



Mandarin Chinese Level I

2013-2014

Course Description:

This course is designed for students with no prior knowledge of Mandarin Chinese (Putonghua) and Chinese culture. Students will learn how to speak Chinese before learning how to read Chinese characters thus learning Pinyin—a vehicle to help students to learn the pronunciation of the Chinese language—is essential during the first three weeks. Although the Discovering Chinese we used is the simplified character edition, the tradition characters will be introduced also. The emphasis in this class is to develop listening, speaking, reading and writing skills using both the Pinyin phonetic system and simplified Chinese characters. Approximately 200 words will be taught through essential real-life topics, which also introduce the social and cultural background of the language. At the end of this course, students will acquire vocabulary and sentence structures in some basic daily-life communication. They will be able to identify the sounds and tones of Mandarin in the Pinyin system, and will read, write in Chinese (simplified Chinese characters), and carry out some simple conversations on relevant topics studied. Students will also be able to understand and appreciate the Chinese traditional culture.

Course Content:

A. Introduction

- Chinese Language and Dialects
- Syllabic Structure and Pronunciation of Modern Standard Chinese
- The Chinese Writing System Useful Expressions

B. Greetings

- Greeting
- Self-introduction including Chinese names
- Exchanging greetings
- Asking about someone's nationality

C. Family

- Family members
- Learning numbers system
- Use family photos in conversation
- Asking about someone's family and address

D. Dates and Times

- How to count numbers, dates and time
- Congratulating someone's birthday

E. Hobbies and Interests

- Describing objects in classrooms
- Talking about hobbies
- Asking about something want to eat or order

F. Cultural Appreciation

- China's history and geography
- China's main cities

- China’s music, art, sports and literature
- China’s education and teenagers
- China’s traditional holidays and fairy tales.
- China talent (paper-cutting; calligraphy; ink and water painting; Chinese knots; tea ceremony; Beijing opera masks and Kung Fu etc.)

Required Textbooks and/or Other Reading/Research Materials

- Textbook: Discovering Chinese, volume 1 and 2 (simplified character)
- On-line resource: <http://www.betterchinese.com/Home.html>
- DVD resources from Confucius Institute Headquarter, China

Course Requirements:

Students are expected to

- To master Chinese phonemes through pinyin – the romanized Chinese phonetic system; and to comprehend the target language at a normal speed,
- To master about 200 words and actively use of about 100 simplified Chinese characters,
- To understand basic Chinese grammar and sentence structures
- To communicate about daily topics in Chinese and give simple related demonstrations.
- To appreciate various aspects of Chinese culture, lifestyles and social-cultural conventions,
- To compare the differences in certain aspects between China and U.S.A.

Students are expected to complete all projects, assignments, and tests. Participation in all oral class activities is also required. Students are also expected to bring all learning materials to class, as well as maintain an organized notebook, which may be checked periodically. Good attendance and consistent practice is essential in foreign language study.

Grade Components/Assessments:

The final grade will be based on the following:

- A. Class Participation (10%)
- B. Homework (5%)
- C. Oral Assessment (20%)
- D. Projects and Presentations (25%)
- E. Tests and Quizzes (40%)

Each marking period is worth 20% of a student’s overall grade. The midterm and final exam are each worth 10% of a student’s overall average:

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| Quarter 1 | 20% |
| Quarter 2 | 20% |
| Midterm | 10% |
| Quarter 3 | 20% |
| Quarter 4 | 20% |
| Final | 10% |

Required Summer Reading/Assignments:

There is no summer reading requirement for this course.