

CHIN 0878 Advanced Medical Chinese
Spring Semester 2025
Tuesday and Thursday 3:30-5:00 pm
(This syllabus is tentative and is subject to change.)

Instructor

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Course Overview & Goals

“Advanced Medical Chinese” is a specialized language course tailored for medical, nursing, and other healthcare-related professionals. It offers Mandarin language instruction to individuals who anticipate interactions with Chinese-speaking patients, either during visits to China or while serving patients with limited English proficiency. This course specifically targets students with a minimum of three years of Chinese language study in a standard college program or an equivalent language competency level. Its primary focus is on facilitating effective physician and nurse communication with patients.

The course’s ultimate aim extends beyond language proficiency to positively impact patient care within the Chinese community by mitigating language and cultural barriers. By honing language skills in reading, writing, listening, and speaking within clinical healthcare contexts, participants will be better equipped to engage in meaningful interactions. The curriculum covers a wide spectrum of subjects, spanning from foundational rapport-building and medical terminology to exploring Chinese cultural attitudes toward health-related matters.

Engagement in the course involves in-depth analysis and discussion of assigned reading materials, coupled with structured exercises that encompass both controlled and task-based activities. These activities encourage students not only to delve into real-world medical scenarios but also to proactively apply their language skills. The overarching aspiration is that, upon completing the coursework and engaging with the literature and provided textbook, students will emerge better equipped both linguistically and culturally for their impending medical careers.

Attendance Policy

In pursuit of the outlined objectives, students are required to maintain regular attendance, punctuality, and active participation. Consistent attendance is imperative and closely monitored. If a student is unable to attend a class, advance notification via email to the instructor is expected. A maximum of three (3) absences is permissible for any reason. Each subsequent absence will result in a deduction of 1 point from the final grade. Noteworthy lateness or early departures from class will be counted as half an absence. Active engagement in all class activities is anticipated. A score of 9 (out of 10) indicates satisfactory participation, while scores below 9 reflect suboptimal involvement, and scores above 9 denote exceptional engagement.

Preview Assignments

Preview assignments are designed to prepare students for class and must be completed by the designated deadline. Each assignment allows for up to two attempts. All preview assignments must be completed by the due date on Canvas. If submitted past the deadline, students will only receive half credit.

Quizzes and Exams

Quizzes:

Quizzes will include various formats such as vocabulary, multiple-choice, fill-in-the-blanks, and short answer questions. They will take place approximately every other week at the start of class. Students are allowed to make up one missed quiz. Pre-arranged make-up quizzes incur no penalty if arranged before the quiz date. Without such an arrangement, a 10% deduction will be applied.

Exams:

A mid-term and a final exam are scheduled. A make-up exam is permitted if supported by legitimate conflicts and official documentation. Pre-arranged make-up exams are exempt from penalties. However, without prior arrangement, a 10% deduction will apply.

Homework

Homework must be submitted by the specified deadline. Each assignment will be graded on a 10-point scale. Late submissions will incur a 1-point penalty per day. Homework submitted more than three days past the deadline will not be accepted or graded.

Final Project

Students will undertake a final project of their choosing and deliver a 10-minute oral presentation in Chinese. This presentation should be accompanied by PowerPoint slides, and students should be prepared to address questions from both the instructor and peers. Alternatively, students may choose to produce a video with both English and Chinese subtitles. Possible topics include the Chinese medical system, medical education, the interplay of Chinese and Western medicine, public health concerns in China, or other self-selected subjects.

Course Assessment

- Attendance/Participation: 10%
- Two exams: 30%
- Preview Assignments: 15% (1% each)
- Quizzes: 15% (3% each)
- Homework: 20%
- Final project: 10%

CHIN-0878 Course Schedule

Spring 2025

| Date | Content |
|---------------|--|
| 1/16 (Thurs.) | Course Introduction; Self-introduction; Survey 课程介绍 Overview: The human body terminology 人体医学专有名词总览 |
| 1/21 (Tues.) | Hematology: Blood and blood disorders 血液科，血液系统 |
| 1/23 (Thurs.) | In-Class Quiz (1) Cardiology: Heart and the circulatory system 心脏血管科，循环系统 |
| 1/28 (Tues.) | Immunology and Rheumatology: The immune system 免疫风湿科，免疫系统 |
| 1/30 (Thurs.) | Traditional Chinese Medicine 传统中医药 (一) |
| 2/4 (Tues.) | Traditional Chinese Medicine 传统中医药 (二) |
| 2/6 (Thurs.) | Dermatology: Skin 皮肤科 |
| 2/11 (Tues.) | In-Class Quiz (2) Orthopedics: The skeletal system 骨科，骨骼系统 |
| 2/13 (Thurs.) | Pulmonology: The respiratory system 呼吸科，呼吸系统 |
| 2/18 (Tues.) | Movie Screening: The Farewell 电影欣赏：别告诉她 |
| 2/20 (Thurs.) | Chinese Culture on Health and Death 中国文化与生死观 |
| 2/25 (Tues.) | In-Class Quiz (3) Gastroenterology: The digestive system 胃肠肝胆科，消化系统 |
| 2/27 (Thurs.) | Neurology: Nerves and the nervous system 神经科，神经系统 |
| 3/4 (Tues.) | Midterm Exam 期中考 |
| 3/6 (Thurs.) | Movie Screening: Dying to Survive 电影欣赏：我不是药神 |
| 3/11 (Tues.) | Happy Spring Break! |
| 3/13 (Thurs.) | 春假快乐！ |
| 3/18 (Tues.) | Public Health Issues in China 中国公共卫生议题 |
| 3/20 (Thurs.) | Ophthalmology: The visual organs 眼科 |
| 3/25 (Tues.) | Otolaryngology: ENT 耳鼻喉科 |
| 3/27 (Thurs.) | In-Class Quiz (4) Dentistry: Oral health 牙科，口腔健康 |
| 4/1 (Tues.) | Urology and Nephrology: The urinary system 泌尿/肾脏科，泌尿系统 |
| 4/3 (Thurs.) | Obstetrics and Gynecology: The reproductive system 妇产科，生殖系统 |
| 4/8 (Tues.) | Pediatrics: Infant/Child health 儿科，婴幼儿/儿童健康 |
| 4/10 (Thurs.) | Chinese Culture on Pregnancy and Childbirth 中国文化与怀孕生产 |
| 4/15 (Tues.) | In-Class Quiz (5) Endocrinology: The endocrine system 内分泌科，内分泌系统 |
| 4/17 (Thurs.) | Movie: Mad World 电影欣赏：一念无明 |
| 4/22 (Tues.) | Psychiatry: Mental health 精神科，心理健康 |
| 4/24 (Thurs.) | Final Project 期末报告 |
| 4/29 (Tues.) | Final Exam 期末考 |