

SAINT LOUIS UNIVERSITY, MADRID CAMPUS
LANGUAGE DEPARTMENT, CHIN -1010 (Fall 2015)
SYLLABUS:
Communicating in Chinese: Language & Culture I

Credits: 3
Instructor: Liwen-Edison Fu
Office: Padre Rubio Hall

Class Time: 16:00-17:15 TR & 16:00-17:00 W
Office Hours: 15:30-16:00 TR (by appointment)
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Course Description

This course is designed to teach basic language skills in speaking, listening, reading and writing for beginners of Mandarin Chinese who have little to no prior knowledge of the language. Students who have completed this course will master the basic pronunciation and tones (via pinyin) as well as the grammatical structures of real-life spoken Chinese, have a vocabulary of 200 lexical items and be able to read and recognize 200 (and write approximately 100) simplified Chinese characters. Students will be expected to partake in conversations in situations such as, greetings, family dialogue, date and time, hobbies, etc. The course will also explore other culturally relevant topics.

During the first part of the semester (before the midterm exam), there will be a focus on the learning of Chinese pronunciation, syntax and grammar, in order to facilitate oral communication from day one. During this period, students will get used to seeing and recognizing Chinese characters and written texts. After the midterm exam, students will learn a minimum of 100 written characters and begin to read and comprehend simple texts in Chinese characters. Before the end of the semester, students are encouraged to sit the Chinese Proficiency Test – HSK level 1 held monthly at the Confucius Institute in Madrid (further details will be discussed in class) – an extra grade will be awarded to students who sit said exam.

Main Objectives of the Course

- Chinese phonology with pinyin – the Romanized Chinese phonetic system;
- A working vocabulary of over 200 words and active use of about 150 characters;
- Knowledge of principles in the formation of Chinese characters;
- Basic Chinese grammar and syntax;
- Daily conversational and survival Chinese, in both formal and informal contexts;
- Aspects of Chinese culture, lifestyles and social norms and conventions;
- Basic knowledge of Chinese input method (on a computer or a smartphone)

Learning Outcomes

Students, who have completed all the required work for this course, will:

- have a vocabulary of around 200 frequently used words and be able to communicate in a variety of situations: self-introduction, date and time, numbers, moving to and from a place, shopping and eating out, future plans, past experiences, wishes, likes and dislikes;
- be able to read aloud simple texts in characters and comprehend the most important aspects of more advanced texts;

- be able to write around 100 simplified characters and recognize (thus be able to type) around 200 simplified characters. Composition of simple texts and letters in Chinese: addressing someone, talking about yourself and other people: name, age, nationality, country of residence, hobbies, study and work, simple plans;
- have basic knowledge of Chinese culture, traditions and everyday life and acquire basic knowledge about Chinese communicative style: greetings in Chinese, how to express surprise, admiration and praise, how to show modesty and appreciation, give suggestions, advice and express doubt, know basic social norms in everyday life and business situations;
- be able to pass the HSK level 1 exam, the Chinese government's only standardized Chinese Proficiency Test intended for non-native speakers of Mandarin Chinese (not mandatory but strongly recommended).

Textbook & Workbook (available at the bookstore)

Kubler, Cornelius C. 2011. Basic Spoken Chinese, (1st Edition), includes a CD and a DVD.

Kubler, Cornelius C. & Wang, Yang 2011. Basic Spoken Chinese, Practice Essentials (1st Edition), includes a CD.

To enhance listening, speaking and knowledge about Chinese culture, the online video course "Growing up with Chinese" is also recommended:

<http://cctv.cntv.cn/lm/learningchinese/program/index.shtml>

Useful Resources

- www.yellowbridge.com/chinese/chinese-dictionary.php
- Page to write pinyin with tones: <http://www.chinese-tools.com/tools/pinyin-editor.html>
- To practice pinyin: <http://www.pinyinpractice.com/tones.htm>
- Mobile applications: Pleco, Memrise, Quizlet
- <http://www.chinese-tools.com/>
- Confucius Institute: <http://english.chinese.cn/>
- <http://www.chinaculture.org/index.html> (in Chinese and English)
- http://www.china.org.cn/learning_chinese/node_7046023.htm
- Chinese soap opera with Spanish subtitles:
<http://cctv.cntv.cn/lm/Telenovela/portada/index.shtml>
- Chinese music: <http://www.chino-china.com/canciones>

Class Activities

The key to effective learning of Chinese is to master listening and speaking first, followed by reading and writing. In addition to lectures, we will use videos, audios and photographs. Students will be put into "conversational pairs" to facilitate practice of spoken Chinese. It is recommended to speak in Chinese in class at least 50% of the time after the midterm.

Lab hour: Attendance of the lab hour is compulsory just like all the other classes. This hour will mostly be reserved for pronunciation and speaking practice. Other materials as well as quizzes and exams will be covered in the TR classes.

Two-semester rule: Based on long language-learning and teaching experience, the language teaching faculty here at SLU-Madrid highly recommend studying a foreign language for a minimum of two consecutive semesters in order to acquire a basis solid enough for further study.

Regular Homework

- Know and internalize new vocabulary words after each lesson (rote memorization traditionally associated with language learning is strongly discouraged – proper technique to remember, not to memorize, new words in context and via mnemonic device will be discussed in class).
- Listen to the audio files included in the textbooks regularly.
- Before the midterm, one composition of approximately 30 characters will be turned in.
- Before the final exam, a group oral presentation will be held.
- Practice writing characters after the midterm.

Important Dates

Tuesday, September 1 – First day of classes

Monday, September 14 – Last Day to Drop a Class Without a Grade of W and /or Add a Class
– Last Day to Choose Audit (AU) or Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory (S/U) Options

Thursday, October 15 – Midterm exam

Tuesday, October 29 – Last day to drop a class and receive a grade of W

Tuesday, December 8 – Oral presentation

Monday, December 15 – Final exam (15:30–18:30)

HSK Level 1 Exam Dates (for participating students)

Exam center in Madrid: Paseo Pintor Rosales, 26

Saturday, October 17 (Last day to register: Thursday, September 17)

Saturday, November 14 (Last day to register: Thursday, October 15) → **recommended date**

Sunday, December 6 (Last day to register: Thursday, November 5)

Holidays

Monday, October 12: Nacional de España (University Closed)

Monday, November 9: La Almudena Holiday (University Closed)

Tuesday, December 8: Inmaculada Concepción Holiday (University Closed)

Weekly Plan (can be modified according to students' progress)

Week 1 (1-3 Sep): Introduction to tones via pinyin and to simplified characters

Week 2 (8-10 Sep): Exercises on tones + Basic character recognition tips

Week 3 (15-17 Sep): Unit 1: Greetings and Useful Phrases (Part 1 & 2)

Week 4 (22-24 Sep): Unit 1: Greetings and Useful Phrases (Part 3 & 4)

Week 5 (29-30 Sep, 1 Oct): Unit 2: Introductions (Part 1 & 2)

Week 6 (6-8 Oct): Unit 2: Introductions (Part 3 & 4)

Week 7 (13-15 Oct): Review + Midterm

Week 8 (20-22 Oct): Unit 3: Numbers, Dates, Time, and Money (Part 1 & 2)

Week 9 (27-29 Oct): Unit 3: Numbers, Dates, Time, and Money (Part 3 & 4)

Week 10 (10-12 Nov): Unit 4: Numbers, Dates, Time, and Money (II) (Part 1 – 2)

Week 11 (17-19 Nov): Unit 4: Numbers, Dates, Time, and Money (II) (Part 3 – 4)

Week 12 (24-26 Nov): Unit 5: Locating Persons, Places and Things (Part 1 – 2)

Week 13 (1-3 Dec): Unit 5: Locating Persons, Places and Things (Part 3 – 4)

Week 14 (8-10 Dec): Review for Final

Grading

Attendance & class participation: 30% *Homework:* 10% (no unexcused late work accepted)

Oral presentation: 10% *Composition:* 10% (no unexcused late work accepted)

Midterm exam: 20% *Final exam:* 20%

Class attendance will be mandatory. Classroom performance and other activities will be taken into account. The students must participate actively in class activities. Half a point will be deducted for each unjustified absence. Quizzes and dictations will be graded.

Grading scale

A = 94-100	B+ = 87-89	C+ = 77-79	D = 60-69
A- = 90-93	B = 83-86	C = 73-76	F = 0-60
B- = 80-82	C- = 70-72		

Attendance Policy

The student is responsible for any in-class materials/announcements that he/she misses during an absence. Excessive absenteeism is discouraged. Attendance is mandatory. 1% of the final grade will be deducted from your course total score for every 2 absences. If you have a special circumstance, please inform your instructor.

Accommodation Statement

In recognition that people learn in a variety of ways and that learning is influenced by multiple factors (e.g., prior experience, study skills, learning disability), resources to support student success are available on campus. Students who think they might benefit from these resources can find out more about:

- Course-level support (e.g., faculty member, departmental resources, etc.) by asking your course instructor.

- University-level support (e.g., tutoring/writing services, Disability Services) by visiting the Academic Dean's Office (San Ignacio Hall) or by going to http://spain.slu.edu/academics/learning_resources.html.

Students who believe that, due to a disability, they could benefit from academic accommodations are encouraged to contact Disability Services at +34 915 54 58 58, ext. 204, send an e-mail to counselingcenter-madrid@slu.edu, or to visit the Counseling Office (San Ignacio Hall).

Confidentiality will be observed in all inquiries. Course instructors support student accommodation requests when an approved letter from Disability Services has been received and when students discuss these accommodations with the instructor after receipt of the approved letter.

Academic Honesty and Plagiarism

The University is a community of learning, whose effectiveness requires an environment of mutual trust and integrity, such as would be expected at a Jesuit, Catholic institution. As members of this community, students, faculty, and staff members share the responsibility to maintain this environment. Academic dishonesty violates it. Although not all forms of academic dishonesty can be listed here, it can be said in general that soliciting, receiving, or providing any unauthorized assistance in the completion of any work submitted toward academic credit is dishonest. It not only violates the mutual trust necessary between faculty and students but also undermines the validity of the University's evaluation of students and takes unfair advantage of fellow students. Further, it is

the responsibility of any student who observes such dishonest conduct to call it to the attention of a faculty member or administrator.

Examples of academic dishonesty would be copying from another student, copying from a book or class notes during a closed-book exam, submitting materials authored by or editorially revised by another person but presented as the student's own work, copying a passage or text directly from a published source without appropriately citing or recognizing that source, taking a test or doing an assignment or other academic work for another student, tampering with another student's work, securing or supplying in advance a copy of an examination without the knowledge or consent of the instructor, and colluding with another student or students to engage in an act of academic dishonesty.

Where there is clear indication of such dishonesty, a faculty member or administrator has the responsibility to apply appropriate sanctions. Investigations of violations will be conducted in accord with standards and procedures of the school or college through which the course or research is offered. Recommendations of sanctions to be imposed will be made to the dean of the school or college in which the student is enrolled. Possible sanctions for a violation of academic integrity include, but are not limited to, disciplinary probation, suspension, and dismissal from the University. The complete SLU Academic Honesty Policy can be found at the following link: http://spain.slu.edu/academics/academic_advising/docs/Academic_integrity.pdf

Information regarding the collection of student work for assessment. The following statement should be included on course syllabi, with the italicized sentence made specific to your course:

Saint Louis University - Madrid Campus is committed to excellent and innovative educational practices. In order to maintain quality academic offerings and to conform to relevant accreditation requirements, we regularly assess our teaching, services, and programs for evidence of student learning outcomes achievement. For this purpose we keep on file anonymized representative examples of student work from all courses and programs such as: assignments, papers, exams, portfolios, and results from student surveys, focus groups, and reflective exercises. Thus, copies of your work for this course, including exams, oral presentations, assignments, submitted papers and/or portfolios may be kept on file for institutional research, assessment and accreditation purposes. If you prefer that Saint Louis University-Madrid Campus does not keep your work on file, you will need to communicate your decision in writing to your professor.