Elementary Chinese I-CHIN1301-001

Syllabus – Spring 2018

The University of Texas at El Paso

Time: MWF: 10:30-11:20 am
Classroom Location: LART 211

Instructor: Wang Zhirui
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Phone: 878-999-9656
Office Location: LART, Room 228
Office Hours:
Mondays: 2:50 to 4:00 pm; Thursdays: 9:00 to 11:20 am or by appointment.

Course: Elementary Chinese I

Required Texts

ISBN: 978-7-5619-1014-5. (This book is donated by Hanban, China. You can use them for free, and return at the end of the semester so the books can be reused.)
A note book and a folder

Course Description

An introductory course to Chinese language. Emphasis on Chinese characters, pronunciation and basic elements of grammar. The course provides a practical, learner-centered and enjoyable language and cultural learning. The emphasis in this class is to develop listening, speaking, reading and writing skills using both Pinyin phonetic system and simplified Chinese characters. The course will be taught through essential real-life topics, which also introduce the social and cultural background of the language. Students will gain a basic understanding of Chinese culture, knowledge of different values, customs, and the life styles of the various regions and communities of the Mandarin Chinese-speaking world covered in this course.

Student Learning Outcomes

At the conclusion of this course, the students should be able to:

1. Understand greetings in China, Chinese families values, festivals, hobbies, and being someone’s guest in China
2. Demonstrate basic reading and writing skills using cultural topics
3. Apply the language to greet each other, talk about his/her family, discuss important dates, talk about hobbies, and visit a friend in China
4. Approach an novice-mid proficiency in speaking, listening, reading and writing, as well as to enhance his/her cultural awareness and be able to respond appropriately in Chinese language contexts
5. Use basic introductory phrases an sentences in Mandarin
6. Use basic Mandarin vocabulary
   Demonstrate the four basic tones used in Mandarin
7. Demonstrate the most used characters
8. Understand various Chinese grammatical concepts
9. Understand Chinese culture and compare aspects of different cultures, making connections to their daily life, and building links among communities

University policies

CHEATING / PLAGIARISM: The most serious violation of academic standards, plagiarism refers to using the work, ideas or knowledge of other people as your own -- this includes all forms of exam cheating, borrowing from published sources without citation, and using the ideas of others without citation. The penalty for plagiarism is failure (a grade of “F”) in the class and a letter reporting your behavior to the appropriate university authorities (e.g., Dean of Students). If you are at all confused about what constitutes plagiarism, please contact me. This also applies to the forums, so cite properly.

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES: Reasonable accommodations are available for students who have a documented disability. Please notify me during the first week of class of any accommodations needed for the course. Late notification may cause the requested accommodations to be unavailable.

GUIDELINES FOR COURTESY AND RESPECT: In order to create a positive learning environment for all students in this class, please arrive for class sessions on time and stay until the end of the class, unless you have informed me you will need to leave early. You cannot sleep in class, text, check the internet, check your e-mail, play with your phone, have your headphones plugged in (whether you are listening to music or not), log into Facebook, Twitter, etc., or anything else that disrupts me or other students. I reserve the right to ask you to leave class/our classroom for the day if you disrupt our class by doing any of the aforementioned acts. Please ensure your cell phone is turned off before class begins unless there is a special circumstance you have informed me of. To permit all students to stay focused on the lecture, please note that only one person should be speaking at one time. Side conversations are a distraction from the lecture for your fellow students, so please minimize these. Finally, please note we will cover a range of topics in this course. Observing norms of courtesy and openness to diverse perspectives will ensure the class runs in everyone’s best interests. I may ask you to
save your questions for my office hours or to contact me via e-mail. Our class period is short and I must ensure the assigned material is covered to prepare you for your mini-quizzes.

Assignments & Exams

Learning a language, especially one as difficult as Chinese, is a very demanding task. It is very hard to learn to speak a foreign language without adequate contact with the language. Students are required to make full use of the listening materials. Part of the homework for each lesson will be done with the help of these. Students are strongly advised to practice with the listening materials as much as possible in order to lay a good foundation for further training in spoken Chinese. Don't just listen, but also repeat after the listening materials, imitating the voices of the native speakers. There will be basic speaking, listening, reading and writing assignments based on daily schedule after each class. All homework assignments should be finished and handed in before the class begins. There will be one examination for Mid-term and one examination for Final. Examinations may include listening, dictation, reading comprehension, translation, conversation and character writing. The final will be one hour and will cover the entire body of materials covered in this course. based on the basic pronunciation system, vocabulary, phrases and sentence patterns learned on class. Besides there will be an oral test and two quizzes which could be in oral or written.

I will also discuss the optional extra-credit assignments. The assignment is worth up to 10 points added to your semester grade. To expand your proficiency in a language, you must be present in class so as to engage in active practice there. Good attendance is a course requirement. One unexcused absence will result in a drop in 5 points of your final grade. Only university sanctioned excuses will be accepted.

Your final grade will be calculated as follows:

1) Attendance (10%)
2) Class Participation (10%)
3) Oral presentations and test (20%)
4) Quizzes and Mid-term Exam (25%)
5) Written Assignments or Activities (10%)
6) Final Exam (25%)

Total: (100%)

All work is based on the following scale:

A = 89% and above
B = 79% - 88%
C = 69% - 78%
D = 59% - 68%
F = Below 59%

**Class Schedule**

Week 1: Course overview Distribution of syllabus. Introduction to course themes and requirements. Introduction of China

Week 2: Lesson 1 How do you do?

Week 3: Lesson 2 Are you busy?

Week 4: Lesson 2 and numbers

Week 5: Lesson 3 Which country does she come from?

Week 6: Lesson 3 and Revision of lesson 1 to lesson 3

Week 7: Lesson 4 Nice to meet you

Week 8: Lesson 4, revision and mid-term exam

Week 9: Lesson 5 Where is the dining hall

Week 10: Lesson 5 and Halloween

Week 11: Lesson 6 Let’s go swimming, shall we?

Week 12: Lesson 6 and lesson 7

Week 13: Lesson 7 Do you know him?

Week 14: Revision

Week 15: Oral presentation
Week 16: Final Exam