

CHIN1010 Elementary Chinese I

University of Virginia, Department of East Asian Languages, Literatures and Cultures

Class time: MTWRF/10-10:50&11:00-11:50

Classroom: CAB 044

Instructor: Ran Zhao

Office: CAB 171

Email: rz4e@virginia.edu

Office hours: T&Th: 8:30-10:00; or by appointment

Are you ready to fall in love with Chinese?

She is beautiful to look at, musical to listen to.

She is so popular and yet so different.

She demands a lot of your attention and is extremely high-maintenance.

She will change your life.

Are you ready? Are you sure?

This course allows students with no or minimal prior experience in Mandarin Chinese to start acquiring basic linguistic knowledge of Mandarin Chinese. No matter how tone-deaf you think you are, you will start to hear the melody of the tones before long. However hard might it be to learn those characters, you will surely be intrigued by the beauty and wisdom displayed in them once you get to know them better. This course also helps you start developing skills of listening, speaking, reading and writing at the basic level, which will enable you to function in everyday situations such as greetings, carrying on polite conversations about self and family, sharing school life experiences, etc. Culture is also a critical component of this course. You will learn about the Chinese cultural products, practices and perspectives relevant to any given language task on hand. This course also provides opportunities for you to apply your language abilities to serve our community in authentic and meaningful ways.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

In this course, you will start an exciting journey of understanding a new language, a new culture and hopefully an equally if not more exciting journey of self-discovery and community building. You will constantly find yourselves pushing your personal boundaries to acquire a challenging foreign language, reaching out to new friends and viewing the world from multiple perspectives. The following objectives will help you in a long run to reach a larger goal of broadening your personal and/or professional opportunities. By the end of the semester, you will be able to:

1. communicate orally and textually with native speakers of Chinese in various everyday situations by applying basic linguistic knowledge of pinyin, 500 characters and 60 grammar items covered this semester with fluency and accuracy;
2. recognize the linguistic and cultural differences and similarities between the Chinese and your native language and culture;
3. demonstrate understanding of the Chinese culture by communicating with native speakers in a socio-culturally appropriate way;
4. create digital instructional and reflective media in Chinese that will help internalize your own learning and meanwhile be useful for future students and the Chinese-learning community beyond UVa.

ASSESSMENT AND EVALUATION

As you can see from the following distribution of grades, I value your effort (open book preparation and practice) as much as or more than your performance (close-book quizzes and tests). Your regular and constant engagement in and outside class with the course materials and activities is the key to your success.

1) Class participation	10%
2) Daily character quiz	15%
3) Workbook pages	20%
4) Oral presentations	15%
5) Review tests	15%
6) Character videos	10%
7) Chinese friend project	10%
8) Course portfolio	5%

1. Class Participation 10% (100 points)

In the first class I will give you the rubric by which I will be assessing your participation over the semester. My main objective in assessing your participation is to incentivize you to attend class and participate in class discussions and activities in a prepared manner. We aim to create an immersion environment where students are required to speak Chinese in class with the teacher and with each other most of the time. Various contributions to creating a supportive learning community for all of us are valued and awarded. I will give you feedback when necessary in person or in the comments area of the Grade book.

2. Daily Character Quiz 15% (counting the best 30 out of 36 or so; 5x30=150 points)

Dictation is a form of character quiz when the teacher reads out a couple of sentences and the students write these sentences down in Chinese characters (first with pinyin, then with tones only). We will have dictation almost every day starting from week 2 unless there is already a quiz/test scheduled on that day. Previous students report this was THE most useful assessment that made sure they learned the characters before class.

3. Workbook pages 15% (15 points x 10 Lessons = 150 points)

Grammar, Listening and Reading comprehension exercises from the Workbook will be assigned for the purpose of class preparation and after-class review/practice. Students will be self-checking and correcting their answer sheets before submission. Please do NOT rip pages off the book. Use an answer sheet and that will allow you to sell your workbook back to the bookstore if so you wish.

4. Oral presentations 10% (100 points)

We will have an oral presentation every last day of a chapter each counting 10 points. The format of the oral presentation can vary as Powerpoint/prezi presentations, group discussions, skits, one-on-one interviews, etc. This will be a chance to showcase and improve your speaking, listening and presentational skills and receive constructive critiques from instructor and peers. The very last one presentation will be a longer and more substantial one showcase what you have learned this semester.

5. Review tests 15% (50 points x 3 =150 points)

We will have three review tests covering Lessons 1-3, 4-6 and 7-9 respectively. Each review test contains listening, reading, grammar, writing and one-on-one oral interviews with instructor.

6. Character Videos Project 10% (100 points)

Through this “Learn Chinese With Me” Project, students are going to compile a series of mini instructional videos throughout the semester. You are going to learn grammar from videos the teacher and her former students created. And you will then start creating such videos for each other and for future students. We will put them online so that K-12 students and anyone from the community who want to learn Chinese can benefit from what you have created.

7. Chinese Friend Project 10% (100 points)

This is also a throughout the semester project. Our program sponsors Chinese Corner each Thursday (time and location for this semester TBD) where you will get a chance to speak Chinese with native speakers from the community. Previous students reported this was one of the highlights of their learning experience. The objective of this project is for you to develop your speaking and writing skills, to develop your understanding of the Chinese culture in a personal way, and potentially to develop an authentic and meaningful relationship with a person who speaks the language you will learn. The details of the project are at Collab→Resources.

8. Course Portfolio 5% (50 points)

We will have a class blog that will document our learning process and products. On this class blog, you are able to post questions and share resources (Chinese learning apps/website or a cool and relevant YouTube video or article you run into and would like to share with the class). You are required to post each week one reflective paragraph, one comment on your peers’ character video(s), one paragraph in Chinese based on your work with your Chinese friend. Toward the end of the semester, you will have an opportunity to compile a course portfolio, which samples the best of your works and reflections throughout the semester. You can pass this portfolio to your next teacher when you move on to the next level, or bring your portfolio to your job interviews as many of the previous students did in the past.

GRADING THRESHOLD

1000-980 A+	899-870 B+	799-770 C+	And so on
979-940 A	869-840 B	769-740 C*	<i><u>*Students need to earn a C or above to</u></i>
939-900 A-	839-800 B-	739-700 C-	<i><u>continue to the next level of class.</u></i>

HOW TO SUCCEED IN THIS COURSE

Work hard. Work smart. Be nice. And remember to ask for help when you need it.

COURSE MATERIALS

Integrated Chinese Level I, Part I, 3rd ed. (Textbook, Workbook, all in simplified characters)

COURSE SCHEDULE

The table below illustrates our weekly routine. This routine will start from Week 2. We will cover up to Lesson 9 in our textbook, each lesson including two dialogues (D1 and D2).

	What to turn in class or what to post on class blog	Class activities
Monday	Grammar pages D1 Class preparation checklist	Learn D1. Focus: vocabulary and grammar
Tuesday	Grammar pages D2 Class preparation checklist	Learn D2. Focus: vocabulary and grammar
Wednesday	Self-checked and corrected Listening & reading D1&2	Review D1-2. Focus: accuracy of tones and usage
Thursday	Weekly character video post	Perform: authentic tasks. Focus: fluency and confidence
Friday	Chinese friend project post	Showcase: oral presentation, skit, debate, etc. Focus: assessment
Saturday	Weekly reflective post	
Sunday	Optional: any extra post	

This is an overview of our course schedule, which is subject to change when needed.

Week 1	Course Intro, Pinyin and Character Basics
Week 2	Lesson 1 Greetings
Week 3	Lesson 2 Family
Week 4	Lesson 3 Dates and Time
Week 5	Review and Review Test I (Lessons 1-3)
Week 6	Lesson 4 Interests and Hobbies
Week 7	Lesson 5 Visiting Friends
Week 8	Reading Days; Lesson 6 Making Appointments
Week 9	Review and Review Test II (Lessons 4-6)
Week 10	Lesson 7 Studying Chinese
Week 11	Lesson 8 School Life
Week 12	Lesson 9 Shopping
Week 13	11/17-19 Review; 11/20-21: Instructor out of town. No classes.
Week 14	11/24-25 Review Test III (Lessons 7-9); 26-28 Happy Thanksgiving!
Week 15	Final presentations; course portfolio due

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

I trust every student in this course to fully comply with all of the provisions of the UVa Honor System. By enrolling in this course, you have agreed to abide by and uphold the Honor System of the University of Virginia.