CHIN 0100 Beginning Chinese I
Fall Semester 2025
The syllabus is tentative and is subject to change.

Course Description:
This course is designed for students with minimal to no prior exposure to Chinese. It aims to build foundational skills in listening, speaking, reading, and writing within a dynamic and interactive learning environment. Emphasis is placed on correct pronunciation, tone accuracy, and basic grammatical structures. By the end of the course, students will have acquired 350-400 essential vocabulary words and gained an understanding of modern Chinese grammar, statement forms, and question structures.

Objectives:
This course aims to equip students with the linguistic and cultural competencies needed to navigate daily life scenarios effectively. Students will learn to share personal information, discuss hobbies, make appointments, describe routines, and more, using appropriate language.

Textbook: Available at Penn Bookstore
Integrated Chinese Volume 1, Yao & Liu et al, Cheng & Tsui Co., 2017 (4th edition)
- Textbook: ISBN 9781622917457
- Workbook: ISBN 9781622911363

Language Audio Material:
The audio files for the textbook and workbook are available on the Canvas course website. Listening to the audio material is required for this course.

Time and Place:

Section	Instructor	Time	Classroom
401	Chih-jen Melvin Lee	M-R 9:00-10:00 AM	TBD
402	Jiajia Wang	M-R 10:15-11:15 AM	TBD
403	Xiaomeng Zhang	M-R 12:00-1:00 PM	TBD
404	Staff	M-R 1:45-2:45 PM	TBD
405	Jie Zhang	MW 3:30-5:30 PM	TBD
406	Shihui Fan	TR 3:30-4:30 PM	TBD

Course Requirements:

Attendance

Attendance is not merely a requirement; it's a critical component of your language learning journey. Each class offers unique opportunities for interaction, practice, and feedback that cannot be replicated outside the classroom. You are allowed up to **<u>five</u>** absences for any reason during the semester. Each absence beyond this allowance will result in a deduction of 1 point from your final grade. Significant lateness or leaving class early is disruptive and will be recorded as a half-absence. If your absences exceed five consecutive classes, it's recommended that you consult with your academic advisor to discuss support options and understand the potential implications on your academic performance.

Class Performance, Preparation & Participation

Active engagement and preparation for each class are fundamental expectations. You are required to review the vocabulary, listen to the assigned audio materials, and study the text notes and example sentences as part of your daily preparation. Participation includes contributing to class discussions, completing in-class exercises, and engaging with interactive activities. The grading scale for this component is as follows:

- A score of 9 (out of 10) indicates satisfactory preparation and active participation.
- Scores below 9 reflect varying degrees of inadequate preparation or participation.
- Scores above 9 are awarded to students demonstrating exceptional engagement and contribution to the class environment.

Homework

Homework assignments consist of workbook exercises, character practice, and other tasks designed to reinforce classroom learning. All assignments are due on the specified dates and will be graded on a 10-point scale. **Late submissions will incur a 1-point deduction per day, up to three days past the due date.** Assignments submitted more than three days late will automatically receive a zero unless prior arrangements are made with the instructor.

Preview Assignments

Before the instruction of each lesson, students must complete preview assignments posted on Canvas. These assignments include exercises on the vocabulary words for that lesson, viewing a video of the first dialogue, and answering comprehension questions. Students have two attempts for each lesson, and the higher score of the two attempts will be recorded. The assignments must be completed before the due dates. **Make-up is not allowed, but students are allowed to drop one of the preview assignments.**

Review Quizzes

On the last day of each lesson, students must take a review quiz on that lesson. The quiz typically includes listening and reading comprehension questions, and a few sentence translation questions. To accommodate minor setbacks, the lowest score from your review quizzes will be dropped. **Missed quiz counts as the dropped score and cannot be made up.**

Oral Tests

Oral proficiency is a key component of your language development and will be assessed through oral tests every three lessons. These evaluations focus on pronunciation, tones, grammar and vocabulary usage, content coherence, and delivery. Failure to attend your scheduled test time without prior notice will result in a 2-point deduction (out of the full score of 10).

Written Tests

Written tests are scheduled throughout the semester to evaluate your understanding and retention of the material. None of the written tests will be dropped. However, you are allowed one make-up opportunity for a written test under certain conditions:

1. If arranged with your instructor in advance, no penalty will be applied.
2. Unplanned make-ups, without prior arrangement, will be penalized by a 10% deduction of the test score. Exceptional cases will be evaluated at the instructor's discretion.
3. All make-up tests must be completed within one week of the original test date.

Final Portfolio

The course includes one final portfolio assignment that allows you to showcase your learning throughout the semester. Detailed guidelines, expectations, and deadlines for this portfolio assignment will be shared later in class.

Individual Tutorials

Individual tutorials (IT) are scheduled on Fridays during selected weeks. Each session lasts 10 minutes and offers you a chance to practice speaking with a native speaker. You need to sign up for a time slot early in the semester, and you will keep this slot for all future sessions. It is important to arrive on time for your tutorials, as you **will not** be able to reschedule or make up missed sessions. You are required to complete **eight** tutorial sessions. If you choose to do more than eight, you can earn extra credit: for each additional session beyond the required eight, you will get an extra 0.5 points added to your final grade.

Final Exam

The final exam will encompass all the material covered throughout the semester. The exact date and time of the final exam will be announced on **Path@Penn** in October. Students are not allowed to reschedule the final exam unless there is a time conflict with another final exam. If you have urgent personal reasons that prevent you from taking the final exam on the scheduled date, talk to your instructor immediately.

Evaluation:

Your grades in this course will be decided by the following ten categories of performance:

1. Homework (drop none): 15%
2. Preview Assignments (drop 1): 8%
3. Review Quizzes (drop 1): 16%
4. Oral tests (drop none): 12%
5. Written tests (drop none): 15%
6. Individual Tutorials (drop two): 4%
7. Class attendance: 5%
8. Class participation and performance: 5%
9. Final Portfolio: 10%
10. Final Exam: 10%

Please enroll in the language course that corresponds to your demonstrated proficiency level. Students will not receive credit for any courses taken at a level lower than that indicated by their placement score or prior coursework.

This course is cross-listed as CHIN-5100, which is designated for graduate students only. If you are an undergraduate student, please enroll in CHIN-0100.