

**Department of Comparative Literature
University of Georgia**

**CHNS 1001 Introductory Chinese Level 1
Fall 2007**

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Time: Mon & Fri 12:20 ~ 1:10, Tue & Thu 12:30 ~ 1:45
Classroom: Joe Brown 241
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Office Hours: Tue & Thu 2:00 ~ 3:00

Textbooks:

Required: Integrated Chinese, Level 1, Part 1, including

- Textbook (ISBN Traditional: 0887274595; Simplified: 0887274609)
- Workbook (ISBN Traditional: 0887274617; Simplified: 0887274625)
- Character Workbook (ISBN Traditional & Simplified: 0887274382)

Optional: Audio CD

- It is accessible through <http://www.cheng-tsui.com/>. (ISBN: 0887274676)

General Description of this Course

Is Chinese important for you? How important? If the answer is “yes” and “very important,” the following news could be frustrating: you have already missed the golden time in learning this Asian language, which is something from the Mars.

Among all foreign languages, especially the so called “mainstream” ones, Chinese is one of the few that has no connection to alphabetic writing. According to the statistics, an American student needs 2,200 class hours to become fluent in Chinese. In comparison to Spanish or French learning, which needs only 480 hours, Chinese is 5 times harder. We may infer that a three-thousand level student in the Spanish class can talk to the instructor in basic Spanish. However, a student on the same level Chinese class cannot even make a grammatically correct Chinese sentence.

I have one sincere suggestion for you: “Don’t **TRY** Chinese unless you are well prepared.” You will certainly learn nothing if (1) you are not persistent, (2) you are not self-motivated, and (3) you don’t spend at least one hour a day in learning Chinese.

Course Outline:

There are 11 lessons in the first textbook. The minimum requirement is the completion of eight lessons. Schedule in this class is not fixed but fully depends on the extent to which students can absorb and understand.

Grading:

Technically, grades are the summation of a student’s final examination (20%), mid-term

examination (10%), and classroom performances (70%). The 70% classroom performances are comprised of attendances, homework assignments, quizzes, and skit shows.

- **Attendances (4 times allowed; 1 point reduction since the 5th absence):** Attendance is absolutely required because information in the textbooks is sometimes incorrect and ambiguous. Excused and unexcused absences will only be allowed for 4 times. 1 point will be subtracted from one's overall grade. Quiz in the absent day cannot be made up after the marginal limit. Late arrival, after ten minutes, will be regarded as an absence.
- **Homework Assignments (25%):** Please staple every piece of homework assignment. Unstapled assignment will not be accepted. You may get: check plus (1.2), check (1.0), check minus (0.6), and no check mark (0.0). The best grade of late submission is check minus. You will be required to submit character practices before the start of a new lesson. You will also be required to submit workbook practices.
- **Quizzes (35%):** Quizzes include listening comprehension, sentence making, Q & A, and all materials covered in the class. Quiz makeup should be finished within a week.
- **Skit Show and Cultural Presentation (10%):** Students have 2 show times in this class. Students organize their own groups (4-5 people) and write their own manuscripts. No cheat sheet is allowed during the show. More details will be announced.
- **No Extra Credit**

The Office of the Vice President for Instruction has recently announced that beginning summer semester 2006 all courses will be graded on a plus/minus system. Under this system, letter grades will correspond to the following numerical standard:

A	90 or above	4.0	C+	73-76	2.3
A-	87-89	3.7	C	70-72	2.0
B+	83-86	3.3	C-	66-69	1.7
B	80-82	3.0	D	60-65	1.0
B-	77-79	2.7	F	below 59	0.0

Special Concerns:

1. This is a simplified Chinese class. Students choosing traditional Chinese are encouraged to choose other sessions.
2. Students who have any physical or learning disabilities or any special problems should inform the instructor at the beginning of the semester.
3. Students who have Chinese background should inform the instructor in the beginning of the semester. Criteria designed for beginners shall not be applicable to those who have studied Chinese in their early age. Other tasks will be assigned due to the "fairness" consideration.

Academic Honesty Policy:

All academic work must meet the standards contained "A Culture of Honesty." All students are responsible to inform themselves about those standards before performing any academic work.

Disclaimers:

This course syllabus simply provides a general plan for the course; deviations announced to the class by the instructor may be necessary.