

## CHIN 0210 Intensive Beginning Chinese I & II

# 初级汉语密集班

## Fall Semester 2025

(This syllabus is tentative and is subject to change.)

**This course is cross-listed as CHIN-5210, which is designated for graduate students only. If you are an undergraduate student, please enroll in CHIN-0210.**

### **Instructor:**

Dr. Chih-jen Melvin Lee

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Office hours: Tuesday & Thursday 2:00 – 3:00 PM

### **Time & Room:**

Monday-Friday     10:15-11:45 AM     TBD

### **Textbook: Available at Penn Bookstore**

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

*Integrated Chinese Volume 2*, Yao & Liu et al, Cheng & Tsui Co., 2017 (4<sup>th</sup> edition)

(both including textbook and workbook)

### **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.

### **Course Description:**

This course is an **\*INTENSIVE\*** introductory course designed primarily for students who have had limited prior exposure to some form of Chinese (Mandarin or other dialects) but do not have adequate skills to advance to the course of the next level. By completing the second semester of this course (CHIN-0410 Intensive Intermediate Chinese I & II), your college language requirement is fulfilled.

### **Course Objectives:**

The objective of this course is to help students build a solid foundation of the four basic language skills---listening, speaking, reading, and writing in an interactive and communicative learning environment. In terms of language accuracy, the emphasis is on correct pronunciation, accurate tones and mastery of basic grammatical structures. Students are expected to learn approximately 600-700 essential vocabulary words this semester. By the end of the course, students are expected to have a basic knowledge of modern Chinese grammar, including the usages of various types of verbal complements and compound sentences.

The ultimate goal of this course is to help students function in a linguistically and culturally appropriate manner. By the end of the semester, students will be able to use the target language to manage many daily life situations such as purchasing goods, ordering meals in restaurants, making comparisons, narrating simple stories, discussing weather conditions, describing simple medical conditions, asking for directions and requesting assistance, making invitations, booking hotel and air tickets, renting apartments, discussing favorite sports, etc.

### **Course Requirements:**

#### **Attendance**

Regular attendance is a fundamental component of the course structure. A maximum of three (5) 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 five 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.

## Homework

Homework assignments must be turned in on their due date to be graded. All homework will be graded on a 10-point scale. Late homework will receive a 1-point penalty per day. Late homework will not be accepted and graded if submitted after three days past the due day.

## 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 two of the preview assignments.**

## Translation Quizzes and Written Tests

Quizzes and tests are given on a regular basis. **Two** of the lowest translation quizzes and **two** of the lowest written tests will be automatically dropped. If you miss any quiz or test, those will be counted as the dropped ones automatically. **There are no make-ups allowed for translation quizzes.** You are allowed ONE make-up for the written test. If you arrange the make-up test with your instructor prior to the test date, there will be no penalty. Otherwise, a 10% deduction will be applied without prior arrangement. All make-ups have to be completed within a week of the original date of the test.

## Oral Tests

During the second half of the semester, oral tests will be given every Thursday and are graded on a 10-point scale. The grading criteria include: pronunciation, tones, content, coherence, and delivery. Students sign up for their time slots and should go to the tests on time. If students miss their scheduled time slots without prior notice to the instructor, they will receive a 2-point penalty for rescheduling.

## In-class Writing

During the second half of the semester, students will start doing in-class writing practice. The topic of the writing will be related to the chapter of that week. All in-class writings, unless notified by the instructor, will be due by the end of that class.

## **Projects**

There will be two projects this semester, which include an individual in-class presentation and a group video project. Details of the projects will be announced later in class.

## **Evaluation:**

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

1. Homework (drop none): 25%
2. Preview Assignments (drop 2): 9%
3. Translation Quizzes (drop 2): 6%
4. Oral tests (drop none): 9%
5. Written tests (drop 2): 24%
6. In-class Writing (drop 1): 7%
7. Projects: 15%
8. Class attendance and participation: 5%

## **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

## **Preparation:**

Familiarizing yourself with the vocabulary, listening to the audio files, and reading the text notes and sample sentences should be part of your daily routine preparation activities. You should read the dialogue again and review the new words after each class. We expect an average of 1.5 hours of daily preparation from you. If you have any difficulties keeping up, be sure to discuss the situation with your teachers immediately. Below is a list of resources that you can seek for help if needed.

**Class Rules:** (Violating the class rules may affect your class performance 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, you should 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.
4. **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.**