

CHIN 1A ELEMENTARY MANDARIN (5 units)

Prof. Lewis Robinson
(robinsonl@csus.edu)
Office: Mariposa 2059

Office Hours: MWF 10:30 – 11:30
Office Phone: (916) 278-6726

TEXT

T'ung & Pollard, *Colloquial Chinese* (both *pinyin* and character texts)
(The course will cover lessons 1 through 6 of both texts)

CATALOG DESCRIPTION

Beginning Mandarin with emphasis on listening comprehension, speaking, grammar structure and character writing. The relationship between language and culture will also be emphasized. Includes an introduction to elements of Chinese culture that pertains to language, such as mode of thinking, inter-human relations, and aesthetic expressions. (CAN CHIN 002)

METHOD OF INSTRUCTION

This is the first-semester course of Elementary Mandarin Chinese (1A – 1B). The course is designed to foster development of basic skills in spoken and written Mandarin Chinese (the national language of both the People's Republic of China, where it is known as *putonghua*, and Taiwan, where it is known as *Guoyu*). Proficiency in the language will be assessed on the basis of the student's overall competency as a non-native speaker in the four language skills—listening comprehension, speaking, reading and writing—within the scope of the course materials. The *pinyin* Romanization system will be used in the course to transcribe the spoken language. The student is expected to be able to write and read both the *pinyin* Romanization and the Chinese characters. As we proceed through the semester, class will be conducted as much as possible in Mandarin Chinese, with some English explanation provided when necessary on grammatical structures. The student will learn the language through class discussion, oral practice in small groups, role-playing, interaction with the instructor, writing and listening exercises, and homework assignments, quizzes and exams. Daily attendance is mandatory.

STUDENT LEARNING OBJECTIVES & OUTCOMES

In this course the student will learn to use everyday greeting expressions, give and ask for simple personal information, talk about weather, food and drinks, costs and prices, make simple suggestions, and give simple explanations and reasons. The student will learn to give a self-introduction within the scope of the course materials, including family members, likes and dislikes, and simple future plans. By the end of the semester, the student's speech and writing should be comprehensible by the native speaker with little or no difficulty and, within the range of the course material, the student should be able to understand a native speaker of Standard Mandarin with minimal repetition.

STUDENT ASSESSMENT

The course grade is based, as outlined below, on comprehensive examinations, lesson tests, vocabulary quizzes, homework assignments, oral presentation and class attendance. *No make-up tests will be given without prior arrangement with the instructor.*

4 periodic tests	(LL. 1,2,4,5)	30%
6 vocabulary tests	(one per lesson)	15%
Mid-Term Exam	(LL. 1-3)	15%
Oral Presentation	(self-introduction)	10%
Final Exam*	(LL. 1-6)	20%
Class Participation & Assignments		10%

*The Final Exam will be Wed., Dec. 16th, 8:00 – 10:00 a.m. in the regular classroom

Task Completion

- 1—Minimal attempt to complete the task,
- 2—Partial completion of the task (content appropriate, but undeveloped),
- 3—Completion of the task (content appropriately and adequately developed),
- 4—Superior completion of the task: a well-composed presentation.

Comprehensibility

- 1—Presentation barely comprehensible,
- 2—Presentation mostly comprehensible, requiring some educated guesses,
- 3—Presentation comprehensible with minimal need to guess at meaning,
- 4—Presentation readily comprehensible.

Fluency

- 1—Speech halting and uneven with long pauses and/or incomplete thoughts,
- 2—Speech slow and/or with frequent pauses, few or no incomplete thoughts,
- 3—Some hesitation but manages to continue and complete thoughts,
- 4—Speech continuous with little stumbling.

Pronunciation

- 1—Frequent errors, little or no communication,
- 2—Occasional problems with communication,
- 3—No interference with communication,
- 4—Communication with ease.

Vocabulary

- 1—Inadequate and/or inaccurate use of vocabulary,
- 2—Somewhat inadequate and/or inaccurate use of vocabulary,
- 3—Adequate and accurate use of vocabulary,
- 4—Rich use of vocabulary.

N.B.: Students with disabilities will be accommodated. Please alert the instructor.

