Chinese 1B (Fall 2007) Syllabus
Department of Modern Languages and Literatures, Swarthmore College

CHIN 1B (Fall 2007)

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General Description

This course introduces basic knowledge about the Chinese language and develops your skills in listening, speaking, reading, and writing in Mandarin Chinese. You will learn the pinyin pronunciation system, about 350 traditional characters, basic grammar structures, and the most frequently used vocabulary in real-life situations. Upon successful completion of the course, you will obtain basic abilities to speak, read, and write on everyday topics.

Required Texts


Homework and Assignments

Preview: it is necessary to familiarize yourself with new vocabulary, characters, and the text in advance in order to perform well in class. The weekly schedule will inform you of what to prepare before class.

Listening comprehension record sheet: you are expected to submit it every three weeks. It is very important to practice listening comprehension every day in order to develop your Chinese language proficiency. We expect you to listen at least 3 hours a week.

Weekly writing assignments: Homework and assignments with due dates will be listed on our weekly schedules. All homework and assignments must be turned in on the due date as indicated on the weekly schedule. Credit will be reduced for late homework and such assignments will not be accepted if more than one week late. Homework that is incomplete must be handed in again to receive full credit.
*Please tear out and hand in your character workbook exercises assignment by assignment. If you don’t want to tear pages out of your character workbook, a Xerox copy will be acceptable.

*For assignments in your other workbook, please write your answers for each assignment on separate sheets of lined paper (double spaced). Please clearly indicate the lessons and assigned portions on your answer sheets.

Quizzes and Exams

Vocabulary Quizzes: every unit (2 per lesson)
Chapter Quizzes: every lesson
Written tests: the midterm and the final
Oral exam: individual oral exam *

* An individual oral exam based on what you have learnt from this course will be conducted before the final. Details will be provided later.

Evaluation and Grading

Attendance* 5%
Class Performance 10%
Homework* 20%
Quizzes* 15% (vocabulary quizzes 5%; chapter quizzes 10%)
Midterm test 20%
Oral 10%
Final exam 20%

*Unexcused absences and multiple tardies will affect your final grade. Absence for illness requires a doctor’s note. If you have to be absent for other important reasons, you must inform us in advance.
*All homework will be graded on the check system (✓+, ✓-, ✓-).
*All quizzes and tests will be graded with scores. Vocabulary quizzes will not be made up. Chapter quizzes may only be made up if you notify us in advance.

Grading scale is as follows:
93-100=A  90-92=A-  87-89=B+  84-86=B  80-83=B-  76-79=C+
73-75=C  70-72=C-  66-69=D+  63-65=D  60-62=D-  Below 60=F

Useful Multimedia Resources
In order to fully develop your language skills, after-class learning and practice are highly recommended.

Audio recordings for the textbook and workbook are available on the Language Resource Center (LRC) website (http://lrc.swarthmore.edu). Cassette tapes are also available in the LRC (Kohlberg 306).

For class info, exercises and other activities, see First Year Chinese (1B & 2B) web page, URL http://www.swarthmore.edu/Humanities/kspeide1/chinese1/.


To practice Chinese characters with the assistance of animated software, see http://www.usc.edu/dept/ealc/chinese/character/

For other learning assistance and tools, see Learning Chinese Online URL http://yellowbridge.com/language/flashcards.html
http://www.chinesesavvy.com/savvy/
http://www.csulb.edu/~txie/online.htm
http://www.mandarintools.com
http://www.cafemexc.com  * This is a live chatting room. You can practice Chinese aloud with other Chinese speakers.

After-Class Activities

Tutorial Hours: Weekly tutorial visits are mandatory for oral practice. You will come to the office with one of your classmates. You are supposed to prepare the “Speaking Exercise” part in each lesson in the workbook before you come. Tutorial visits will begin during the second week of classes.

Office Hours: In addition to tutorial hours, you are welcome to practice your Chinese with us or ask us questions during our office hours.

Chinese Lunch Table:
Chinese lunch table, a good opportunity to practice your Chinese with teachers and other students, is strongly recommended. It will be held twice a week in Sharples, beginning the second week of classes. You will be exposed to real-life communication. Please do come to enjoy learning the language in a relaxed setting. 😊