

CHIN 0405 Spoken Chinese IV

Spring Semester 2025

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Course Description

This course is designed for students who have completed at least the intermediate level Chinese language courses at the University of Pennsylvania or have studied the language for at least two year. The objective of this course is to consolidate the knowledge and skills students have acquired from their previous Mandarin Chinese classes and to enhance their oral expressive skills. Building on basic grammar and vocabulary, this course focuses on improving fluency, pronunciation, and conversational ability in everyday and professional contexts. By the end of the semester, students are expected to be able to carry on a conversation with a native Mandarin speaker on various common topics, and to gather information for conducting oral presentations and speeches.

Throughout the course, students will engage in a variety of interactive activities, including dialogues, role-plays, debate, and discussions to develop confidence and spontaneity in spoken Chinese. The course will also introduce more complex sentence structures, idiomatic expressions, and culturally relevant topics to deepen your understanding of the Chinese language, society, and culture.

Course Features

- ♦ Interactive speaking exercises with instructor, peers, and native speakers.
- ♦ Real-life scenarios and culturally relevant content.
- ♦ Personalized feedback to help improve pronunciation and fluency.
- ♦ Access to supplementary resources on Chinese culture and real-life scenarios, including reading materials and videos.

Key Learning Objectives

- ♦ Gain an understanding of contemporary Chinese society and cultural phenomena and develop critical thinking and cross-cultural communication skills to engage with diverse cultures.
- ♦ Enhance pronunciation and intonation to achieve a more natural accent.
- ♦ Improve fluency and accuracy in everyday conversations.
- ♦ Expand vocabulary, grammar, and use of idiomatic expressions.
- ♦ Develop the ability to discuss more complex topics in Chinese.
- ♦ Gain insights into cultural nuances that influence communication.

Textbook

Jianhua Bai, Juyi Sung, and Janet Zhiqun Xing. *乐在沟通 Beyond the Basics-2nd Edition*.

Course Requirements

To maximize the effectiveness of class time with the instructor and peers, it is essential that students come to each session well-prepared. Before attending class, students should familiarize themselves with the vocabulary and text related to the day's topic and complete the following tasks:

- (1) **Pre-class Sharing** : To enrich in-class discussions, students are required to prepare a 2-3 minute presentation on the topic of each lesson and share it with other students during class. You are expected to rehearse your report at least twice before class to ensure your fluency. During your in-class presentation, try not to rely too much on a script. It's fine to use notes but avoid reading from the script word for word.
- (2) **Preview Assignment**: To better prepare for the upcoming lesson, students are expected to review the new vocabulary and readings, listen to the recordings, and complete the preview assignments on Canvas before class.

Students are expected to learn from the process of preparing for the assignments and activities. So, besides the preparation for each class, students will also be involved in the following activities throughout the semester:

- (3) **Movie Activity**: Throughout the semester, students will do a movie activity.
- (4) **Field Activity**: This semester, there will be **two** field activities to provide students with opportunities to step out of the classroom and use Chinese.
- (5) **Individual Talks**: Each student is required to have three individual talks with the instructor in person. The purpose of these individual talks is to provide students with some one-on-one interaction time with the instructor; hence the contents of these talks are highly individualized. Detailed Schedules of these talks will be available on Canvas.
- (6) **Final Oral Test--Impromptu Speech**: Each student has to make a 5-6 minute impromptu speech. A list of speech topics will be given to students in advance, but students will draw lots to decide their own topics on the spot. Each student will have 40 minutes to prepare before they deliver their speeches.
- (7) **Final Project**: Details will be published later.

Course Evaluation and Grading

Evaluation:	Class attendance	5%
	Class performance and participation (Including pre-class sharing)	15%
	Movie Oral Presentation	7%
	Preview Assignment	15%
	Field Activities	20% (10%*2)
	Impromptu Speech	8%
	Individual Talks	15% (5%*3)
	Final project	15%

Grading Scale: **A:** 94-100, **A-:** 90-93, **B+:** 87-89, **B:** 83-86, **B-:** 80-82,
 C+: 77-79, **C:** 73-76, **C-:** 70-72, **D+:** 65-69, **D:** 60-64,
 F: Less than 60

Attendance Rules

You are permitted **three absences** for any reason, after which **each additional absence will result in a 1% point reduction from your final grade**. Tardiness of 20-minutes or more is counted as absence. There are no “excused absences” – if you miss class, you are responsible for making up any work and for knowing the material covered.

If the absence is more than five days, you should contact your home school advising office for assistance and to discuss the academic implications of a longer absence.

Class Rules (Violating the rules will affect your class performance grade.)

1. No activities unrelated to the class should be undertaken during class time. Failure to comply will result in a deduction of participation points for that class, **up to a maximum of 3 points**.
2. Limit eating in class to the minimum as you may be asked to speak at any time.
3. Please come to class on time. Being late will result in a deduction from your participation score. If you arrive later than 20 minutes, it will be recorded as an **absence**.
4. 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 not preparing for assignments at the following class. If you need an extension for your assignment, you need to receive permission from the instructor in advance.

CHIN-0405 Course Schedule

Spring 2025

Date	Discussion Topics / Assignments
1/15 (Wed.)	Course Introduction & Warm-up Activity
1/20 (Mon.)	No Class
1/22 (Wed.)	Topic 1: 人工智能(AI)
1/27 (Mon.)	Topic 2: 犯罪(Crime)
1/29 (Wed.)	Individual Talk 1
2/3 (Mon.)	Topic 3: 贫穷问题 (The Poverty Problem)
2/5 (Wed.)	Movie: 我不是药神 (<i>Dying to Survive</i>)
2/10 (Mon.)	Movie: 我不是药神 (<i>Dying to Survive</i>)
2/12 (Wed.)	Movie Discussion
2/17 (Mon.)	Movie Activity
2/19 (Wed.)	Topic 4: 文化
2/24 (Mon.)	Field Activity 1- Visiting Penn Museum
2/26 (Wed.)	Topic 5: 快乐
3/3 (Mon.)	Field Activity 1-Presentation
3/5 (Wed.)	Individual Talk 2
3/8 -3/16	Happy Spring Break!
3/17 (Mon.)	Topic 6: 电影 Movie
3/19 (Wed.)	Individual Talk 3
3/24 (Mon.)	Topic 7: 教育 Education
3/26 (Wed.)	Field Activity 2- Symposium with Chinese Students (Group1)
3/31 (Mon.)	Field Activity 2- Symposium with Chinese Students (Group2)
4/2 (Wed.)	Field Activity 2- Oral Report
4/7 (Mon.)	Topic 8: 运动 Sports
4/9 (Wed.)	Topic 9: You Decide
4/14 (Mon.)	Language Game: Taboo
4/16 (Wed.)	Oral Test: Impromptu Speech
4/21 (Mon.)	Final Project Preparation- Individual Meeting
4/23 (Wed.)	Prepare for Final Project (no class)
4/28 (Mon.)	Final Project Showcase
4/30 (Wed.)	End-of-semester class