

Continuing Chinese

Chin 20b Section 1 (Course Number: 2104)

Chin 20b Section 2 (Course Number: 3414)

Course Description

Spring 2010

Welcome to Chinese 20b! 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!

Objective

The objective of this course is to help students comprehensively develop their Chinese language skills so that orally they can reach or exceed ACTFL Novice-high level and that their reading and writing abilities will be even better. Students will learn and well understand all aspects of basic grammars of the Chinese language including all major sentence constructions and particles and they will have a systematical knowledge of Chinese radicals that indicate the meanings or categories of Chinese characters. Students will also learn more knowledge of Chinese culture, both cultural elements built in the language and beyond.

Learning Goals

Listening

Students will be able to comprehend standard Chinese speech at a slightly slower than natural speed on some basic topics on school and everyday life with limited vocabulary in the format of conversation or short monologue.

Speaking

Students will be able to initiate conversations on school and everyday life topics, to make comparisons and comments, and to narrate in a grammatically and culturally appropriate manner. 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 700 Chinese characters and about 3,000 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 (about 3,000 Chinese words formed by 700 Chinese characters). They will be able to transcribe audio recordings of the similar difficult level to the lessons in the textbook in Chinese. Students may opt hand-writing instead of computer input in some of the on-class quizzes or test and the final exam. However, knowing how to write Chinese with computer is a must. Students are encouraged to try hand-writing but it is not required.

About the Instructor

Instructor: Dr. Yu Feng

Office: Rabb. 367

Tel: 736-2961

Email: yfeng@brandeis.edu

Office Hours: M.W.R. 1:00-2:00 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 Two, 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.

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. The questions will be posted on latte. Failure to answer these questions will result in lower score for your class participation.
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. If you use computer, you must upload your dictation in the format of word document onto latte.

Grading calculation:

Class participation: 10%

Homework: 20%

Dictations: 15%

Quizzes (written and oral): 30%

Final Exam (written and oral) 25%