

Syllabus

Basic Chinese (I)

Fall Semester

Lectured by Ms. DING Jie

E-mail: jie_ding@fudan.edu.cn

Phone: (86-21) 55664568

School of Economics Building, SE801

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 I, 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:

Participation	10%
Quiz	10%
Class performance	10%
Final Exam	70%
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TOTAL	100%

(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:

A = 94-100	A- = 90-93	
B+ = 87-89	B = 84-86	B- = 80-83
C+ = 77-79	C = 74-76	C- = 70-73
D = 60-69		
F = Below 59		

Make-up exams or extensions will not be granted except in case of emergency.

Schedule

Week	Content
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;

	Pronunciation Drills; Initials and Finals (IV) Conversation Practice; Asking for permission; asking someone's name; introducing oneself Phonetics; pronunciation key; spelling rules Grammar; Sentences with “是” Chinese characters: rules of stroke order
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 “—”; 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

	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
Week 16	Reading; Exercises Supplementary reading Chinese life
Week 17	Quiz
Week 18	Review Session
Week 19	Final Exam