Welcome to Chinese 10a! You are learning a language spoken and/or recognized by over one fourths of the total world population! And you are learning it in a revolutionary way!

**Computerized Chinese Learning Makes Big Differences**

As you may know, Chinese was one of the most difficult foreign languages for an American student to learn. According to the State Department of the United States, a true beginner will have to take about 5 times of time and efforts to reach the advanced level of Chinese than to reach the same level of Spanish. One of the main difficulties is the Chinese writing system. Instead of the alphabet system, Chinese people, for over 4,000 years, have been using a pictographic system that consists of thousands of Chinese characters. Writing these characters with pens (traditionally the brush pens), you will have to take a very long time to practice and then you will have less time to practice speaking Chinese and the characters you could write and recognize finally are still quite limited. Giving it up (In fact, a number of Chinese teachers in the United States have been teaching their students in this compromised way), you will become an illiterate, speaking some Chinese but reading or writing any real Chinese text.

Now with the development of information technology, we can overcome the dilemma easily. You can learn Chinese with your computer and by inputting Chinese characters, you are practicing speaking, listening, reading and writing at the same time!

This course is revolutionarily designed to make your Chinese learning experience unprecedentedly efficient. Computers will be used for all the time: on class exercises, assignments, quizzes, and exams.

**Objective**

The objective of this course is to lay a solid foundation for your further Chinese learning by helping you get familiar with Pinyin or standard Chinese phonetic system as a learning tool, understand the rules of formation of Chinese characters, comprehend basic Chinese
syntax and usage of sentence patterns, and learn computer Chinese input method. At the same time students will start to understand Chinese culture and mindset and come to a realization that learning Chinese is an enjoyable and rewarding process.

**Learning Goals**

**Listening**
Students will be able to catch the meaning of standard Chinese speech at a moderately slower than natural speed on some basic topics such as family, school life and simple shopping with limited vocabulary in the format of conversation or short monologue. At the same time they will understand a series of class instructions in Chinese and act accordingly.

**Speaking**
Students will be able to ask and answer simple questions, to comment on actions and things, to briefly introduce and narrate on basic topics of family and everyday life. Although their pronunciation and tones may have some errors and the speed of speech may be slightly slower with some extra pauses, these errors and pauses will not seriously hinder the understanding by a native speaker.

**Reading**
Students will be able to recognize over 400 Chinese characters and about 1,000 Chinese words formed by these characters appearing in the textbook and to read short Chinese writings in the format of conversation transcription, email, short letter, or simple/modified narration. They will be able to use “traditional” or online dictionaries or other reference tools to check the meanings of words not directly appear in the textbook.

**Writing**
Students will be able write with computers Chinese emails, short and informal letters, and diaries with simple structure and limited vocabulary.

Do we need special computers and/or special Chinese software? The answer is No. Generally speaking, a computer, either a PC or a Mac, is Chinese ready if it is 4 years old or younger. You don’t need to buy any additional software.

During class time, however, you may opt not to use computer but do the “traditional” way, i.e., writing Chinese characters with your pen in dictation or test.
About the Instructor

Instructor: Dr. Yu Feng

Office: Rabb. 367
Tel: 736-2961
Email: yfeng@brandeis.edu
Office Hours: M.W.R. 2:00-3:00 or by appointment

Class Meeting Times and Classroom

Section 1: M.W. Th. 10:10-11:00, T. 9:40-10:30 at Golding 107
Section 2: M. T. W. Th. 11:10-12:00 at Golding 107

About the Textbooks

Integrated Chinese (Level One Part One, 3rd Edition)
By Tao-chung Yao et al. Cheng & Tsui Company

You need both textbooks and workbooks. You don’t need to buy the Character exercise book and the audio CD. After registration, you could sign in Latte and get access to the audio.

This set of textbook is rated the number one by American colleges and universities. The topics (including school life, travel, food, seeing doctor, etc.), the grammar explanations, and assignments are all very well designed. By the end of the two semesters you will have learned all the important grammars, about 750 most frequently used Chinese characters, 3,000 most frequently used Chinese words, and many useful sentences patterns and idiomatic phrases.

Following is a link to the introduction of this textbook:
http://www.cheng-tsui.com/store/products/integrated_chinese

Requirements:

1. Attendance: Students are expected to be in class on time. There unexcused absence in this semester will affect your final grade. Illness or emergencies are acceptable excuses, but adequate documentation must be presented.

2. Preparation: Students are expected to come to class well prepared. It means that you have to read the assigned text, and listen to the audio recording before the section. You are expected to answer questions from your required readings in class.

3. Homework: Students are expected to complete their homework on time; late homework will receive a reduced grade. Each homework assignment is worth 10 points. Any assignment which is not turned in on the due date will be marked down one incremental point per day, i.e. from 10 to 9. Any assignment which is one week overdue
will not be accepted whatsoever.

4. Dictation: Students are expected to take dictation based on the new vocabulary that is covered in each lesson. You may write either with your notebook computer or your pen.

**Grading calculation:**

Class participation: 10%
Homework: 20%
Dictations: 15%
Quizzes (written and oral): 30%
Final Exam (written and oral) 25%