

CHIN 0100: Beginning Chinese I
Fall Semester

Required Texts

(Available at Penn Bookstore, 36th & Walnut)

Speak and Act: Beginning Chinese Textbook I, Dietrich, Lee & Chen, Beijing Language and Culture University Press, 2021

Speak and Act: Beginning Chinese Workbook I, Chiu & Dietrich, BLCU Press, 2021

Course Description

This course is designed for those who have little or no prior exposure to Chinese. The course aims to help you build a solid foundation of the four language skills in Chinese—listening, speaking, reading, and writing. The ultimate goal is to enable you to function in a linguistically and culturally appropriate manner in the target language environment. Critical components of such a function include mastery of basic grammatical structures, correct pronunciation and tones, sufficient vocabulary as well as relevant knowledge and understanding of Chinese culture. The primary mode of instruction is verbal communication through interactive task completion. This course partially fulfills the language requirement of various undergraduate programs at Penn.

Course Objectives

By the end of the semester, you will be able to handle a number of situations that have immediate concern to you:

- Request and provide simple personal information
- Request and provide basic information about a person's family
- Request and provide information about time and location of events
- Make and accept invitation in a culturally appropriate manner
- Express preferences and simple opinions
- Relate simple information about academic studies and career choices
- Relate simple information about your own daily routine
- Act appropriately in social functions

Oral Tests, Individual Tutorials & Group Cultural Presentations

Oral tests. An oral test is scheduled for every other lesson. You will be paired up with a partner to perform a communicative task. The assignment will be distributed in advance and you are expected to come to class fully prepared. The purpose of the oral test is two-fold: 1) to assist you utilize learned vocabulary and grammatical structures, and 2) to build up your proficiency and fluency in spoken Chinese. These oral tests are graded according to the following criteria: pronunciation, tones, grammar, and coherence.

Individual tutorials. A 10-minute mandatory individual tutorial session with a TA will be conducted each Thursday/Friday starting the 2nd week. You will sign up for a time slot, which you will keep for the entire semester. The purpose of the tutorial is to provide some one-on-one interaction time with an instructor/TA to reinforce and review the content covered in class. These sessions are largely conversational. The grading is based on effort and performance. You can re-schedule up to **two (2)** sessions per semester, for any reason at all, without penalty **if you**

request in advance. The make-up session must be scheduled **within two weeks** of the original date. Please contact your TA directly for rescheduling. TA's contact information is available on Canvas plenary site. Please note, **rescheduling is contingent upon TA's availability and is *not* guaranteed.**

Group cultural presentations. These are mini-research projects conducted in English (although inserting some Chinese words and sentences that you have learned or know in your presentation is encouraged). Each group will sign up for one topic, research it and do a 10-15 minute PPT presentation in class. The topics are related to selected lessons (see weekly lesson plans for details). Real language learning does not happen without relevant cultural exposure. The purpose of these presentations is to enrich your general knowledge of contemporary China. Each group only presents once during the semester.

Written Tests and Quizzes

There is a written test every other lesson, and a character quiz (supplementary vocabulary excluded) and a grammar quiz every lesson. Format on the test/quizzes will be announced in class. Your lowest grade from each *quiz* category will be dropped. You may not drop any test grades. You are allowed one make-up test/quiz of each category per semester (after the dropped one counted).

Homework

Homework assignment is consisted of character writing and grammar (Workbook). Specific assignments are listed in the weekly lesson plan. The answer key comes with the workbook. It is your responsibility to correct your assignments (with a different color pen) before submission. Incomplete work or that without correction will not receive full credit. Homework assignment is collected at the beginning of class on its due date. You will lose 10% of the possible score for each day (including weekends) the work is overdue. No credit will be given after one week.

Evaluation Rubrics

All course works are evaluated according to a set of rubrics, which are posted on Canvas plenary site. You want to check them, so you know what the expectations are.

Attendance and Participation

Regular attendance is expected. Any absence notices should be submitted at the Course Action Notices site through a link on Path@Penn. You are permitted five (5) absences for any reason. **Each additional absence after five will result in a 1% point reduction from your final grade.** Tardiness of 20-minutes or more counts as absence. There are no "excused absences." If you miss a class, you are responsible for making up any work and for knowing the material covered.

The purpose of the Course Absence Report system is to facilitate communication between instructors and students when a student misses a class. The system allows you to inform the instructor about absences of five days or less. If the absence is more than five days, you should contact your home school advising office for assistance and to discuss the academic implications of a longer absence.

You are expected to fully participate in class activities when you are in class. Thoroughly preview and review the materials according to the weekly lesson plan ensures good participation. **Silence and put away your cell phone and DO NOT TEXT** during class.

Assessment

Oral tests (5)	20%
Written tests (4)	20%
Character quizzes (7 out of 8)	10%
Grammar quizzes (8 out of 9)	10%
Final written exam	10%
Homework (9)	10%
Individual tutorial (9)	8%
Cultural presentation	2%
Class attendance & participation	10%