

**CHINESE 121**  
**ELEMENTARY CHINESE MANDARIN**

**BULLETIN INFORMATION**

CHIN 121: Elementary Chinese Mandarin (4 credit hours)

**Course Description:**

Grammar and practical vocabulary necessary for fundamental communication skills. Assumes no prior experience in the language. Offered only in fall.

**SAMPLE COURSE OVERVIEW**

TBA

**ITEMIZED LEARNING OUTCOMES**

**Upon successful completion of Chinese 121, students will be able to:**

1. Read, write, and pronounce Hanyu pinyin, the Romanization system used for standard Mandarin Chinese.
2. Describe the basics of the Chinese writing system, including the “radical” components in the classification of Chinese characters and the differences between traditional and simplified character sets.
3. Pronounce, read, and write (in simplified characters) the vocabulary introduced in this course, including roughly 200 characters introduced in the lessons.
4. Use basic grammar and sentence patterns in both speech and short written compositions.
5. Demonstrate basic understanding of Chinese culture including Chinese money, the Chinese transportation system, Chinese names and kinship terms, the Chinese calendar, Chinese greetings, and Chinese etiquette.

**SAMPLE REQUIRED TEXTS/SUGGESTED READINGS/MATERIALS**

1. *Integrated Chinese, Level 1, Part 1: Textbook, 3rd edition* (Simplified Chinese); *Workbook* (Simplified Chinese); *Character workbook* (Simplified & Traditional). Both the textbook and the workbook should be brought to every class session.

**SAMPLE ASSIGNMENTS AND/OR EXAMS**

Doing well in a language class requires consistent, but not exhausting, effort. If you budget your time outside of class to make sure you practice regularly, you will succeed. Because of the nature of the subject, cramming at the last minute will almost surely lead to unsatisfactory performance in Chinese – in other words, don’t fall behind! From my own experience, I suggest that you spread your work outside of class over five or six 45-60 minute sessions during the week to keep the material fresh in your mind.

1. **Attendance and Participation:** Attendance and active participation is required for all class sessions. Students will prepare textbook materials marked on the syllabus before coming to class. Students should expect to spend a minimum of six hours outside of class each week to prepare for class sessions, excluding homework and other assignments.
2. **Lesson Tests:** Make-up tests cannot be given without written proof of a legitimate absence. Tests cannot be given in advance.
3. **Homework:** Workbook and Character Workbook
4. **Dictation quizzes or tingxie**
5. **Hanyu fayin zhensuo – Chinese Pronunciation Clinics:** Three pronunciation clinics will be scheduled outside of class for students to work one-on-one to improve their Mandarin pronunciation. For each clinic, students will prepare a recording of themselves reading a text aloud.
6. **Oral Midterm Exam**
7. **Final Exam:** The final exam will include an oral component that must be scheduled separately from the written exam.

### **SAMPLE COURSE OUTLINE WITH TIMELINE OF TOPICS, READINGS/ASSIGNMENTS, EXAMS/PROJECTS**

#### **Weeks 1-3:** Introduction and Greetings

Cultural Content: Discussing family and place names in Chinese.  
 Grammar to be tested: Chinese pronunciation, Verbs *xing*, *jiao* and *shi*.  
 The use of *ma* in questions, the adverb *ye*, and the negative adverb *bu*.

#### **Weeks 4-5:** Family

Cultural Content: Chinese kinship terms, the Chinese education system.  
 Grammar to be tested: The particle *de*, measure words, *you*, *dou*, *er* versus *liang*.

#### **Weeks 5-6:** Dates and Time

Cultural Content: Chinese calendar, Chinese manner of counting age, Chinese food.  
 Grammar to be tested: Counting, numbers, pronouns as modifiers, alternative questions, affirmative + negative questions, the adverb *hai*.

#### **Weeks 6-7:** Hobbies

Cultural Content: Chinese outings and paying for dinner, Chinese pastimes.  
 Grammar to be tested: Word order, more on affirmative + negative questions, the conjunction *name*, *qu* + action, questions with *haoma*, the modal verb *xiang*, verb + object as detachable compound.

#### **Weeks 8-9:** Visiting Friends

Cultural Content: Civilities upon meeting for the first time, Chinese tea.

Grammar to be tested: Adjectives as predicates, the preposition *zai*, the particle *ba*, the particle *le*, the adverb *cai*.

**Weeks 10-11:** Making Appointments

Cultural Content: Chinese phone etiquette, Chinese phone numbers, Chinese names for the Chinese language.

Grammar to be tested: The preposition *gei*, the modal verb *yao*, the adverb *bie*, time expressions, the modal verb *dei*, directional complements.

**Weeks 12-13:** Studying Chinese

Cultural Content: Chinese writing brushes and other materials, Chinese calligraphy.

Grammar to be tested: Descriptive Complements, the adverbs *tai* and *zhen*, the adverb *jiu*, double objects, ordinal numbers, *you yi dian*, *zenme*, the *de* structure, the use of nouns and pronouns in continuous discourse.

**Weeks 14-15:** School Life

Cultural Content: Chinese school year, Chinese letter format.

Grammar to be tested: Time-when expressions, the adverb *jiu*, *yibian...yibian*, *le*, *de*, the adverb *zhengzai*, *chule...yiwai*, *neng* and *hui* compared.

**Week 16:** Final Exam according to University exam schedule

**HOMEWORK SCHEDULE:**

L = Lesson; D = Dialogue; WB = Workbook; CW = Character Workbook; N = Narrative

**Week 2:** CW: 1-11, L1:D1, CW: 17-22

**Week 3:** L1:D1, L1:D2, WB: 15-17, WB: 23-27, CW: 13-15, CW: 23-26

**Week 4:** \*\*\*Week 4 schedule □□□音□所 outside of class\*\*\*  
L2:D1, L2:D2, CW: 27-32, CW: 33-36, WB: 30-34

**Week 5:** L2:D2, L3:D1, WB: 37-42, CW: 37-43, Review L2,  
Test L1 & L2

**Week 6:** L3:D1, L3:D2, WB: 44(iii)-50, WB: 52(iii)-57, CW: 45-47

**Week 7:** \*\*\*Week 7 schedule □□□音□所 outside of class\*\*\*  
Review L3, Test L3, L4:D1, CW: 49-55, WB: 61-65

**Week 8:** L4:D2, L5:D1, CW: 56-58, WB: 68(iii)-74, CW: 59-64

- Week 9:** L5:D1, L5:N, WB: 78(iv)-81, WB: 86(iv)-88, CW: 65-66
- Week 10:** Review Lessons 4 and 5, Test L4 & L5, Oral Midterm Exam
- Week 11:** L6:D1, L6:D2, CW: 67-73, CW: 74-7, WB: 98(iv)-101
- Week 12:** L6:D2, L7:D1, WB: 107(iv)-110, CW: 77-81, Review Lesson 6
- Week 13:** L7:D1, L7:D2, WB: 115-118, WB: 122(iv)-125, CW: 82-83
- Week 14:** \*\*\*Week 14 schedule □□□音□所 outside of class\*\*\*  
Review L6 & L7, L6&7 Test, L8:D1, CW: 85-90
- Week 15:** L8:D1, WB: 132-136
- Week 16:** L8:D2, CW:91-94, WB: 141(iv)-146, Review