

CHIN 0878 Advanced Medical Chinese
Fall 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 an advanced-level Chinese language course tailored for students in healthcare-related fields such as pre-med, nursing, biology, and public health. This course is designed to enhance students' overall proficiency in listening, speaking, reading, and writing with a focus on medical contexts. Students are expected to have a minimum of three years of Chinese language study or an equivalent proficiency level.

The course aims to equip students with specialized medical Chinese skills necessary for professional communication with Chinese-speaking patients and colleagues. Topics include patient communication, medical terminology, discussing symptoms, explaining treatments, and navigating cultural norms in healthcare settings. Through active engagement in discussions, case studies, and task-based activities, students will apply their language skills in realistic medical scenarios.

Cultural exploration is an integral part of the curriculum, covering topics such as traditional Chinese medicine, cultural perspectives on life and death, public health issues, aging populations and elderly care, equitable access to medical resources, and traditional practices related to pregnancy and childbirth. By analyzing cultural products such as films, literature, and healthcare policies, students will develop cross-cultural competence. Upon completion, students will be able to communicate fluently and professionally with patients and medical professionals across linguistic and cultural boundaries, contributing to culturally sensitive and effective healthcare delivery.

This course is cross-listed as CHIN-5878 for graduate students. Undergraduate students should enroll in CHIN-0878.

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.

Class Participation and Performance

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 credits.

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 the 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.

Midterm Presentation & Final Project

1. Midterm Presentation:

- Each student will act as a teacher and deliver a 20-minute lesson on a specific type of cancer.
- The presentation should include well-organized content supported by PowerPoint slides, with a clear structure to engage and inform the audience.
- Students are expected to explain the selected cancer type, including its symptoms, causes, treatments, and any relevant cultural or medical perspectives.
- Active teaching techniques, such as asking questions or involving classmates in discussions, are encouraged to create an interactive learning environment.
- Students should be prepared to answer questions from the instructor and classmates based on their presentation.

2. Final Project:

- Students will create a 15-minute video on a topic of their choice, incorporating both English and Chinese subtitles.
- Possible topics include:
 - An exploration of a specific disease or medical research
 - A comparison of the Chinese and Western medical systems
 - Insights into medical education in China or the West
 - The relationship between Chinese and Western medicine
 - Public health issues in China or the United States
 - Other relevant topics, with prior approval from the instructor

These assignments are designed to develop students' research, presentation, and bilingual communication skills, as well as their ability to engage with complex medical and cultural topics.

Course Assessment

- Attendance/Participation: 10%
- Two exams: 25%
- Preview Assignments: 15% (1% each)
- Quizzes: 15% (3% each)
- Homework: 15%
- Midterm Presentation: 10%
- Final project: 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

CHIN-0878 Course Schedule

Fall 2025

Date	Content
8/26 (Tues.)	Course Introduction; Self-introduction; Survey 课程介绍 Overview: The Human Body Terminology 人体医学专有名词总览
8/28 (Thurs.)	Hematology: Blood System 血液科，血液系统
9/2 (Tues.)	In-Class Quiz (1) Cardiology: Heart and Circulation 心脏血管科，循环系统
9/4 (Thurs.)	Immunology and Rheumatology: The immune system 免疫风湿科，免疫系统
9/9 (Tues.)	Dermatology: Skin 皮肤科
9/11 (Thurs.)	Traditional Chinese Medicine 传统中医药 (一)
9/16 (Tues.)	Traditional Chinese Medicine 传统中医药 (二)
9/18 (Thurs.)	In-Class Quiz (2) Orthopedics: The skeletal system 骨科，骨骼系统
9/23 (Tues.)	Pulmonology: The respiratory system 呼吸科，呼吸系统
9/25 (Thurs.)	Movie Screening: The Farewell 电影欣赏：别告诉她
9/30 (Tues.)	Chinese Culture on Health and Death 中国文化与生死观
10/2 (Thurs.)	In-Class Quiz (3) Gastroenterology: The digestive system 胃肠肝胆科，消化系统
10/7 (Tues.)	Midterm Presentation 期中口头报告
10/9 (Thurs.)	Happy Fall Break! 秋假快乐！
10/14 (Tues.)	Neurology: Nerves and the nervous system 神经科，神经系统
10/16 (Thurs.)	Midterm Exam 期中考
10/21 (Tues.)	Movie: Dying to Survive 电影：我不是药神
10/23 (Thurs.)	Public Health Issues in China 中国公共卫生议题
10/28 (Tues.)	Ophthalmology: The visual organs 眼科
10/30 (Thurs.)	Otolaryngology: ENT 耳鼻喉科
11/4 (Tues.)	In-Class Quiz (4) Urology and Nephrology: The urinary system 泌尿/肾脏科，泌尿系统
11/6 (Thurs.)	Obstetrics and Gynecology: Reproductive System 妇产科，生殖系统
11/11 (Tues.)	Pediatrics: Infant/Child health 儿科，婴幼儿/儿童健康
11/13 (Thurs.)	Chinese Culture on Pregnancy and Childbirth 中国文化与怀孕生产
11/18 (Tues.)	Quiz (5) Endocrinology: Endocrine System 内分泌科，内分泌系统
11/20 (Thurs.)	Movie: Mad World 电影：一念无明
11/25 (Tues.)	Psychiatry: Mental health 精神科，心理健康
11/27 (Thurs.)	Happy Thanksgiving! 感恩节快乐！
12/2 (Tues.)	Final Project 期末报告
12/4 (Thurs.)	Final Exam 期末考