Learning Goals of Chinese Courses

Chin10a (Beginning Chinese)
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.

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.

Chin20B (Continuing Chinese)
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.

**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 1,800 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.

**Chin29B (Passage to Chinese Literacy)**

This course is specially designed for heritage learners or others who listen to and speak Chinese quite well but only have very limited skills of reading and writing Chinese. This fast paced course will enable students to write what they can say with
computers by correct pinyin input and recognize Chinese characters by reading Chinese text with the help of audio recordings and reviewing what the students have written themselves. The class discussions and related writing assignments will not only refine their skills in commanding the language but also enrich their knowledge of Chinese culture and society.

The listening and speaking skills of students by the end of the semester will exceed the level as described in Chin30A while their reading and writing skills will be the same as described in Chin30A. (See below for details)

**Chin30A (Intermediate Chinese)**

This course tries to create a simulative language and cultural environment that students are traveling to China to learn Chinese so that they will understand better more idiomatic and colloquial Chinese (as compared with the very basic “plain” Chinese they have learned through the first two semesters) as well as more detailed and systematic knowledge of Chinese culture and society. In other words, they will be well prepared to survive in China once they really go there, dealing with the language challenge and cultural shock with confidence. By the end of the semester, they should reach or exceed the level of Intermediate Low as outlined by Chinese Oral Proficiency Interview (in line with ACTFL general guideline with modifications). At the same time, they will also enrich their knowledge of Chinese writing system.

1. **Listening**

Students will be able to comprehend short authentic conversations and monologues on various everyday life topics that are the same as or similar to the topics of the textbook at close to natural speed with colloquial idioms and some alternative word orders beyond the ordinary ones. They will also have the skills of negotiating meanings of words/phrases with which they are not familiar.

2. **Speaking**

Students will be able to initiate conversations on above-mentioned topics and engage in meaningful exchange of ideas on them with native speakers. In speaking they can choose grammatically and culturally proper structures/words/phrases/idioms in accordance with contexts; their pronunciation/tones are mostly correct with some minor errors that do not hinder understanding by native speakers; and the structures of their sentences are somewhat complex although the connections between sentences may still be loose and the speed of their speeches may be slightly slower than natural speed.

3. **Reading**

Students will be able to read efficiently two types of Chinese texts: authentic or slightly modified
conversation transcripts on school or everyday life topics and modified narrations or descriptions with controlled vocabulary. They will be able to recognize about 900 most frequently used Chinese characters and 2,400 words consisting of these characters, including words not directly listed in the textbook but whose meanings can be decoded with analysis of the characters.

4. Writing

Students will be able to write down correctly what they want to say with computer (they may opt to use pen to write for some assignments and tests but they must be able to write efficiently with computer) although sometimes their writing may contain few errors caused by choosing wrong characters of the same pronunciations. The contents of their writings should include not only the basic questions and answers but also the expressions of personal feelings such as happiness, worries, and regrets and personal opinions. The sentences in their writing should be well, though not sophisticated, connected with proper format as required by the tasks.

Chin 40b (Advanced Intermediate Chinese)

This course tries to create a simulative language and cultural environment that students are traveling to China to learn Chinese so that they will understand better more idiomatic and colloquial Chinese (as compared with the very basic “plain” Chinese they have learned through the first two semesters) as well as more detailed and systematic knowledge of Chinese culture and society. In other words, they will be well prepared to survive in China once they really go there, dealing with the language challenge and cultural shock with confidence. By the end of the semester, they should reach or exceed the level of Intermediate Low as outlined by Chinese Oral Proficiency Interview (in line with ACTFL general guideline with modifications). At the same time, they will also enrich their knowledge of Chinese writing system.

1. Listening

Students will be able to comprehend short authentic conversations and monologues on various everyday life topics that are the same as or similar to the topics of the textbook at close to natural speed with colloquial idioms and some alternative word orders beyond the ordinary ones. They will also have the skills of negotiating meanings of words/phrases with which they are not familiar.

2. Speaking

Students will be able to initiate conversations on above-mentioned topics and engage in meaningful exchange of ideas on them with native speakers. In speaking they can choose grammatically and culturally proper structures/words/phrases/idioms in accordance with contexts; their pronunciation/tones are mostly correct with some minor errors that do not hinder understanding by native speakers; and the structures of their sentences are somewhat complex
although the connections between sentences may still be loose and the speed of their speeches may be slightly slower than natural speed.

3. Reading

Students will be able to read efficiently two types of Chinese texts: authentic or slightly modified conversation transcripts on school or everyday life topics and modified narrations or descriptions with controlled vocabulary. They will be able to recognize about 900 most frequently used Chinese characters and 2,400 words consisting of these characters, including words not directly listed in the textbook but whose meanings can be decoded with analysis of the characters.

4. Writing

Students will be able to write down correctly what they want to say with computer (they may opt to use pen to write for some assignments and tests but they must be able to write efficiently with computer) although sometimes their writing may contain few errors caused by choosing wrong characters of the same pronunciations. The contents of their writings should include not only the basic questions and answers but also the expressions of personal feelings such as happiness, worries, and regrets and personal opinions. The sentences in their writing should be well, though not sophisticated, connected with proper format as required by the tasks.

Chin 105a (Advanced Conversation and Composition 1)

Students will be learning Chinese with greater varieties in styles and formats with clear awareness of the differences between written or formal Chinese and spoken or colloquial Chinese. By learning this course, students shall fully develop their language skills to real advanced level (equal to ACTFL advanced low) with maturity and refinement as shown in the following aspects.

1. Listening

Students will be able to comprehend paragraph level speech spoken by native Mandarin speakers at natural or close to natural speeds on various topics such as education, entertainment, social issues, economy, traditional culture, and literature. The speech may be either semi-formal or informal and may have slight accept (influence of local dialect).

2. Speaking

With learned discourse grammar and idiomatic usage of sentence patterns, phrases, and words, students will be able to express their ideas and opinions or make detailed narration in paragraph level with good (though may be with slight errors) pronunciation, tones, and stress. They can actively participate in unprepared discussions and debates with well organized structure. Their speeches should be at natural speed for some easier topics although could be slightly slower for some more difficult topics.
3. Reading
They are expected to be able to recognize about 1,600 Chinese characters and about 4,000 Chinese
words and phrases, including the most frequently used four-character traditional idiomatic phrases.
They shall be able to understand authentic materials in the format of short journal articles,
transcripts of journalist interviews, short stories, etc. although they may need dictionaries and
other references.

4. Writing
Students shall be able to write with computer (hand-writing optional) short articles to describe,
narrate, and discuss on various common cultural and societal topics. Their articles should be well
organized with rich vocabulary, appropriate styles to the topic, clear logic and some elaboration.
They should also have cultural awareness with deep understanding of Chinese culture and society.

Chin 105b (Advanced Conversation and Composition 2)

This course will consolidate students’ good command of the Chinese language so that they will
feel unprecedented confidence of communication in this language either orally or in writing. In
terms of ACTFL standard, they should reach advanced mid level. By the end of the semester,
Chinese will be one of their workable languages. In other words, they can get information they
need from Chinese sources and do research in Chinese.

1. Listening

A milestone of this course is that students shall be able to comprehend authentic Chinese TV or
radio news announcements of international relations, politics, business, and social events even if
the speech is slightly faster than natural speed. They shall also be got used to some colloquial
Chinese by watching Chinese movies and TV dramas.

2. Speaking

Students will be able to speak more like a native speaker with well chosen words, phrases, and
patterns. A significant progress will be the ability to make relatively formal speech such as
speaking and debating in a seminar on common cultural topics.

3. Reading

Similarly to listening, a milestone in reading for the students of this course will be the ability of
comprehending short news (often in formal style that is far different from common spoken style)
in Chinese newspapers or internet on such topics as international relations, politics, business, and
social issues. They shall also understand Chinese unaltered and unabridged short stories by most
famous authors as well as short academic papers on foresaid topics plus history and tradition.
They should be able to recognize over 2,000 Chinese characters and over 5,000 Chinese words
and phrases. They shall have the ability of decoding new words with known characters without
help from reference books.
4. Writing

While writing longer articles with computers, students shall be able to write short notes and shorter articles by pen. They shall be able to write semi-formal articles appropriate to Chinese journals or internet. Although students are not required to write on all academic topics, they should be able to write on the topic(s) in which they are interested.

Chin 106B (Business Chinese and Culture)
Being the most advanced Business Chinese class, this course will prepare students in doing business in or with China by a unique simulative approach. After learning it, students will be ready for both necessary language and cultural knowledge.

1. Listening

Students shall receive intensive training in oral translation from Chinese into English. Listening to Chinese talks on business topics, students are asked to translate them sentence by sentence into English without any written documents or vocabulary references. There is no repetition and students must complete translation for each sentence within 10 to 15 seconds.

2. Speaking

To reverse the above-mentioned Chinese into English translation, students shall also receive intensive training in oral translation from Chinese into English. Similarly, the translation must be speedy, close to simultaneous translation. Students shall be able to translate for both phases skillfully by the end of the semester. They shall also be able to practice business negotiations with excellent awareness of the cultural differences and choose appropriate speech styles in accordance with business tasks.

3. Reading

They shall be able to understand real business documents, including enterprise information, business contracts and other legal documents, and economic comments on newspapers and internet.

4. Writing

Students shall be able to write their resumes in Chinese, business reports, product promotion plans, and draft simple business documents.

Chin 120A (Readings in Contemporary Chinese Literature)
Although the title of the course stresses readings, this is a comprehensive course pays equal attention to speaking, reading, and writing. Students shall reach Advanced High Level in terms of ACTFL guideline. In other words, their Chinese skills will be close to well educated native
speakers. At the same time, students shall have a comprehensive understanding of contemporary literature since many of the reading materials are from the most famous Chinese authors and they shall know Chinese society and cultural heritage very well.

1. Speaking

Formal speech will be the focus of learning and students shall be able to present their ideas and opinions in well organized presentations on social and academic issues with elaborately chosen styles, phrases, and words and convincing examples. They shall be able to defend their ideas in discussions and debates.

2. Reading

Students of this course shall be able to understand more sophisticated authentic writings in Chinese, academic or literature. They should be able to recognize over 2,400 Chinese characters and over 7,000 Chinese words and phrases. They shall have a better understanding of the written styles and colloquial styles.

3. Writing

Students will be able to write different kind of articles and short stories but the emphasis will be on some academic and social issues. They can write 3-5 pages papers with elaborated structure and their writings will be publishable in accordance with the common criterion of Chinese newspapers and magazines.

Chin 120B (Readings in Contemporary Chinese Literature II)

Although the title of the course stresses readings, this is a comprehensive course pays equal attention to speaking, reading, and writing. Students shall reach Advanced High or Superior low Level in terms of ACTFL guideline. In other words, their Chinese skills will be equal or similar to well educated native speakers. At the same time, students shall have a comprehensive understanding of contemporary literature since many of the reading materials are from the most famous Chinese authors and they shall know Chinese society and cultural heritage very well.

1. Speaking

Students of this course shall speak Chinese in a stylish way with excellent choice of words, phrases, and structures and understand prosodic requirements of the language very well. They shall be able to tell stories vividly and elaborately.

2. Reading

Different from Chin120A, students of this course will focus on Chinese literature, selected chapters of novels, short stories, and beautifully written prose by the most famous Chinese authors.
They should be able to recognize over 3,000 Chinese characters and over 9,000 Chinese words and phrases.

3. Writing

Students will be able to write different kind of articles and short stories but the emphasis will be on creative writing, namely, short story and prose.