

CHIN 0105 Spoken Chinese I
Fall Semester 2024
Monday and Wednesday 3:30-5:30 pm
(This syllabus is tentative and is subject to change.)

Instructor: Dr. Chih-jen Melvin Lee
Office: Williams 701
Office Hours: Tuesday and Thursday 2:00-3:00 PM & by appointment
TEL: 215-573-4472
E-mail: chihjen@sas.upenn.edu

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 five 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 8 (out of 10) signifies satisfactory preparation and participation. Scores below 8 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. **Quizzes and Written Tests:** Regular quizzes and tests are part of the assessment. The two lowest scores from both vocabulary quizzes and translation quizzes will be automatically excluded from calculation. Missed quizzes will be considered as the automatically dropped ones. Vocabulary and translation quizzes cannot be made up. However, none of the written tests will be excluded. A single written test can be made up. If you arrange the make-up test with your instructor before the test date, no penalty will be imposed. Otherwise, a 10% deduction will be applied without prior arrangement. Make-up tests must be completed within a week of the original test date. All quizzes and written tests will be conducted using Pinyin.
5. **Oral Tests:** Oral assessments will coincide with written tests and will be graded on a scale of 10 points. Evaluation criteria encompass pronunciation, tones, content, coherence, and delivery. Students must select their time slots and adhere to the schedule. Failure to attend the scheduled slot without prior notice to the instructor will incur a 2-point penalty when rescheduling.
6. **Final Project:** The final project entails creating a video on a self-selected topic. 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 nine categories of performance:

1. Homework (drop none): 20%
2. Vocabulary Quizzes (drop 2): 8%
3. Translation Quizzes (drop 2): 8%
4. Oral tests (drop none): 20%
5. Written tests (drop none): 20%
6. Final Project: 14%
7. Class attendance 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.

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.