

CHIN 0401: Intermediate Chinese II
Department of East Asian Languages and Civilizations
University of Pennsylvania
(Spring 2024)

Course Description:

CHIN 0401, Intermediate Chinese II, is designed for students who have completed CHIN 0300 at Penn or were placed into the CHIN 0400 course through the Chinese placement exam. This course aims to further develop language skills and cultural understanding, with the ultimate goal of preparing students for a field trip to China at the end of the semester. The course encompasses various language skills training, including speaking, listening, reading, and writing, as well as a deeper exploration of Chinese culture, history, and customs.

As an intermediate-level course, our primary focus is on establishing a solid foundation in speaking, listening, reading, and writing skills while fostering students' self-study and research capabilities in the Chinese language. By the end of this course, students should attain the Intermediate-Mid level according to the ACTFL Proficiency Guidelines. They should have the confidence to engage in conversations with Chinese native speakers on familiar topics, such as college experiences, daily routines, cultural behavior, and social etiquette.

This course also aims to introduce students to a rapidly changing China. From the swift urbanization and globalization to the ongoing development of transportation, infrastructure, cutting-edge business, and industrial technology, China is experiencing an unprecedented transformation. Yet, it remains rich in cultural heritage with a long history. This course equips students with a better understanding and analysis of contemporary Chinese society through language and culture.

Course Objectives:

This course aims to enhance students' global citizenship by equipping them with the ability and sensitivity to communicate effectively with people from diverse cultures through the study of the Chinese language, society, and culture.

Culture Objectives

- A broad cultural knowledge, understanding, and awareness of the culture associated with the Chinese language.
- The ability to recognize culture-specific perspectives and values embedded in language behavior.
- Flexibility and an open-minded approach to negotiating cultural differences.

Language Objectives

- Proficiency in speaking, comprehending, reading, and writing Mandarin Chinese at a level that enables students to participate in basic everyday conversations, and read and write simple texts, such as short essays, news, texts, etc.
- A basic understanding of the structure of Mandarin Chinese in comparison to the English language.
- Preparation for the field trip to China by building practical language skills.

Textbook:

Chou, Chih-p'ing, Joanne Chiang and Jianna Eagar. (2011) *A New China*. Princeton: Princeton University Press.

Instructor:

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 Office hours: Monday - Thursday 11:40AM-12:10 PM

Time&Classroom:

Monday-Thursday 3:30-4:29 AM Williams Hall

Course Structure:

In-Classroom Part:

Each lesson includes five hours of instruction.

Hour One: introduction to the topic, **preview quiz**, text and grammar (1)

Hour Two: text and grammar (2)

Hour Three: text and grammar (3)

Hour Four and Five: listening, speaking, reading practice; **review quiz, homework due**

Field Trip Part:

The field trip will encompass visits to two Chinese cities - Beijing and Qufu, along with tours of landmarks, cultural sites, and opportunities for interaction with local Chinese speakers, offering practical immersion in the language and culture.

Course Requirements:

Class Attendance (5%)

Class attendance is ESSENTIAL and an integral part of the course design. You are permitted five (5) absences **for any reason**, after which **each additional absence will result in a 1 point deduction from your FINAL GRADE**. Any significant tardiness or early departure from class will be counted as a half absence.

Class Performance, Preparation & Participation (5%)

You should familiarize yourself with the vocabulary, listen to the audio files, and read the text notes and sample sentences as part of your daily preparation activities. You are expected to prepare for and actively participate in all class activities. Please note that a grade of 8 (out of 10) is satisfactory preparation and participation. Grades lower than an 8 are for students who demonstrate unsatisfactory preparation and participation and grades higher than a 9 are reserved for students who demonstrate exemplary preparation and participation.

Oral Tests (10%)

There will be two oral tests on topics that will be covered this semester. Instructions will be available two weeks prior to the test dates.

Homework (14%)

Homework assignments must be turned in on the due day according to the weekly schedule. 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 (not including holidays and weekends).

Quizzes (18%) and Tests (12%)

Quizzes and tests are given on a regular basis. **One** of the lowest vocabulary quizzes and **one** of the lowest review quizzes will be automatically dropped. Tests are given after each two or three lessons. There will be a review session before each test. None of the tests will be dropped. If you miss any quizzes, those will be counted as the dropped ones automatically. **There are no make-ups allowed for preview and review quizzes.** You are allowed ONE make-up for the 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.

Movie Essay (5%)

There will be a movie screening and accompanying writing assignment this semester. Details of this assignment will be announced later in class.

Individual Tutorials (5%)

Individual tutorials (IT) are offered on certain weeks. Each tutorial session is 10 minutes, and it is a good opportunity for students to have extra speaking practice with a native speaker. You have to sign up for your own time slot and will keep the same slot for the rest of the semester. You are expected to go to your sessions on time. No make-ups or rescheduling is allowed. You are required to complete only five tutorial sessions. If completing more than five, for the extra sessions, you will receive up to 0.5 points manually added to your final grades for each completed session. This will be the only way to earn extra credits in this course.

Midterm & Final Projects (16%)

There will be a midterm and a final project this semester. Details of these projects will be announced later in class.

Final Exam (10%)

This exam will cover all the materials taught during this semester. **No make-ups will be allowed for the final exam without prior approval.**

Grading:

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

1. Homework: 14%
2. Vocabulary Quizzes (drop 1): 6%
3. Review Quizzes (drop 1): 12%
4. Tests: 12%
5. Midterm Project: 6%
6. Movie Essay: 5%
7. Oral Tests: 10%
8. Individual Tutorial (drop 2): 5%

- 9. Class Attendance: 5%
- 10. Class Preparation & Participation: 5%
- 11. Final Project: 10%
- 12. Final Exam: 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