

Elementary Chinese (1A) Fall 2015
Department of East Asian Languages and Cultures
University of California, Berkeley

Course Instructors:

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Textbooks: *Integrated Chinese I, Level 1, Part I (3rd Ed):*

- Textbook (simplified character edition) and Workbook (simplified character edition)
- Character Workbook (traditional & simplified character edition)
Available at: East Wind Books (2066 University Ave. 510-548-2350); ASUC (the Bear Student Stores in Student Union Building)

Course Description and Objectives

This introductory course is designed to develop beginning learners' functional language ability—the ability to use Mandarin Chinese in linguistically and culturally appropriate ways at the beginning level. We emphasize training students in four language skills (listening, speaking, reading and writing) and help students acquire communicative competence in Chinese while sensitizing them to the links between language and culture. The course will focus on the learning process and result. Classroom activities will involve instructional lecturers, student-centered activities and group tasks. The detailed class objectives are listed below:

1. Phonetics. You will learn *pinyin* (the phonetic pronunciation system) in class. By the end of this course, you should be able to read and spell pinyin correctly and have a good command of the four tones integral to Mandarin Chinese.
2. Vocabulary. You will learn about 370 simplified characters. Vocabulary building is essential in acquiring the four language skills. Basic orthographic knowledge will be introduced to help you develop strategies in learning Chinese characters.
3. Speaking and Listening. By the end of the course, the goal will be to reach the proficiency level of beginning-mid in speaking and listening on the proficiency scale of the American Council of Teaching Foreign Language. You are expected to be able to communicate socially on straightforward and basic everyday matters at that level.
4. Reading and writing. The focus of reading comprehension and writing in this course are various types of sentence constructions. You will be introduced to the basic sentence components of Mandarin Chinese. By the end of this course, you are expected to understand main ideas from short readings dealing with basic personal and social scenarios, and have the skills to express basic personal needs in short writings with vocabulary and structures you have learned.

Academic Integrity

There is a zero-tolerance policy toward cheating, plagiarism, and any other form of academic dishonesty in this course. This means that anyone found taking credit for work that is not his or her own, or cheating in any other way, will receive a failing grade for the entire course. Note that ignorance of the policy is not considered a mitigating circumstance, so if you have any questions about what counts as cheating or plagiarism, speak with the instructor. Please go to <http://teaching.berkeley.edu/statements-course-policies> for more information.

Course-related Media on BLC

Video and audio files are copyright protected and can be accessed on the Berkeley Language Center website (<http://blc.berkeley.edu>). Please find “For Students” at the top of the webpage and choose “Online Language Lessons.”

You'll need the following information to log in: **Username: Berkeley Password: BLC=languages**
After logging in, look under “Mandarin” to find the links corresponding to our textbooks (Integrated Chinese, Third Ed. Level 1 Part 1)

Grading System

(Some details might be subject to change. Please refer to our e-gradebook for updated info.)

Assignments	10%	Test 1 (lessons 1, 2 & pinyin)	10%
Quizzes & Multimedia assignments	10%	Test 2 (lessons 3 & 4)	10%
Langlab Activities	10%	Test 3 (lessons 5 & 6)	10%
Language & Culture Tasks	10%	Test 4 (lessons 7 & 8)	10%
Class Performance & Attendance	10%	Test 5 (lessons 9 & 10)	10%

Accommodation of Religious Creed and other Conflicts

Please notify your instructor by the 2nd week of the term about any known or potential extracurricular conflicts. We'll try our best to help you with making accommodations, but cannot promise them in all cases.

Preparation for the Class

In order to maximize the efficiency of classroom learning, we want to stress the importance of daily preparation. This is a course with 5 credit hours. You are expected to spend at least 10 hours on class preparation per week. To learn a new language well, you are encouraged to learn new patterns of language behavior and make efforts to practice them. Your preparation needs to be oriented toward doing rather than merely knowing. It is crucial that partners respect each other and work as a team. Using your class resources efficiently is also an important part of your daily preparation.

Course Policy (please refer to bCourses for updated details.)

1. Class participation is essential in Chinese 1A. Due to the predominant group and pair-work orientation of this course, your absence will affect your own learning and also your classmates'. Two absences can be excused for emergencies such as sudden sickness and/or unexpected accidents during the entire semester. After that, invalid absences up to 5 times will result in the downgrading of your final grade by one level (for example, an A will go down to an A-); invalid absences up to 13 times will result in an automatic fail. However, if a class absence is due to academic commitment or serious health problems you can be excused if you can provide your instructors with official documents from related authorities (i.e., a note from your doctor, a letter from your coach, professors, etc.).
2. The definition of an absence in 1A means that a student is not present for the entire class. That is, if you leave early, it is considered as an invalid absence and no points will be issued for quizzes if any are taken that day. Absences due to non-academic/non health-related reasons will NOT be excused. For example, family events/incidents (e.g., reunions, weddings, birthday celebrations, friend's illness) or flight delays. Each invalid absence will result in 5-point deduction from the attendance category.
3. There are NO early/late tests or make-up attendance points for invalid absences as described above. Absent students are responsible for catching up with the class. Your instructor will take attendance in every class. If you come to class after that, one point will be deducted (5 points off after 20 minutes) from the performance category. Please note that you are responsible to inform your instructor to change your status of "absent" to "late" right at the end of the class. Lateness or early departure will result in deduction from the performance category. The class performance category also means you are present in body and mind, you are prepared for class, participating in discussion and group work, and answering questions.
4. Late assignments should be submitted on the next day and will receive only half credit unless you can provide the aforementioned official documents. No points will be issued if the assignment is two-days late. There are no make-up exams for the unit tests unless official documents from related authorities are presented.
5. Please keep all the hard copies of returned course documents (quizzes, assignments and so forth). You are responsible for checking the uploaded scores in your e-gradebook. If there is any discrepancy, please bring your hard copy to your instructor for an update. In principle, all the scores in the bCourses gradebook will be finalized after three weeks. For instance, scores of week 2 will be finalized by the end of week 5 and will not be modified after week 5.
6. Some of the course assignments require Internet access, computer facility and/or collaborative work among your class partners. Please make arrangements and a backup plan accordingly in advance. To be fair to the whole class, any last minute notice, for example, laptop malfunction (or got stolen), and/or Internet problems cannot be excuses for delayed assignments or missing tests.