Chinese 121: Beginning Chinese Reading and Writing
For Mandarin Speakers (Fall 2013)

Course Syllabus

Fall 2013  01:165:121  M: 2:50-4:10 pm
Instructor: Dr. Gloria Shen  W: 2:50-4:10 pm
Office: Scott 328  Scott Hall  116
Office: Scott 328  848-932-7605
Office Hours: To be arranged.
(By appointment)

Chinese 121 is an intensive beginning level course. It is assumed that the students have oral proficiency in Chinese. This course is specifically designed for Chinese heritage students who can already speak Mandarin but want to learn how to read and write in Chinese.

Core Curriculum Learning Goal(s) and the plan for assessment of student achievement of the goals:

I. Class Attendance and Classroom Participation: Q/A in Chinese (10%). The students are expected to 1. Attendance to lectures; 2. Timely completion of reading and writing assignments 3. Actively participation in class discussions. II. Daily Quizzes (40%) The students are expected to develop a firm knowledge in reading and writing Chinese by preparing for their daily quizzes (1) the vocabulary items (Chinese characters, their pinyin Romanization and meanings in English), (2) dictation and (3) translation of sentences from each lesson for each period. III. Homework/Characters assignments 10% (5%—simply turned in; 5%—called upon and checked). IV. Mid-Term & Final Exams (40%). The exams consist of five parts—dictation, word order, translation, sentences completion, filling the blanks and a composition (2-3 paragraphs around 20-25 sentences). V. Extra Efforts (Bonus points—memorization/composition—individually checked during the Office Hours/Help Sessions weekly).

Textbooks:


*Important Note: The homework assignments for this class will include two parts: The Chinese character assignments and exercises assignments from the textbook. The Chinese character assignments can be done on the practice sheets supplied by the instructor. You are required to make sufficient copies of them to last the whole semester. The exercise assignments will be taken from the textbook. However, students are required to write out the homework assignments by hand on separate sheets of paper. DO NOT turn your homework in on
pages torn from the book. The reasons for this are: (1) The additional copying required will allow you to practice Chinese character writing; and (2) leaving the exercise pages blank will allow you to use it for testing yourself during review and practice.


All the above materials are available from the University Bookstore at One Penn Plaza, opposite the New Brunswick train station, and probably also form New Jersey Books, 108 Somerset St.

Course work requirement:

Learning a language, especially a different (not difficult) one like Chinese, takes commitment. You are required to:

1) attend every class;
2) thoroughly prepare for the scheduled lesson before class;
3) do your homework and turn in the assigned homework before the next class begins;
4) Take daily quizzes, mid-term and final exams when they are given.

Departmental language course rules:

1) You are allowed only one unexplained and unexcused absence, and one excused absence with notes from doctors or other evidences for the unavoidability of your absence. Your final grade will be reduced by 3 percent for each day you are absent after the first two absences.

2) All assignments should be handed in according to schedule. Exercises handed in on time can be corrected and returned to you promptly. Persistent tardiness in finishing and returning homework will be noted and reflected in your performance score. Late assignments will be noted, but will not be corrected.

3) The Rutgers Self-Reporting Absence Website has launched. Students: https://sims.rutgers.edu/s sra/

Grading format:

1. Attendance 10%
2. Homework/Character Assignments 10%
3. Daily quizzes 40%
4. Mid-term & Final Esams 40%
Schedule of Classes:

Week 1
W  (9/4) Placement Test and Course Introduction

Week 2
MW (9/9-11) Chinese Pronunciation & Pinyin System pp. 1-20
Chinese Radicals: “The 40 Most Commonly Used Chinese Radicals”

Week 3
MW (9/16-18) Oh, China! Lesson 1
Homework due; practice sheets

Week 4
MW (9/23-25) Oh, China! Lesson 2
Homework due; practice sheets

Week 5
MW (9/30-10/2) Oh, China! Lesson 3
Homework due; practice sheets

Week 6
MW (10/7-9) Oh, China! Lesson 4
Homework due; practice sheets

Week 7
MW (10/14-16) Oh, China! Lesson 5
Homework due; practice sheets

Week 8
MW (10/21-23) Oh, China! Lesson 6
Homework due; practice sheets

Week 9
MW (10/28-30) Test I: L. 1-L. 4
Oh, China! Lessons 7
Homework due; practice sheets

Week 10
MW (11/4-6) Oh, China! Lessons 7 & 8
Homework due; practice sheets

Week 11
MW (11/11-13) Oh, China! Lessons 8 & 9
Homework due; practice sheets
| Week 12 | M (11/18-20) | *Oh, China!* Lesson 9 & 10  
Homework due; practice sheets |
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<td>Week 13</td>
<td>M (11/25)</td>
<td>Test II: L. 5-L. 8</td>
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| Week 14 | MW (12/2-4) | *Oh, China!* Lessons 10 & 11  
Homework due; practice sheets |
| Week 15 | M (12/9-11) | *Oh, China!* Lesson 11  
Homework due; practice sheets  
Review |
| Final Exam: | | (L. 1- L. 8  40%; L 9- L 11  60%)  
Time to be announced |