



BEIJ CHIN 100 Beginning Chinese I

The Alliance for Global Education China Now: Development, Politics and Social Change Program, Fall 2009

Instructors Guo Wenjing and Wang Meng

General Information on the Course

This course is designed for beginners to learn the Chinese language in use and to gain rapid progress and fluency in the language. Classes focus on introducing basic Chinese vocabulary, grammar, sentence structures, simple texts and some pertinent culture tips.

This class is an intensive course, with 12 hours weekly schedule for 16 weeks, meets 5 days a week. Students are expected to spend 2-3 hours every day, besides the class time, preparing for class, previewing for daily dictation, and doing homework. Only Chinese is allowed to speak in the class. Students will mainly focus on improving the Chinese pronunciation and tones, learning new grammar patterns and practicing with the new learned grammars and vocabularies during the class hours. Organized in-class activities include daily dictation, bi-weekly test, memorizing the dialogues and oral exercises such as retelling stories, making up dialogues, presentation, or performing skits.

Objectives

This class helps students to strengthen their skills in listening, speaking, reading, and writing, through the in classroom language instructions and after class self-practice. The topics in the textbook are chosen to cover most commonly used daily conversations. The class is designed for 16 weeks only, mainly focus on improving students' listening and speaking abilities. Students are expected to learn at least new Chinese words every class day. By the end of the semester, students will be learning about 584 new characters, to recognize and write 592 new words, as well as about 105 new grammar patterns. Students should be able to hold fairly fluent conversations with local Chinese people on many common topics, such as shopping, meeting with new friends, renting an apartment in Beijing, or talking about their daily life in China.

Textbook

New Practical Chinese Reader, Volume 1&2, Prof. Liu Xun (chief compiler)

Class hours and Classroom

1. from Monday to Wednesday: Chinese Class (Building #17, Room 1102)
Section 1: 9:00-9:50
Section 2: 10:00-10:50
Section 3: 11:10-12:00
2. Thursday: Individual session (Building #17, Room 1102)
3. Friday: Practical Chinese and Bi-weekly Test

Textbooks and Activities

The first week of the course will focus on the phonetic part (pinyin). From the second week, students are required to learn how to read and write characters.

Preparation:

Before the Chinese class, students are expected to:

- (1) Use the CDs and DVDs come with the textbook regularly and frequently
- (2) Be familiar with the new vocabularies from the dialogues
- (3) Be able to read and write the new words correctly
- (4) Preview and try to understand all of the grammar patterns from the related chapters
- (5) Memorize the dialogue/chapter assigned by the class instructors
- (6) Complete homework assigned by the teachers

There will be a daily dictation session from Monday to Wednesday in the class.

In Class:

Section 1 & 2, Instructor: GUO, Wenjing

- (1) There is a daily dictation in the first hour session with pinyin, vocabulary and key sentences. Students are required to review what they have learned the day before and preview the new lesson. The dictation will be done at the beginning of each day's class. Students are expected to learn how to write both in pinyin and characters.
- (2) The instructor will introduce the new Chinese characters, and give hints to help students to recognize and memorize the new words.
- (3) Retelling the dialogue. Although it might be a bit boring, this traditional-style of Chinese teaching exercise is still considered extremely useful; students should try to memorize the text and learn to retell it with accurate and natural pronunciation.
- (4) Students will learn how to use new words in each dialogue during these two sessions. By using flashcards, students will be asked to read those words and try to use these words to answer questions. The teachers will design different language activities to guide students using the new vocabularies and new learned grammar structures to talk about their daily life, study, and travel experience etc.
- (5) To help students to understand grammars, the teacher designed the following activities for classroom practice: pattern drills, change sentences into certain formats by using the new learned structures, complete phrases or sentences with using the given words and so on. Meanwhile, the teacher will correct students' pronunciations, tones, and grammar mistakes.

Section 3, Instructor: WANG Meng

- (1) Students will be required to memorize the dialogue(s) assigned by the class instructors before the class.
- (2) Students will be guided to participate in some classroom activities like describing pictures, Q & A exercises, making up conversations, and performing skits, using keywords and grammars from the text.
- (3) The teacher will correct the mistakes made by students with detailed explanations and more practice. During the 3rd session, students are expected to speaking relatively fluently with correct grammar patterns and good pronunciations and tones.

Daily homework:

- a. Review the recently learned lessons and preview new vocabularies, grammar patterns, and dialogues.
- b. Finish the homework in the workbook assigned by the instructors
- c. Practice with the language partners: Role-play, culture experience and useful daily conversations

What we do on Thursdays

Each student has a 25 minute individual session with one teacher based on the individual needs. This session could be used to help students with their Capstone project research topics, building up related vocabularies, to design the questionnaire, practice with interview questions. In addition, students can also use this 25 minutes working on the mistakes from the homework or students' questions which haven't been answered during the class hours yet. Another good way using this individual session is having the teacher help to summarize the newly learned grammars and vocabularies in the past week.

What we do on Fridays

The bi-weekly quiz will be held every other week.

- 9:00-11:00 including listening test, 10 minutes

Alternate week: language practicum

Language Practicum

Language practicum sessions will be held every other week. In each session, we will have different topic introducing Chinese culture, arts, social issues, or local life in Beijing. The Chinese teachers will have the prepared vocabulary list delivered to students before the class. Usually, it will take 2-3 hours total. During the first hour, students will learn and practice the new words. After that, students will have opportunity talking with Chinese people on the certain topics. Field trips will be organized for this class as well, such as Beijing Opera performance, visiting tailor shops, and Chinese tea house. In the past, we have designed such topics for this session:

- a. Shopping and bargaining in China (购物与讲价)
- b. Self introduction and meeting with new friends in China (介绍自己并和中国人交朋友)

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- c. Travel in China (在中国旅行)
 - d. Chinese cooking 中国菜的派系和制作方法)
 - e. Beijing Opera (京剧艺术)
 - f. Traditional Chinese water-ink painting and calligraphy (传统中国书法与水墨画)
 - g. Beijing Olympic Games (北京奥运会)

Attendance Requirement

Class attendance is mandatory. As this is an intensive course, it is essential that students come to the class on time and attend class regularly. Students are allowed to miss class only if it is approved by the Program Director. Make-up exams, homework will be offered to students who have program director's approval. It should be done as soon as the student is available for class. Students who miss class for any other reasons will receive zero score for any exams, homework given during missed class time.

During the semester, there will be the following tests:

Bi- weekly quiz

Mid-term exam

Final exam

Evaluation Methods

Attendance 10%
 Daily performance 10%
 Dictation 10%
 Homework 10%
 Weekly Quizzes 20%
 Mid-term Examination 20%
 Final Examination 20%

Class Schedule

The 1 st week					
8/31-9/4	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
9:00~9:50	pinyin	pinyin	L1	Individual session	Language practicum
10:00~10:50					
11:10~12:00					

The 2nd week					
9/7-9/11	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
9:00~9:50	L2(I)	L2(II)	L3(I)	Individual session	Bi-weekly quiz
10:00~10:50					
11:10~12:00					

The 3rd week					
9/14-9/18	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
9:00~9:50	L3(II)	L4 (I)	L4 (II)	Individual session	Language practicum
10:00~10:50					
11:10~12:00					

The 4th week					
9/21-9/25	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
9:00~9:50	L5 (I)	L5 (II)	L6 (I)	Bi-weekly quiz	Field trip
10:00~10:50					
11:10~12:00					

The 5th week 9/28—10/4 field trip to Sichuan

The 6th week					
10/5-10/9	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
9:00~9:50	L6(II)	L7(I)	L7(II)	Individual session	Language practicum
10:00~10:50					
11:10~12:00					

The 7th week					
10/12-10/16	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
9:00~9:50	L8 (I)	L8 (II)	L 9 (I)	Individual session	Language practicum
10:00~10:50					
11:10~12:00					

The 8th week					
10/19—10/23	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
9:00~9:50	L9(II)	L10(I)	L10 (II)	review session	Midterm
10:00~10:50					
11:10~12:00					

The 9th week 10/24—11/1 fall break (independent travel)

The 10th week					
11/2—11/6	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
9:00~9:50	L11 (I)	L11(II)	L12(I)	Individual session	Language practicum
10:00~10:50					
11:10~12:00					

The 11^h week					
11/9—11/13	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
9:00~9:50	L12 (II)	L13 (I)	L13(II)	Individual session	Bi-weekly quiz
10:00~10:50					
11:10~12:00					

The 12th week					
11/16—11/20	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
9:00~9:50	L14(I)	L14 (II)	L15(I)	Individual session	Language practicum
10:00~10:50					
11:10~12:00					

The 13th week					
11/23—11/27	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
9:00~9:50	L15 (II)	L16 (I)	L16(II)	Individual session	Trip presentation
10:00~10:50					
11:10~12:00					

The 14th week					
11/30—12/4	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
9:00~9:50	L17 (I)	L17 (II)	L18(I)	Individual session	Bi-weekly quiz
10:00~10:50					
11:10~12:00					

The 15th week					
12/7—12/11	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
9:00~9:50	L18 (II)	L19 (I)	L19(II)	Individual session	Language practicum
10:00~10:50					
11:10~12:00					

The 16th week					
12/14—12/18	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
9:00~9:50	L20 (I)	L20 (II)	Placement test	Review session	Chinese finals and graduation
10:00~10:50					
11:10~12:00					