

## **Chinese 1010: ELEMENTARY CHINESE**

Brooklyn College, *The City University of New York*  
Study Abroad in China Program

**Instructor:** Professor Yonggang Huang, Ph.D.

### **Textbook**

Elizabeth Scurfield (2010). **Complete Mandarin Chinese** (with two 75-minute CDs). Publisher: McGraw Hill.

ISBN 978-0-07-173727-2

Recommended website:

<http://mjiaang.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;
4. Students will learn to write Chinese characters with simpler strokes (64 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. Listen to the CD and practice the pinyin (phonetics); and

2. 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;
5. Complete the practice exercises at the end of the lesson.

### **Evaluation**

Punctuality, attendance and participation	20%
Presentation and quizzes	30%
Oral test	20%
Final written exam	30%

As this course is part of the study abroad program, students are advised that their behavior during the program may affect their final grade for the course.

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 7:30-10:30 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: quiz on “Testing Yourself” and 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**

1. 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).
2. Students will come to the instructor for help in activity of “One Sentence A Day;” each student is responsible of creating one sentence in Chinese one day and practicing it in real life situation. A final performance of speaking these sentences will be included as part of the oral examination.

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.

### **Tentative Class Schedule**

#### **Day 1: Making friends (i)**

Saying hello; observing basic courtesies; saying please and thank you; Chinese names

#### **Day 2: Making friends (ii)**

Making simple introductions; exchanging greetings; addressing people correctly; making simple apologies; measure words and numbers 0 – 99

#### **Day 3: Making friends (iii)**

Asking about children; asking about marriage state; question words

#### **Day 4: Two days later**

Inviting someone to your home, telling the time

#### **Day 5: At the lis’(i)**

Saying where you are from and what nationality you are; Chinese equivalents of foreign names, more on measure words, abbreviations, singing a Chinese song

#### **Day 6: At the lis’(ii)**

Making appropriate remarks and responses during a meal, saying how not to do something, expressing the complement of degree

Characters: 一, 二, 三, 四, 五, 六, 七, 八, 九, 十。

#### **Day 7: In the house**

Describing the appearance of an apartment/house with a balcony and small garden in simple terms;  
describing the furniture and appliances in each room; describing the most common items

Characters: 男, 女, 我, 你, 他, 她。

**Day 8: At the lis'(iii)**

Describing the rooms in an apartment/house, thanking your hosts for their hospitality and understanding their responses, asking questions in the form of alternatives, expressing direction towards or away from the speaker, auxiliary verbs

Characters: 口, 是, 不, 手, 心, 小。

**Day 9: Eating out**

Asking people if they have ever done something, saying where places and things are, talking about food and restaurants, comparing and contrasting, talking about your family

Characters: 那, 这, 请, 中, 上, 下。

**Day 10: Teething troubles**

Expressing that something is happening, more about directional endings and resultative verbs, days of the week, how to express the passive

Characters: 多, 少, 来, 去, 又, 会。

**Day 11: Weather ,dates and seasons**

The weather and seasons in Beijing, what Chinese people do when the weather is fine, months of the year, more on the comparative, expressing the duration of something

Characters: 好, 谢, 见, 要, 说, 的。

**Day 12: In the restaurant**

Expressing approximate numbers, more on the use of *le*, the difference between *cai* and *jiu*.

Characters: 人, 大, 吗, 在, 很, 再。

**Day 13: Grammar review**

Common measure words, denominations of money, time words and expressions, resultative verbs, auxiliary verbs and conjugations

Characters: 把, 还, 没, 美, 都, 只。

**Day 14: An introduction to Chinese characters**

The earliest characters, the evolution of characters, how characters are composed, radicals of significs, recognizing useful public notices and signs.

Characters: 了, 有, 和, 个, 着, 想。

**Day 15: Shopping**

Asking for things in shops, asking the price, Chinese money, stroke order of useful Chinese characters and their radicals.

Characters: 从, 国, 东, 南, 西, 北。