Syllabus
Basic Chinese (I)
Fall Semester

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Course Description
This is a beginning Mandarin Chinese course intended for students with no prior knowledge of any Chinese dialect or written Chinese. This course will focus on the Chinese Pinyin Romanization system: tones, rules of phonetic spelling, and pronunciation drill; Chinese characters: creation and evolution, stroke order, structure, and the writing system. Reading and writing skills are introduced; these include basic sentence pattern analysis, and development of language skills in listening, speaking, reading, and writing. It does not follow the linear structure adopted by earlier Chinese teaching materials, instead adopting a cyclical arrangement with constant review of language structure and function together with important cultural information. The teaching of language structure passes through 2 cycles. In the first cycle, the focus of which is learning pronunciation, students are exposed to various basic sentence patterns by engaging in simple dialogues, although grammar is not discussed systematically at this stage. In the second cycle, students learn and practice fundamental sentence patterns. By guaranteeing the teaching of core material, it can increase supplementary contents.

Course Objectives
It aims to understand basic pronunciation and grammar rules of Chinese Mandarin language; to learn and pronounce standard Chinese words; to read all of those words, and write them in Chinese characters as much as possible; to construct correct sentences and convey them orally in broadcasting standard quality; to become conversationally conversant with Mandarin speaking Chinese people based on the information obtained from the textbook; to provide students with the understanding of Chinese culture with respect to classical Chinese literature and history. As a result, by the end of the first year of study, students should have an elementary command of basic Chinese language structure.
Required Textbook

*New Practical Chinese Reader 1*, Beijing Foreign Languages Printing House, 2006.3

Selective Reading

*Application: Intermediate Chinese ——Listening and Speaking*, Beijing Normal University Publishing Group, 2009.3

Conduct of the Course

Class activities include daily dictation, reading, oral practice and open conversations with the instructor.

Grading Criteria

Your grade will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Criteria</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quiz</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Class performance</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>70%</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
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</tbody>
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(1) Participation:
Students are expected to attend classes, complete all required readings. Participation in class discussions is an essential part of the class.

(2) Quiz:
There will be 2 quizzes of each semester. Quizzes are brief assessments to measure growth in knowledge, abilities, and/or skills.

(3) Class performance:
What is taught must be determined by students’ needs and must enable them to learn actively, gradually strengthening their motivation and sense of achievement.

(4) Final Exam

Final letter grade:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Range</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>94–100</td>
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<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>90–93</td>
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<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>87–89</td>
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<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>84–86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>80–83</td>
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<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>77–79</td>
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<td>C</td>
<td>74–76</td>
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<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>70–73</td>
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<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>60–69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>Below 59</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Make-up exams or extensions will not be granted except in case of emergency.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Content</th>
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</thead>
</table>
| **Week 1** | Introduction to the Course  
Self-Introduction                                                  |
| **Week 2** | Lesson 1  
New words; Text  
Pronunciation Drills; Initials and Finals (I)  
Conversation Practice; Saying Hello  
Phonetics; Pronunciation key; Tones; Third-tone Sandhi; spelling rules  
Grammar; word order in Chinese sentences  
Chinese characters: basic strokes of Chinese characters |
| **Week 3** | Reading; Exercises  
Supplementary reading  
Chinese Poem                                                   |
| **Week 4** | Lesson 2  
New words; Text;  
Pronunciation Drills; Initials and Finals (II)  
Conversation Practice; Asking what someone wants  
Phonetics; neutral tone; Pronunciation key; Tones;  
Grammar; Sentences with an adjectival predicate; “Yes-no” question with “吗”  
Chinese characters |
| **Week 5** | Reading; Exercises  
Supplementary reading  
Chinese tea                                                    |
| **Week 6** | Lesson 3  
New words; Text;  
Pronunciation Drills; Initials and Finals (III)  
Conversation Practice; Identifying people; asking someone’s nationality  
Phonetics; third-tone sandhi; tone sandhi of “不”; Pronunciation key  
Chinese characters |
| **Week 7** | Reading; Exercises  
Supplementary reading  
Chinese food                                                   |
| **Week 8** | Lesson 4  
New words; Text;                                                 |
| Week 9 | Reading; Exercises  
Supplementary reading  
Chinese eating etiquette |
|---|---|
| Week 10 | **Lesson 5**  
New words; Text;  
Pronunciation Drills; Initials and Finals (V)  
Conversation Practice; Looking for someone; saying goodbye; asking for directions; expressing thanks  
Phonetics; retroflex ending; pronunciation key  
Grammar; questions with an interrogative pronoun  
Chinese characters: combined character strokes (1) |
| Week 11 | **Quiz** |
| Week 12 | Reading; Exercises  
Supplementary reading  
Chinese idioms |
| Week 13 | **Lesson 6**  
New words; Text;  
Pronunciation Drills; Initials and Finals (VI)  
Conversation Practice; making comments; making suggestions; asking someone to repeat something; refusing or declining politely  
Phonetics; tone sandhi of “一”; combinations of initials and finals in common speech  
Grammar; sentences with a verbal predicate  
Chinese characters: combination of strokes (2) |
| Week 14 | Reading; Exercises  
Supplementary reading  
Chinese life |
| Week 15 | **Lesson 7**  
New words; Text;  
Notes: V+一下 to indicate a short and quick action; the interjection “啊”; nouns directly used as attributives  
Drills and Practice; meeting someone for the first time; talking about |
| Week 16 | Reading: Exercises  
| Supplementary reading  
| Chinese life |
| Week 17 | Quiz |
| Week 18 | Review Session |
| Week 19 | Final Exam |

one’s major  
Grammar; Attributives expressing possession; V/A-not-V/A questions;  
Abbreviated questions with “呢”; The position of adverbs “也” and “都”  
Chinese characters: Chinese character components