford Beginner's Chinese Dictionary (available on Amazon)

Concise English-Chinese/Chinese-English Dictionary, 4th edition, Oxford University Press (China) Ltd, January 2009.

This fourth edition of the Concise English-Chinese/Chinese-English Dictionary covers over 90,000

words and phrases, and over 130,000 translations of contemporary Chinese and English, with brand-new words in each language. More than just a dictionary, this handy reference book also includes a brand new section on communication, giving you the tools you need to communicate effectively and understand aspects of another culture.

Other on-line dictionaries and resources provided below:

Chinese Language Learning

<https://www.duolingo.com/course/zh/en>

<https://www.talkinglearn.com>

<http://echineselanguagelearning.com/>

Pinyin Learning Tool

<http://www.chinese-tools.com/tools/pinyin.html> (pinyin tying tool)

English-Chinese Dictionary

<http://www.nciku.com/>

<http://www.mdbg.net/>

<http://www.chinese-tools.com/tools/dictionary.html>

<http://qvk.bnu.edu.cn>

<https://www.mdbg.net/chinese/dictionary>

CCTVLearnChinese

This is the English language version of the Chinese CCTV channel. The website contains a wide range of multimedia materials for Chinese learners from beginner to advanced levels. Incorporating a number of Mandarin learning programs such as 'Easy Chinese', 'Survival Chinese', 'Growing up with Chinese', 'Happy Chinese' etc. it also includes a section where learners can learn Chinese through news.

Overview of Course Content

Course Topics

- Phonetics, Pronunciation and Intonation
- Basic sentence structure and word order
- Interrogative sentences
- 是 (shi) and 有 (you) sentences
- Introduction to basic Chinese character strokes
- Sentences with a verbal predicate, or an adjectival predicate
- Measure words, position words and optative words
- Prepositional construction
- The structural particle 的 (de)
- 了 (le) and 过 (guo) sentences

- 是...还是... (shi...haishi...) sentences
- Progressive aspect of an action
- An action that is going to take place
- Actions as past experiences
- Sentence with verbal constructions in series
- Sentences with a predicate verb taking two objects

Model Conversational Targets

- Greetings and introductions
- Asking the way
- Describing family members
- Taking a taxi, bus, or buying a ticket
- Exchanging currency
- Ordering food at a restaurant
- Time, date and numbers
- Apologies and responding to apologies
- Making and responding to requests
- Counting and shopping
- Sending a letter
- Talking about weather and colors

Daily Class Schedule (*minimum of 3 contact hours M-F*):

- Classes are scheduled accordingly:
 - Grammar and Comprehension
 - (break)
 - Listening and Speaking

There will be a short quiz every day.

- Daily homework that usually include creating five sentences individually, based on the learned content and teachers' requirements should be sent to the language instructors in writing, video or audio format in time. Teachers' feedback on the students' homework will be provided within two days.
- There will be one written and one oral final exam.

Evaluation and Grading Criteria

Instructors evaluate student performance based on observation, oral and written exercises, and exams given at the end of the course. Final grades are assigned by the Academic Director in consultation with the language instructors on the basis of the instructors' evaluations and the Academic Director's observations of the students' participation in classes and their efforts to use the language outside of the classroom.

Oral proficiency interviews will be conducted at the beginning and end of the course to provide a measurement of students' overall linguistic progress. Course grades provide an assessment of students' performance in meeting the requirements of the language class while oral proficiency interviews provide an assessment of students' linguistic competence in standard Chinese. The program's Academic Director and language faculty have gone through ACTFL training.

Grades are assigned by the language instructors based on the following evaluation criteria:

Daily Quizzes/Written Homework/Oral Work 50%

A brief quiz (approximately 10 minutes) will be held daily. The quiz will cover recent grammar, phrases and vocabulary terms. Daily written homework assignments reinforce the material taught through classroom drills.

Final Oral and Written Examinations, averaged together 50%

A group of language teachers will evaluate each student's oral proficiency level. The written exam will be a comprehensive test covering grammar, sentence structure, vocabulary and writing skills.

Grading Scale: The grading scale for all classes is as follows:

94-100%	A
90-93%	A-
87-89%	B+
84-86%	B
80-83%	B-
77-79%	C+
74-76%	C
70-73%	C-
67-69%	D+
64-66%	D
below 64	F

Expectations and Policies

Show up prepared. This language course is comprised of a combination of individualized and group learning. Students must participate fully and be on time for all scheduled activities and classes. Intensive language study requires great concentration and dedication, therefore you must be well rested and have a clear head and have your readings completed and points in mind for discussion or clarification. Reading and observation will be tested regularly with quizzes.

Complete assignments on time. Assignments are due at the start of class unless otherwise instructed. Assignments are docked 5% for each day or part of a day that they are late. Contact the Language faculty in advance if health or other issues prevent you from submitting an assignment on time. All assignments must be completed to get a passing grade. Graded assignments will be returned within two weeks of submission and usually within the same week.

Comply with academic integrity policies (no plagiarism or cheating, nothing unethical).

Respect differences in peer language levels and degrees of fluency. Collegiality and peer-to-peer learning are basic expectations.

Please refer to the SIT Study Abroad handbook for policies on academic integrity, ethics, warning and probation, diversity and disability, sexual harassment and the academic appeals process. Also, refer to the specific information available in the program handbook given to you at Orientation,

particularly the code of conduct, the policy on blogging and taking photographs, and the grading policy.

Disability Services: For information about and to facilitate an accessible educational experience, please contact Disability Services for SIT at disabilityservices@sit.edu. Additional information regarding SIT Disability Services can be found on the DS website at: <http://studyabroad.sit.edu/disabilityservices>.