



VESALIUS COLLEGE vzw/asbl

Spring 2017

LCH101G

Elementary Chinese

Contact Details for Professor

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Learning Objectives

After this course, students should be able to:

- Understand simple, standard speech which is slow and carefully articulated
- Speak and read Chinese out loud with correct pronunciation and tone
- Ask and answer questions in the most common everyday situations learned
- Read and understand short and simple texts
- Write basic strokes in the correct order, write the most commonly used radicals (*pianpang*), write about 120 characters; write simple notes and sentences with the help of a dictionary

Course Description

This course teaches Mandarin Chinese, which is used as official language in Taiwan and mainland of P.R. China. Equal emphasis will be given to listening and comprehension, speaking, reading and writing. The objective is to lay a solid foundation for further learning in Chinese. The course will be conducted, as far as possible, in Chinese from the beginning. After this course students should be able to speak with correct pronunciation and tone, write all strokes in the correct order and some Chinese characters, understand and read simple conversations and texts. The course will also expose students to various aspects of Chinese culture. It is designed for students with no prior knowledge of Chinese.

Course Materials

Main textbook: New Practical Chinese Reader I, 2nd edition published in 2010, reprinted in 2015 (11th).

Extra materials will be distributed in class.

Students are encouraged to read publications in simple Chinese.

Method

Equal emphasis will be given to listening and comprehension, speaking, reading and writing.

- Students will firstly learn phonetics - **pinyin** and tones - for pronunciation with the help of audio files and exercises.
- The correct way of writing **characters** will be demonstrated during the class. Students will be required to copy one sample in their *Tigeben* (a notebook designed to write Chinese characters) per character, and complete the entire line (7 more the same characters) at home. Homework will be checked and corrected each week.
- **Vocabulary** will be introduced mainly through visual demonstration, dramatization and the association of ideas. In addition, vocabulary will be taught in groups of associated words, as this has been proven to be one of the most effective and efficient ways to learn a language.
- **Grammar** will be presented by means of examples and analogies. When a new sentence pattern is introduced, it will always reflect the simplest vocabulary used. Due to the nature of the Chinese language, grammar will not be explained through the medium of English, but, rather by demonstration and repetition of sentence (grammar) patterns.
- The **texts** in the textbook will not serve as a tool for learning either vocabulary or sentence patterns. Rather, they have three functions:
 - 1) Revision of vocabulary and sentence patterns learned in the lesson
 - 2) Comprehension and listening
 - 3) Speaking practice
- Each lesson contains some comprehension **exercises** and written exercises. The former will be done during the class, the latter can be used either as homework or class work.

The class- and homework will include work with audio files, student interaction, written exercises and group-work.

Grading Scale of Vesalius College

Vesalius College grading policy, in line with the Flemish Educational norms, is now as follows:

Grade	Scale of 20	Scale of 100
A	17.0-20.0	85-100
A-	16.1-16.9	81-84
B+	15.3-16.0	77-80
B	14.5-15.2	73-76
B-	13.7-14.4	69-72
C+	13.1-13.6	66-68
C	12.3-13.0	62-65
C-	11.5-12.2	58-61
D+	10.7-11.4	54-57
D	10.0-10.6	50-53
F	Below 50	0-49

Course Assessment

The students will be evaluated on the basis of their performance as follows:

➤ Chinese characters (should be completed after each lesson)	10%
➤ One group assignment*	10%
➤ Two written assignments with oral presentations in class	20%
➤ Midterm examination (written)	25%
➤ Final examination (oral)	10%
➤ Final examination (written)	<u>25%</u>
TOTAL	100%

All papers and exams will be given a numerical grade. The final course grade is the sum of the grade points in the above list.

* Group assignment: The students will be divided into groups to make separate summary lists, such as vocabulary and pronunciation, translation, and measure words. The lists will be corrected and distributed during week 6 (before the Midterm examination) and week 13 (before the Final examination).

Grading Criteria

The following criteria will be applied to the assessment of written work:

- Weekly learning Chinese characters: written correctly and entire line completed in the *Tiangeben*
- Group assignments (summary lists): be completed, written correctly in both *pinyin* and characters, and translated into English correctly
- The two out-of-class assignments (handwritten papers are accepted): should be readable with appropriate word use and correct sentence structure

- In the midterm and final written exams: apart from the requirements mentioned above, students should show evidence that they understand what they have learned and that they are able to use language in real-life situations

The following criteria will be applied in assessing students' oral performance (oral presentation of two assignments and final oral exam):

- Pronounce words correctly both phonetically and tonally
- Speak words clearly so that they are easily understood by others
- Pause at appropriate points to demonstrate that they understand the meaning of what they are reading
- Accurately read exactly what is on the printed page without skipping words or parts of words, or exchanging one word for another

Additional Course Policies

- **Attendance:** All students are expected to come to each class and participate actively. Students who are not in class are still responsible for assignments due and for information given during class. Long and unexcused absences will result in an F.
- **Participation:** Participation includes regular attendance, timely submission of written assignments, active contribution to class activities.
- **Taking notes during the class:** Since the classes require a lot of concentration and writing in characters, it is **NOT ALLOWED** to use electronic devices.
- **Medical notes:** If a student has a medical note for a short absence, the note must be submitted to Vesalius reception immediately after his/her return to the College. For long-term medical emergencies that cause students to be absent on the days assignments are due, medical notes must be submitted to the administration prior to the deadline. Retroactive doctor's excuses are not accepted.
- **Preparation and review:** There are three contact hours per week for this course and students are additionally responsible for sufficient hours of studying, review, completion of assignments, etc.
- **Written papers:** Typing is required for the out-of-class assignments. Only hard copies (stapled) will be accepted. Sending papers by email will not be accepted. Students are required to correct their papers before submission, minimizing any mistakes in tones and spelling (if in *pinyin*), characters and grammar before handing them in.
- **Late papers:** Written work should be submitted on or before the date specified. Late papers will not be accepted unless the students have certified medical, religious or other reasons for handing the work in late. In such cases, a signed, medical release is required, and notice must be given *prior to the deadline*. Otherwise, late papers will be marked down 0.5 grade points per day. They must reach me or the reception no later than 17:00 on the due date.

Academic Honesty Statement

Academic dishonesty is **NOT** tolerated in this course.

Academic honesty is not only an ethical issue but also the foundation of scholarship. Cheating and plagiarism are therefore serious breaches of academic integrity.

Following the College policy, cheating and plagiarism cases will be communicated in writing to the Student Conduct Committee for disciplinary action.

If you refer to someone else's work, appropriate references and citations must be provided.

Course Schedule

Week 01	Pronunciation Greetings, Introducing oneself, Numbers 1 to 10 Basic strokes of Chinese characters Rules of strokes-order of Chinese characters
Week 02	Pronunciation Identifying things / people: questions & answers, Numbers 11 to 99 How to type in Chinese (characters & <i>pinyin</i>)
Week 03	Pronunciation Introducing measure words and radicals Numbers 100 to 10 000 000, Telephone number Early Evaluation Extra Office Hours for checking pronunciation and suggestions
Week 04	Pronunciation 有/没有 (to have / not have) Family
Week 05	Pronunciation Countries, nationalities and languages
Week 06	Pronunciation Oral presentation of Assignment 1 & corrections Ordinal numbers, Directions, Location
Week 07	Midterm revision Midterm Examination (written)

Week 08	Midterm Examination Analysis Pronunciation Dates and days of the week
Week 09	Pronunciation Times and activities
Week 10	Pronunciation Shopping and prices Oral presentation of Assignment 2 and corrections
Week 11	Pronunciation Food and drink
Week 12	Field trip
Week 13	Pronunciation Summary of all types of questions
Week 14	General revision Final Examination (oral) Late Evaluation
Week 15	Final Examination (written)

The schedule and content of the course may vary slightly.