

**CHIN 0400 Intermediate Chinese II**  
**Spring 2025**  
**(Subject to change)**

**Course Description:**

CHIN 0400 Intermediate Chinese II is the continuing course for students who have completed CHIN 0300 at Penn, as well as for those who had learned Chinese in high schools and been placed into the course through the Chinese placement exam. As an intermediate-level course, the emphasis is on building the foundation of speaking, listening, reading, and writing skills. It is designed primarily for students planning to enroll in Intermediate Chinese courses at Penn. It also meets the needs of students with interests in the Chinese language and culture or planning to travel or study abroad in China soon. At the end of this course, students should reach the Intermediate-Mid level based on the ACTFL Proficiency Guidelines. Students should have confidence talking with Chinese native speakers on familiar topics ranging from the college experience, daily life routines, behavior culture, and social etiquette. This course also aims to introduce students to a changing China. From the rapid urbanization and globalization to the continuous development of transportation and infrastructure as well as cutting-edge business and industrial technology, China is experiencing an unprecedented transformation. Meanwhile, China is still rich in cultural heritage and has a long history. This course enables students to have a better understanding and analysis of contemporary Chinese society through learning its language and culture.

**Textbook:**

Chou, Chih-p'ing, Joanne Chiang and Jianna Eagar. (2011) A New China. Princeton: Princeton University Press.

**Time and Location:**

Section	Instructor	Time	Classroom
401	Xiaomeng Zhang	M-R 9:00-10:00 AM	
402	Xiaomeng Zhang	M-R 10:15-11:15 AM	
403	Xiaomeng Zhang	M-R 12:00-1:00 PM	
404	Shihui Fan	M-R 1:45-2:45 PM	
405	Shihui Fan	M-R 3:30-4:30 PM	

**Instructors:**

Xiaomeng ZHANG 张晓朦

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Office Hours: Monday to Thursday, 11:15-11:45 PM

Shihui FAN 范诗慧

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Office Hours: Monday to Thursday, 2:45-3:15 PM

### **Course Objectives:**

This course seeks to educate students to be global citizens, with the ability and sensitivity to communicate with people from diverse cultures. We aim to accomplish this goal through the study of the Chinese language, society, and culture.

### **Culture Objectives**

- Broad cultural knowledge, understanding, and awareness of the nature of the culture(s) associated with the target language.
- Skills to recognize culture-specific perspectives and values embedded in language behavior.
- Flexibility and openness of mind in negotiating cultural differences.

### **Language Objectives**

- The training necessary to speak, comprehend, read and write Mandarin Chinese at a level that would allow students to participate in basic everyday conversations and read and write simple texts such as short essays, letters, forms, etc.
- A basic understanding of the structure of Mandarin Chinese as compared to the English language.
- An awareness of the diverse populations and cultures in China where Mandarin and other Chinese dialects are spoken and of the sociolinguistic aspects of these languages.

### **Course Requirements:**

#### **Class Attendance (5%)**

Class attendance is ESSENTIAL and an integral part of the course design. You are permitted five (5) absences **for any reason**, after which **each additional absence will result in a 1-point deduction from your FINAL GRADE**. Any significant tardiness or early departure from class will be counted as a half absence.

#### **Class Performance, Preparation & Participation (5%)**

You should familiarize yourself with the vocabulary, listen to the audio files, and read the text notes and sample sentences as part of your daily preparation activities. You are expected to prepare for and actively participate in all class activities. Please note that a grade of 8 (out of 10) is satisfactory preparation and participation. Grades lower than an 8 are for students who demonstrate unsatisfactory preparation and participation, and grades higher than a 9 are reserved for students who demonstrate exemplary preparation and participation.

#### **Preview Vocabulary Quiz (5%)**

A vocabulary preview quiz is given at each lesson's beginning. One of the lowest preview quizzes will be automatically dropped. No make-ups are allowed for preview quizzes. If you miss a quiz, it will automatically be counted as the dropped one.

#### **Written Homework (15%)**

Homework assignments must be handwritten (stylus pen is acceptable) and turned in on the due day of the week according to the weekly schedule. All homework will be graded on the

quality of completion. Late homework will receive a 1-point penalty per day. Late homework will not be accepted and graded if submitted three days past the due date.

### **Speaking Homework (10%)**

Speaking homework will be graded on the quality of completion. Late homework will receive a 1-point penalty per day. Late homework will not be accepted and graded if submitted three days past the due date.

### **Chapter Written Tests (15%)**

Chapter written tests are given after every two lessons. There will be a review session before each written test. None of the test scores will be dropped. You are allowed ONE make-up/reschedule for the chapter test. If you arrange the make-up test with your instructor before the test date, there will be no penalty. Otherwise, a 10% deduction will be applied without prior arrangement. All make-ups must be completed within a week of the original date of the test.

### **Mid-Term Oral Test (5%)**

There will be one mid-term oral test on the topics that will be covered this semester. Instructions will be available two weeks before the test date.

### **Movie Essay (5%)**

There will be a movie screening and accompanying writing assignment this semester. Details of this assignment will be announced later in class.

### **Individual Tutorials (5%)**

Seven individual tutorials (IT) are offered on Fridays of certain weeks. Each tutorial session is about 10 minutes, and it is a good opportunity for students to have extra speaking practice with a native speaker on the topics discussed throughout the semester. ITs are graded on effort and completion. You must sign up for your own time slot and will keep the same time slot for the rest of the semester. No make-ups or rescheduling is allowed. You are required to complete seven tutorial sessions to receive full credits for IT. However, if you complete all seven IT sessions, you will receive 0.5 points manually added to your final grades for the extra session.

### **Final Projects (20%)**

There will be a final project this semester. Details of these projects will be announced later in class.

### **Final Exam (10%)**

This exam will cover all the materials taught during this semester. **No make-ups will be allowed for the final exam without prior approval.**

### **Extra Credits (1%)**

There are two ways to earn extra credits for this course. (1) If completing all seven IT sessions, for the extra session, you will receive 0.5 points manually added to your final grades; (2) For all CHIN 0400 sections, students are encouraged to attend the Mental Health Lecture hosted by the Chinese Language Program. Students can submit a reflection (in

Chinese, at least 250 characters) to their instructor to earn up to 0.5 points extra credits added to their final grade. The time and location of this event will be announced later.

### **Grading:**

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

1. Class Attendance & Participation: 10%
2. Preview Vocabulary Quizzes: 5%
3. Written Homework: 15%
4. Speaking Homework: 10%
5. Written Tests: 15%
6. Mid-Term Oral Test: 5%
7. Individual Tutorial: 5%
8. Movie Essay: 5%
9. Final Project: 20%
10. Final Exam: 10%

**A:** 94-100, **A-:** 90-94, **B+:** 87-90, **B:** 83-87, **B-:** 80-83,  
**C+:** 77-80, **C:** 73-77, **C-:** 70-73, **D+:** 65-70, **D:** 60-65, **F:** Less than 60

### **Academic Integrity:**

Students must follow the principles of the University's Code Of Academic Integrity.

Violations include, but are not limited to:

- Plagiarism: Using another person's published ideas, data, or language without specific and proper acknowledgment.
- Use of another person's work: Submitting a paper that someone else prepared, either in part or whole, or preparing all or part of a paper of other written assignment for other students.
- Cheating/Copying during an examination: Copying from another student's paper, consulting unauthorized material, giving information to another student, or colluding with one or more students during an examination.
- Prior possession of an examination: Acquiring or possessing an examination before it is given, unless the instructor grants permission.

**Class Rules:** (Violating the class rules may affect your class participation grades.)

1. Please refrain from doing homework in class, including your Chinese homework.
2. No activities unrelated to the class should be undertaken. During class, please **do not** use your laptop or cell phone to do things that are unrelated to the class.
3. If you miss a class, it is **your own** responsibility to find out what material was covered during your absence. Being absent is **NOT** an excuse for handing in homework late. You should still submit your homework on the due day even if you do not attend the class.