

Basic Spoken Chinese
01:165:107-108
Course Information and Syllabus

Course coordinator:

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This is a two-semester introductory language course (meeting three periods/days per week, 4-credits per semester) designed to introduce the fundamentals of spoken Chinese. The course will focus solely on speaking and listening in Chinese, and will not teach written Chinese (neither reading nor writing). All vocabulary and texts will be in the standard Romanization of Chinese called *Hànyǔ pīnyīn* (or simply *pīnyīn*), which is fairly easy for beginning students of Chinese to master. By concentrating on speaking and listening, and not taking up the enormous burden of learning the Chinese writing system, students will be able to progress quickly through the fundamentals of the language and develop a solid foundation in spoken Chinese.

The course goal is for students to gain a mastery of conversational tasks demanded by daily life in China, as well as to carry on simple conversations on specialized topics. Through contextual task based instruction and guided conversation practice, the course will work on developing and refining pronunciation, mastery of basic spoken vocabulary, and achieving conversational fluency. The class will focus on themes and discussion topics related to college life and Chinese daily life and culture. Specialized topics will also be introduced midway through the second semester in accordance with student needs and requests. At the end of the two semester series, students will have a command of the basics of spoken Chinese and will be able to converse in Chinese at a high intermediate level.

Text: The main text for this course is the on-line Rutgers Multimedia Chinese Teaching System, or RMCTS, to be found at <http://rutgers.chinese.edu>. RMCTS includes lively dialogues with related reading texts, audio for both, as well as an extensive set of on-line exercises, vocabulary lists, and grammar notes--all in *pīnyīn*.

Preparation: Students should prepare for class by reading through the required lessons in advance, both silently and aloud (reading along with the audio that is supplied with all the texts) and memorizing the new vocabulary, including the *pīnyīn* spellings and tones.

Homework: Students should complete the on-line exercises for the lessons, at the course Sakai website, *after* the completion of each lesson in class.

Tests and Exams: There will be weekly vocabulary quizzes, a midterm, and a final exam. There will be no make-ups allowed for any quiz, test, or exam.

Attendance: Most of the learning will take place through oral drill and practice in class.

So students *must attend every class*. Final grades will be lowered by 6% for each day of class missed.

Grading: Final grades will be calculated as follows –

1. Effort and class participation 20%
2. Homework/assignments 20%
3. Quizzes and in-class oral work 20%
4. Exams 40%

Daily Schedule—First Semester (01:165:107)

- Week 1: Day 1- RMCTS Lessons 1 to 3, pronunciation practice and drill
Greetings & questions
Day 2- RMCTS Lessons 4 to 5, pronunciation practice and drill
Possession & modification
- Week 2: Day 1- RMCTS Lesson 6, pronunciation practice and drill
Countries and languages
Day 2- RMCTS Lesson 7, speaking practice and drill
Verbs for simple actions
Day 3- Conversation practice, review, vocabulary quiz
- Week 3: Day 1- RMCTS Lesson 8, speaking practice and drill
Forms of address and requests
Day 2- RMCTS Lesson 9, “What is your family name?”
Names in Chinese
Day 3- Conversation practice, review, quiz
- Week 4: Day 1- RMCTS Lesson 10, “He is at the foreign languages institute.”
Time & place
Day 2- RMCTS Lesson 11, “May I use your phone for a while?”
Numbers
Day 3- Conversation practice, review, quiz
- Week 5: Day 1- RMCTS Lesson 12, “They are good friends.”
More on verbs
Day 2- RMCTS Lesson 13, “Do you know him?”
More on questions
Day 3- Conversation practice, review, quiz
- Week 6: Day 1- RMCTS Lesson 14, “Do you have sisters?”
Day 2- Conversation practice, structure drills
Expressing existence and family relationships
Day 3- Conversation practice, review, quiz
- Week 7: Day 1- RMCTS Lesson 14 (cont.)
Day 2- Review
Day 3- Midterm Test on RMCTS Lessons 1 to 14
- Week 8: Day 1- RMCTS Lesson 15, “Is there an East Asian Languages Department
in your University?”
Day 2- Conversation practice, structure drills
Verbs of giving and wanting
Day 3- Conversation practice, review, quiz

- Week 9: Day 1- RMCTS Lesson 16, “That pair of pants is not mine!”
Day 2- Conversation practice, structure drills
Verb states
Day 3- Conversation practice, review, quiz
- Week 10: Day 1- RMCTS Lesson 17, “What time is it?”
Day 2- Conversation practice, structure drills
Time expressions
Day 3- Conversation practice, review, quiz
- Week 11: Day 1- RMCTS Lesson 18, “A Day in the Life of a Student”
Day 2- Conversation practice, structure drills
Counting things
Day 3- Conversation practice, review, quiz
- Week 12: Day 1- RMCTS Lesson 19, “Do you want black tea or green tea?”
Day 2- Conversation practice, structure drills
Conjunctions
Day 3- Conversation practice, review, quiz
- Week 13: Day 1- RMCTS Lesson 20, “What day of the week is it today?”
Day 2- Conversation practice, structure drills
Year, month, week, & dates
Day 3- Conversation practice, review, quiz
- Week 14: Day 1- RMCTS Lesson 21, “Happy birthday to you!”
Day 2- Conversation practice, structure drills
Some useful words
Day 3- Conversation practice, review, quiz
- Week 15: Day 1- Review RMCTS Lessons 1-21
Day 2- Final Exam through RMCTS Lesson 21

Daily Schedule—Second Semester (01:165:108)

- Week 1: Day 1- RMCTS Lesson 22, “The student center is right across from my dorm.”
Day 2- Conversation practice, structure drills
Direction & location
- Week 2: Day 1- RMCTS Lesson 23, “She is cleaning her room.”
Day 2- Conversation practice, structure drills
Prepositional expressions
Day 3- Conversation practice, review, quiz
- Week 3: Day 1- RMCTS Lesson 24, “Have some of Mom’s *dimsum*”
Day 2- Conversation practice, structure drills
More useful words
Day 3- Conversation practice, review, quiz
- Week 4: Day 1- RMCTS Lesson 25, “I did not expect that you swim so well.”
Day 2- Conversation practice, structure drills
Describing action
Day 3- Conversation practice, review, quiz
- Week 5: Day 1- RMCTS Lesson 26, “I will attend graduate school and study Chinese culture.”
Day 2- Conversation practice, structure drills
Expressing ability and skill
Day 3- Conversation practice, review, quiz
- Week 6: Day 1- RMCTS Lesson 27, “Has the get-together party for the Spring Festival started yet?”
Day 2- Conversation practice, structure drills
Verbs & time
Day 3- Conversation practice, review, quiz
- Week 7: Day 1- RMCTS Lesson 28, “I went to the New York Consulate to apply for a Visa.”
Review
Duration of actions
Midterm Test on RMCTS through Lesson 27
- Week 8: Day 1- RMCTS Lesson 29, “The plane is about to take off.”
Day 2- Conversation practice, structure drills
Impending action
Day 3- Conversation practice, review, quiz

- Week 9: Day 1- RMCTS Lesson 30, “What would you like to do this summer vacation?”
Day 2- Conversation practice, structure drills
More useful words
Day 3- Conversation practice, review, quiz
- Week 10: Day 1- RMCTS Lesson 31 & special topics, “We took a seventeen hour flight.”
Day 2- Conversation practice, structure drills
Measuring & marking time
Day 3- Conversation practice, review, quiz
- Week 11: Day 1- RMCTS Lesson 32 & special topics, “Have you had a physical exam recently?”
Day 2- Conversation practice, structure drills
Talking about past experience
Day 3- Conversation practice, review, quiz
- Week 12: Day 1- RMCTS Lesson 33 & special topics, “It has started raining outside.”
Day 2- Conversation practice, structure drills
Discussing change
Day 3- Conversation practice, review, quiz
- Week 13: Day 1- RMCTS Lesson 34 & special topics, “Going to the post office to mail pictures”
Day 2- Conversation practice, structure drills
Continuing and continuous action
Day 3- Conversation practice, review, quiz
- Week 14: Day 1- RMCTS Lesson 35 & special topics, “Chatting with Chinese Friends”
Day 2- Conversation practice, structure drills
Summary of verbal states
Day 3- Conversation practice, review, quiz
- Week 15: Review RMCTS through Lesson 35
Final Exam through RMCTS Lesson 35