

CHIN 1010: ELEMENTARY CHINESE

Brooklyn College, *The City University of New York*

Study Abroad in China Program

Instructor: Professor Yonggang Huang Ph.D.

Textbook

Jun Liu, (2013), ***Access Chinese***, Student Book 1, McGraw-Hill Higher Education

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Recommended website:

<http://mjiaing.com/mecps/ch/lessons/> (one lesson each day by yourself, starting one week prior to departure)

Course Description

This is an intensive, skill-based, elementary-level course of the Chinese language. The course focuses on the acquisition of correct pronunciation and basic skills of listening, speaking, reading and writing. Speaking skill is the priority objective which leads the acquirement of other skills of the language. The goal of the course is to lay a solid foundation for students' further learning of the language.

Course Outcomes

1. Students will master the pinyin system and pronunciation of Mandarin Chinese;
2. Students will familiarize themselves with the basic syntactic structures of Mandarin Chinese;
3. Students will develop the basic skills and proficiency of listening, speaking, reading in Chinese, with an emphasis on conversational skills in different practical situations; and
4. Students will learn to write Chinese characters with simpler strokes (100 the most-frequently-used characters and basic radicals as components of the character).

Class Format

Because this class is part of the study abroad in China program, students are encouraged to make the best use of their time in China to practice the Chinese language. In addition to attending and learning in regular class sessions, students are also required

1. To find partners or form small groups to practice the lessons and language skills after class; and

2. To speak Chinese whenever and wherever they can while in China.

The textbook is designed to help students to teach themselves beginner's Chinese. Students are strongly encouraged to start Chinese lessons before they embark on the China trip. At least several days prior to departure, students should do the following:

1. Go to this site <http://mjiang.com/mecps/ch/lessons/> and start learning/practicing the simple lessons, with one lesson per day (prior to the trip if possible and each day during the trip).

Attendance and Participation

Students should actively participate in class activities. Prompt attendance is mandatory for all class sessions. Each absence without instructor's permission will result in 2 percent deduction from the final grade of the course; two late arrivals or early departures are equal to one absence.

Study group: in addition to class time learning, students will be organized into study groups (3 or 4 students in one group). Class presentation and after-class practice will be conducted in the form of study group.

Homework and After-Class Practice

Practice of language drills in each of the lessons in an elementary language course is essential to learning a new language. Completion of homework assignments, both oral and written, is also necessary in order to maintain steady progress. Therefore, a reasonable amount of homework will be assigned, and practice after class will be required. You are required to do the following after class:

1. Review the vocabulary by reading the words in pinyin aloud;
2. Check with each other the Chinese-English translation of the vocabulary;
3. Practice new words and sentence patterns in real life situations;
4. Practice the dialogues and translate them from Chinese to English and vice versa; and
5. Complete the practice exercises at the end of the lesson.

Evaluation

Participation (course & program)	20%
Presentation, quizzes	30%

Oral test	25%
Final written exam	25%

As this course is part of the study abroad program, your program participation will account for 10% of the grade; students are strongly advised that their behavior and attitude during the trip will affect their final grade for the course. At the conclusion of the program, Professor Lu, as the program director, will review the coursework and behavior of each student in the course with the instructor when the final grade is determined.

Students are required to keep daily journals to document observations of phenomena related to the course topics.

Non-Brooklyn College students are required to keep a course portfolio of all work and assignment submissions for this course, to be evaluated by the appropriate office and committee at their home institution for equivalent credits.

Class Meetings

At least 15 class sessions will be scheduled, with each session for 3 hours, plus additional sessions to practice language skills in real life situations.

Most formal class sessions are scheduled to be conducted during our three-week stay in Nanjing, but a few (2-3) sessions may take place while the group is visiting the first two cities of Beijing and Xi'an. Normally, the class meets 8:30-11:30 am on weekdays (and on some weekend days and evenings if necessary) during our stay in Nanjing.

Allocation of class time

Hour 1: First half: presentation of content learned in the previous day (performance quiz);

Second half: grammar points and idiomatic usage;

Hour 2: First half: pronunciation practice;

Second half: sentence pattern drills – group activity.

Hour 3: First half: pair presentation to class;

Second half: to learn and practice writing characters.

One hour lab time each day

Students can come to the place where the instructor is, who will answer questions (either in the afternoon or evening). It is not compulsory for students to come if they prefer to do the lab work in their room with their own computer, and in their own self-designated time (the point is that everyone must do it and get ready for the performance quiz of next morning).

Actual schedule of the class meetings and the location may not be announced until the group's arrival in China and may be subject to change, sometimes at short notice. Students are advised to check their email often for notification for possible changes. The instructor reserves the right to make necessary adjustments in the class schedule and evaluation in response to the changing situation during the course of the program in China.

Students are strongly advised to read the CUNY and Brooklyn College's policies regarding academic dishonesty, attendance and sexual harassment.

Tentative Class Schedule

- Day 1: **Pinyin Step 1**, pp.14-21: Introduction to Pin Yin; Chinese Syllables; Zero Initial Syllables; Tones
- Day 2: **Pinyin Step 2**, pp.22-24: Single Finals; Labial Initials; Alveolar Initials; Initial-Final Combinations
- Day 3: **Pinyin Step 3**, pp. 25-28: Compound Finals; Dental Sibilant Initials; Retroflex Initials; Initial-Final Combinations
- Day 4: **Pinyin Step 4 & 5**: pp.28-32: Compound Finals; Lingual Initials; Velar Initials; Front Nasal Finals; Back Nasal Finals
- Day 5: **Pinyin Step 6**, pp.32-39: R-ending Retroflexion; Tone Change; Sentence Pause; Sentence Stress;
- Day 6: **Introduction to Chinese Characters**, pp.40-47: Types of Chinese Characters; Structure and Components; Radicals; Strokes Order; Simplified and Traditional Characters; 50 Common Radicals
- Day 7: **Unit 1 Meeting Each Other**, pp.48-69: Chinese Name; Numbers 0 – 10; Saying Hello
- Day 8: **Unit 2 Gifts and Courtesy**, pp.70-91: Numbers 0 – 10; Likes and Dislikes; Gifts and Courtesy
- Day 9: **Unit 3 Feel at Home – Wherever You Are**, pp.92-113: Time; Word Power; Titles; Integrative Practice
- Day 10: **Review Unit 1**, pp.114-19: Vocabulary Kit; Understanding the Meanings of the Chinese Characters
- Day 11: **Unit 4 In and Out of Class**, pp.120 - 41: Sentence Patterns; Manager's Week Schedule; Invitation; Writing
- Day 12: **Unit 5 Shopping and Bargaining**, pp.142-65: Spotlight; Colors; Word Power; Writing
- Day 13: **Unit 6 Fine Food**, pp.166-89: Good Food for Good Health; Reading; Table Manners
- Day 14: **Review Unit 2**, pp. 190-94: Pronunciation Kit; Vocabulary Kit; Best Activities and Places; Interview
- Day 15: **General Review of Access Chinese 1**, pp.195-210: Listening; Reading; Grammar Kit; Word List

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Assignment of Keeping Journals

An important goal of the program is to enable each student to explore and experience China in his or her own individual ways, such that you can obtain maximum academic benefits from this China trip. Keeping a journal during the trip will help serve that purpose well.

You will be keeping a journal during the trip and submit the journal entries as part of the trip and course participation to their course instructor (with a copy to Prof. Lu, the program director); see the instructors' email addresses below. Here are some guidelines:

How to Write a Journal Entry

1. Describe a **specific, very meaningful, phenomenon or incident that** you observe or experience during the 2-3 days in a city, something that caught your attention and has an impact on you personally, culturally or intellectually, or something that has touched you deeply. Do not just list what you have done during the days (which will give you no credit). Tell us the story, with descriptive details, of a meaningful **intercultural encounter/instance**. This should be the 1st paragraph.
2. Then, in the 2nd paragraph, analyze or reflect upon that. Write down your reflections and thoughts on that experience or observation from a cross-cultural or intercultural perspective. If you are in one of those non-language classes, try to tie that to what you have read in the textbook(s) or what we are discussing in class.
3. In the 3rd paragraph, summarize or conclude this journal entry by making connections to a larger picture of what you have read, heard and studied previously in other classes, or even what you have experienced back in America and/or other contexts. Each entry should be about 3 paragraphs in length. However, you are free to organize your ideas in what you believe to be creative ways; it is not a good idea to write one journal entry in only one paragraph.

How and When to Submit

1. Write an entry about every 3 days; a total of 5 (FIVE) journals are expected of you during the trip:
 - a. ONE entry for visit to Beijing
 - To be submitted on the day when you arrive in 2nd city of Xi'an
 - b. ONE for visit to Xi'an
 - To be submitted on the day when you arrive in Nanjing
 - c. TWO entries during stay in Nanjing (including side trips if any)
 - To be submitted every 6 days

- d. ONE final entry for visit to Suzhou and Shanghai
 - To be submitted no later than 10 pm on the eve of departure from Shanghai
 - This final journal entry should be a bit longer than the previous ones. You need have 2 additional paragraphs in which to reflect on the overall trip experience: your gains from the trip, the impact of the trip on you, your recommendations for the trip, etc.
2. Submit your journals via email to the instructor via email:
 - a. Email each entry to the instructor, with a copy to: ChinaJournals@yahoo.com
 - b. And, if you are taking a class with another professor, also copy that professor.
3. At the beginning of each journal, please clearly indicate:
 - a. the course #(s),
 - b. course title(s), &
 - c. the professor(s) of the course(s), if you are taking more than one course
4. Name each journal entry clearly, by making the subject of the message as Journal #1 (#2, #3, #4, etc.) from XXXX (your full name).
5. In one email message, only send one journal entry by way of **copy & paste** (Do not send it as attachment, please). Send each journal entry separately; Do NOT attempt to include more than one journal entry in one message.

Grade and Reward

1. The professor will read your journals and respond if needed. If your journals are well written, professors may use them to replace some assignment(s) of the course, at the professors' discretion.
2. If you are taking more than one course, you still only write a total of FIVE journal entries; be sure you email each entry to both instructors if you are taking two courses from two professors.
3. The journals are part of the trip and course participation grade.
4. If you have been doing an exceptionally good job with the journals, the professors will give you extra credit (as much as 10% of the grade) for the course(s), at the professors' discretion.