



**SHGH CHIN 1110: Elementary Chinese
3 credits Semester and Summer**

**CAPA SHANGHAI PROGRAM
in cooperation with East China Normal University**

Course Description

This course prepares students without any previous knowledge of Chinese in the fundamentals of Chinese pronunciation, oral expression, reading, comprehension and writing, with a greater focus on spoken Mandarin. China has the largest population of any country and a civilization dating back over four thousand years. It has extended a powerful influence over the whole of East Asia throughout much of this long history, contributing to the region a complex and beautiful writing system, several religious and philosophical traditions, great achievements in art and literature and, in the twentieth century, political significance.

Now, as China emerges as a powerful economic force, its stature is too great to be ignored. Our courses offer students the opportunity to learn the basics of the language, opening the door not only to the fascinating and rewarding world of Chinese culture, but to enhanced career opportunities and the chance to participate fully in a world in which China is about to take centre stage.

This course is designed to teach basic Mandarin Chinese to students, who will learn to use and understand the language in its daily contexts, as well as developing a knowledge of Chinese culture. Students will be taught basic language skills through listening to, speaking, reading and writing modern Chinese, with an emphasis on conversational activities. Instructors will first present the students with a brief introduction to the history and context of Chinese language, one of the oldest languages in the world, and then explain the phonetics system and basic Chinese character structure. There will be exploration and explanation of Mandarin vocabulary, and most of the vocabulary will be dedicated to real-life situations. Syntax and grammar will be examined, utilizing a functional approach, to show students a clear structure of learning and development, and typical sentences will be presented as examples.

Course Aims

The course provides exercises and instruction for students to understand and to use familiar expressions in daily life. Students will learn to introduce themselves and others, and talk about simple topics and activities in their daily life. By the end of the course students will be able to interact comfortably with people outside school and manage their life in Shanghai in straightforward situations, such as in a shop, at the restaurant, in a post office, etc.

Requirements and Prerequisites

Even though the course is introductory, students are expected to be equipped with a good basic knowledge of English grammar rules, which will aid instruction. Students do not need a prior course in Mandarin to take the class.

Learning Outcomes

- a. Providing students with an intensive and experiential approach to language instruction.
- b. Providing sufficient language for basic and effective understanding of conversational Chinese and limited written Chinese.
- c. Giving students a sound base in grammar and language tools to build towards a higher level of Chinese.
- d. Students should be able to identify, define, and solve problems; locate and critically evaluate information; master a body of knowledge and a mode of inquiry; begin to communicate effectively; gain a deeper understanding of the host culture where they are studying.

Developmental Outcomes

Students should demonstrate: responsibility & accountability, independence & interdependence, goal orientation, self-confidence, resilience, appreciation of differences.

Class methodology

The class will take an experiential and participatory, as well as an academic approach to learning: a large number of practical exercises will be involved in class, including: reading, conversation, role play, listening, and pronunciation. The class offers a fully integrated approach to language acquisition.

Field Component(s): CAPA provides the unique opportunity to learn about the city through direct, guided experience. Participation in the field activity(s) for this course is required. You will actively explore the Global City you are currently living in. Furthermore, you will have the chance to collect useful information that will be an invaluable resource for the essays/papers/projects assigned in this course.

Course Materials

Recommended Reading

Kang, Y., Lai, S. (2005) Conversational Chinese 汉语会话301 句

Ma, J. (2005) Short-term Spoken Chinese 汉语口语速成

Concise English-Chinese & Chinese-English Dictionary (1999). New York, NY: Oxford University Press (Optional).

Assessment/Grading Policy

This course comprises of a core section (3 credits), which includes oral and listening elements which are required components.

Core Section: Integrated language skill training class.

Pre-class qualification: Beginners, any student who wants to learn Chinese language.

Teaching Aims: To conduct basic Chinese listening, speaking, reading, writing and integrated skills training and teach knowledge of the language, with preliminary verbal communication skills.

Teaching Content: Two phases:

(1) Pronunciation: Chinese Mandarin Pronunciation Teaching. Introduction to a basic knowledge of Pinyin and Chinese Characters, including basic reading and writing.

(2) Phrases and Grammar: Basic Chinese phrases and grammar.

Teaching Methods: Classroom training sessions.

Examination: Every 2 weeks there will be a test, mid-term and a final examination

Elementary Oral Chinese component:

Course Type: Verbal ability training course.

Teaching Aims: To develop students' ability to conduct daily conversations in Chinese and improve general communication.

Teaching Content: To provide students with common, practical and real communication situations, so that students can organize sentences and passages to make conversations.

Teaching Methods: Using specific scenarios, we will focus on understanding, imitation and practice; there will be free conversational practice.

Examination: Mid-term and a final examination.

Total teaching time: If semester based, 3 hours per week. If summer based, 6 hours per week

Attendance, Participation & Student Responsibilities

Attendance: CAPA has a mandatory attendance policy. Attendance is taken at the beginning of every class. Unauthorized absence from class will result in a reduction of the final grade and potentially a failure for the course.

Missing classes for medical reasons: If you need to miss a class for medical reasons or for a family emergency, you must send an e-mail to let the Resident Director know at least one hour in advance of your class or meeting at the following e-mail: _____. Note that calling the CAPA Center (_____) is acceptable only if you do not temporarily have access to the internet. An e-mail is still required as quickly as you can get access to the internet again. You will need to provide evidence of the reason for your absence. Unexcused absences will result in a grade reduction. In the event of a missed class or field trip, it is your responsibility to contact your instructor and make up any missed assignments.

Class Participation: Students are expected to participate actively and critically in class discussions, and the participation portion of the class will be graded accordingly. Students must read assignments BEFORE the class, and come in on time.

Participation is a vital part of your grade: students are expected to participate orally in seminars and in online forums and discussions in a critical and evaluative manner; to interact with the faculty and fellow students with respect and tolerance; and to actively engage in discussion. Derogatory or inflammatory comments about the cultures, perspectives or attitudes of others in the class will not be tolerated.

Academic Integrity: A high level of responsibility and academic honesty is expected. Because the value of an academic course depends upon the absolute integrity of the work done by the student, it is imperative that a student demonstrates a high standard of individual honor in his or her scholastic work and class behavior. Plagiarism and cheating will result in dismissal from the program. See the Handbook of CAPA Academic Policies for more information and resources on plagiarism.

Use of electronic equipment in class: All devices such as laptops, I-pods, I-pads, netbooks, notebooks and tablets, smartphones, cell phones, etc. are **NOT** allowed unless you have express permission from the faculty or you have been instructed to do so. If you require an accommodation to use any type of electronic equipment, inform the Resident Director at the beginning of Term.

Use of Electronic Translators: In Language courses students are NOT allowed to use electronic translators for writing texts in the target language: those submitting compositions and texts of whatever kind translated in such a fashion will receive a final F grade for the course.

Late Submission: Late submission of papers, projects, journal entries, pieces of homework and portfolios is only permitted with prior approval. A request must be made to the relevant Faculty member no later than two days prior to the due date. Late submission without prior approval will result in a full alpha grade

penalty. In either case, work cannot be submitted after feedback has been provided to the rest of the class on the relevant assessment or one week after the due date whichever comes first, after which point a grade of F will be given for the assessment.

Behavior during Examinations: During examinations, you must do your own work. Unless specifically instructed by the lecturer or instructor, talking during an exam is not permitted, nor may you compare papers, copy from others, or collaborate in any way. Any failure to abide by examination rules will result in failure of the exam, and may lead to failure of the course and disciplinary action.