

CHIN 0105 Spoken Chinese I
Fall Semester 2025
Monday and Wednesday 3:30-5:30 pm
(This syllabus is tentative and is subject to change.)

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Course Description

The aim of this course is to provide students with a strong foundation in two fundamental language skills: interactive listening and effective speaking, within a communicative learning environment. Language accuracy is emphasized, particularly in terms of correct pronunciation, accurate intonation, and mastery of basic grammatical structures. Throughout the semester, students are anticipated to acquire approximately 300 essential vocabulary words.

The overarching objective of the course is to enable students to proficiently navigate linguistic and cultural contexts. By the conclusion of the semester, students will have the ability to utilize the target language adeptly in a range of everyday situations. These include introducing themselves and family members, making purchases at stores, inviting friends to various activities, describing daily routines, using public transportation, and discussing personal hobbies, among other scenarios.

Textbook

Integrated Chinese Volume 1, Yao & Liu et al, Cheng & Tsui Co., 2017 (4th edition)

The audio files corresponding to the textbook can be accessed through the Canvas course website. Listening to these audio materials is mandatory for successful completion of this course.

Course Requirements

1. **Attendance:** Regular attendance is a fundamental component of the course structure. A maximum of three (3) absences are permitted for any reason. Beyond this limit, each subsequent absence will result in a deduction of 1 point from your FINAL GRADE. Instances of significant lateness or early departure will be considered as half-absences. If your absences exceed three consecutive classes, it is advisable to communicate with your home school advising office. This will help you explore options for support and address potential academic consequences of prolonged absence.

2. **Class Performance, Preparation & Participation:** Engaging with the course material is essential. Daily preparation involves familiarizing yourself with the vocabulary, listening to the audio files, and studying the text notes and sample sentences. Active participation in all class activities is expected. A score of 9 (out of 10) signifies satisfactory preparation and participation. Scores below 9 indicate insufficient preparation and participation, while scores above 9 denote exceptional engagement.
3. **Homework:** Submission of homework by the due date is necessary for evaluation. All homework assignments will be graded on a scale of 10 points. Late submissions will incur a penalty of 1 point per day. Homework turned in more than three days after the due date will not be accepted or graded.
4. **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 preview assignment, 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.
5. **Translation Quizzes:** Regular quizzes are an integral part of the assessment. At the end of each lesson, there will be a translation quiz in class. The lowest score from the translation quizzes will be automatically excluded from the final calculation. If a quiz is missed, it will be considered the automatically dropped one. Please note that the translation quizzes cannot be made up. All quizzes will be conducted using Pinyin.
6. **Oral Tests:** Oral tests will be administered after the completion of every two lessons. Each test will be graded on a 10-point scale, with the following criteria: pronunciation, tones, content, coherence, and delivery. Detailed instructions for each oral test will be posted on Canvas at least one week prior to the test dates. Students are required to select their test time slots and adhere strictly to the schedule. Please note that failure to attend the scheduled test time without prior notice to the instructor will result in a 2-point penalty when rescheduling.
7. **Final Project:** The final project entails creating a video on self-introduction. Specifics of the project will be announced during class at a later date.

Evaluation:

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

1. Homework (drop none): 22%
2. Preview Assignments (drop 1): 9%
3. Translation Quizzes (drop 1): 18%
4. Oral tests (drop none): 25%
5. Final Project: 16%
6. Class attendance, performance and participation: 10%

Grading Scale:

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

Class Etiquette and Guidelines (Non-compliance may impact your class performance evaluation.)

1. **Focused Engagement:** During class time, refrain from engaging in activities unrelated to the course material.
2. **Device Usage:** Laptops, tablets, and cell phones should only be utilized to access online dictionaries for educational purposes.
3. **Eating Consideration:** While consuming food, please be mindful of the potential need to speak at any moment. Maintain minimal disruption.
4. **Punctuality Importance:** Timely attendance is crucial. Regular tardiness will adversely affect your class performance assessment.
5. **Missed Classes:** In the event of an absence, it remains your responsibility to acquire missed content. Being absent does not exempt you from preparing for subsequent assignments. If an assignment extension is required, seek instructor approval beforehand.

Remember, adhering to these rules fosters an environment conducive to effective learning and collaboration.

This course is cross-listed as CHIN-5105, which is designated for graduate students only. If you are an undergraduate student, please enroll in CHIN-0105.