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:** You are expected to listen daily to audio files that correspond to our textbook and workbook materials in order to improve your listening comprehension. This is very important for developing your Chinese language proficiency. We recommend that you listen at least half an hour each day. As part of your listening practice, you will also be required to record yourself reading the text of each dialogue in the textbook and submitting the recording to us via Blackboard. These recordings will be graded. Details will follow at a later date.
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, you may tear out the pages and submit them, but you are responsible for checking to see if the last page of your assignment includes the first page of the next assignment. If this is the case, please either do your homework on your own paper or photocopy the workbook pages and submit them. If you use your own paper, please skip a line between sentences and clearly indicate the lessons and assigned portions on your answer sheets.

Quizzes and Exams

Vocabulary Quizzes: every unit (2 quizzes per lesson)
Chapter Quizzes: every lesson
Written tests: the midterm and the final
Final oral exam: an individual oral exam based on what you have learned from this course will be conducted before the final written exam. Details will be provided later.

Evaluation and Grading

Attendance* 5%
Class Performance 10% (includes listening and recording exercises)
Homework* 20% (includes recording exercises)
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:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Score Range</th>
<th>Grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>93-100</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>90-92</td>
<td>A-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>87-89</td>
<td>B+</td>
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<tr>
<td>84-86</td>
<td>B</td>
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<tr>
<td>80-83</td>
<td>B-</td>
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<tr>
<td>76-79</td>
<td>C+</td>
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<td>73-75</td>
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<td>63-65</td>
<td>D</td>
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<tr>
<td>60-62</td>
<td>D-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Below 60</td>
<td>F</td>
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</tbody>
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**Useful Multimedia Resources**

*Course documents and other handouts* will be posted on Blackboard for your use.

*Audio recordings* for the textbook and workbook are available on the Language Resource Center (LRC) website [http://lrc.swarthmore.edu](http://lrc.swarthmore.edu). You may also download the audio files to your computer or iPod by visiting the iTunes University website via our course webpage.

*For class info, exercises and other activities*, see First Year Chinese (1B & 2B) web page, URL [http://www.swarthmore.edu/Humanities/kspeide1/chinese1/](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/](http://www.usc.edu/dept/ealc/chinese/character/)

*For other learning assistance and tools*, see Learning Chinese Online URL


[http://www.csulb.edu/~txie/online.htm](http://www.csulb.edu/~txie/online.htm)

[http://www.mandarintools.com](http://www.mandarintools.com)

[http://www.cafemecx.com](http://www.cafemecx.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 our office with one of your classmates. You are expected to prepare the “Speaking Exercise” section 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. 😊