Chinese 1311.001..... Time: MW 2:00-3:15..... BLDG: CS #115
Instructor: ..................................Ms. Grace Guo
Office Location:..........................TBA
Phone #:................................. TBA
Office hours:............................. TBA
........................................... By appointment
E-mail: ..................................... TBA

Textbook:


Course Description: This course is an introduction to spoken Mandarin, the language with the largest number of native speakers in the world, which is the official language of mainland China and Taiwan, and one of the official languages of Singapore. Course objectives are to master Mandarin pronunciation, including the recognition and writing of Pinyin romanization, and to develop the ability to participate in simple, practical conversations on everyday topics. The relationship between Chinese language and culture and the sociolinguistically appropriate use of language will be stressed throughout. Typical class format will include performance of memorized basic conversations, drills, questions and discussion, and various types of communicative exercises.

Learning Objectives/Goals of the Course: The focus of this course is to train you to function successfully in Chinese culture using Mandarin as your primary language. We assume that you are interested in interacting with Chinese people in a way that will permit you to pursue professional goals in some segment of Chinese society. This means that we expect you to learn how to present yourself in a way that a Chinese person will find comfortable. If a Chinese person has to adapt to you in order to communicate, it is not likely that you can accomplish what you intend in China.

This course will help you develop skills in Mandarin Chinese to communicate across ethnic, cultural, ideological and national boundaries and to develop an understanding of Chinese interpersonal behavioral culture and related thought patterns. At the end of the summer, you will be expected to perform in speaking, listening, reading and writing Chinese at a basic level of proficiency. You should also demonstrate a level of cultural understanding suitable for correct performance of assigned tasks in Chinese (e.g., how to make a request in an appropriate way). This means that we will pay attention to the way you behave as much as we attend to your use of the language. We are really coaching you to behave in Chinese culture. This is a long-term process, but we will get to it right away. In order to do this, you will have to perform. Performance, your performance, is the focus of this course.
We will assure you that if you do what we ask of you on a daily basis, you will learn Chinese. If you learn Chinese, you will do well in this program. Therefore, our evaluation (i.e., your grades) will be based largely on your daily performances. The following section should be read carefully and thoroughly understood.

**Attendance:** If you must miss class, please let me know well in advance if possible. You will be allowed to make up no more than **TWO** missed classes in this course. The make-ups will be conducted by the instructors by appointment and will cover the work missed. Make-ups are to be arranged within one week of your return to class; missed classes which are not made up within the above time frame or which exceed two in number will be entered as zeroes in your grade record. It is vital that you maintain communication with us if you miss class. It is possible to fall far behind very quickly if you miss class. You are expected to be in every class ready to perform.

**Evaluation:** The grade for this course will be based on the following:

1. Daily classroom performance including performance of the basic conversation, participation in class activities, quizzes and/or written homework (50%)
2. Unit tests (30%)
3. Final exam (20%)

Your grades in the course are largely determined by classroom performance. The reasons for this emphasis are many, but the main reason is that we are convinced that if you follow the program with consistency and persistence, you will develop significant demonstrable skills in Chinese by the end of the course. Daily performance on the activities assigned on the weekly schedule will be graded on the following four-point scale unless indicated otherwise:

4 Performance that promises interaction with a native with no difficulty, discomfort, or misunderstanding; no English hesitation noises in speaking and no “foreignisms” in the written work.
3.5 Performance comprehensible to native speakers, but some non-patterned errors that would hinder smooth interaction with them.
3 Performance comprehensible to a native, but evident weakness or patterned errors.
2.5 Communication requires much help from interlocutor.
2 Performance puts burden on interlocutor. To facilitate communication, a Chinese-speaking native would probably avoid using Chinese with you.
1.5 Barely prepared, little competency evident.
1 Evidently unprepared, unable to perform.
0 Absent.

Most class sessions will be graded on a scale of 8 possible points – 4 for “dialogue performance” and the overall practice based on the drills and 4 for reading and writing section and/or written assignments. Grades will be kept for every assigned performance, but those for the first two days will not be counted if they lower your final grade. This will give us all a chance to get used to this system. **As of Monday, August 27,**
the grading system will go into full effect. You will need a minimum of 60% to pass the course. Percentage Grade Scale:

- 93-100 = A
- 90-92 = A-
- 88-89 = B+
- 83-87 = B
- 80-82 = B-
- 78-79 = C+
- 73-77 = C
- 70-72 = C-
- 68-69 = D+
- 63-67 = D
- 60-62 = D-
- 0-59 = E

There is no curve in this course. You are competing against the communicative demands of the language, not against each other. Each person will have to perform to receive credit; but there is nothing in the grading system to discourage collaborative efforts to achieve the highest level of performance possible.

**Classes** You will have two kinds of classes: ACT and FACT.

The ACT classes are designed to elicit your performance. They are conducted in Chinese only. English will not be used except when asked for with a Chinese request. ACT classes are the equivalent of being in a totally Chinese environment, and we consider English to be incompatible with the goal of maintaining that environment. ACT classes will usually have two major components: a basic conversation and interactive exercises. You will receive a grade for each of these components—4 points maximum for the dialogue and the overall exercises and 4 points maximum for reading and writing section and/or written assignments. Most of your classes will be ACT classes; all classes will be ACT classes unless indicated on the daily schedules.

FACT classes are designed to impart the information necessary for your successful performance in the ACT classes. You will receive points in FACT class by taking a quiz (either oral or written) over assigned material. In FACT class, you may ask questions in English.

You will receive detailed schedules which tell you what to prepare and what to expect in class. We may sometimes make changes in the schedules. If there is something about the course you do not understand, it is your responsibility to seek clarification in a timely manner.

**Preparation for Classes** The one constant for all classes, ACT and FACT, is this: you must come to class well-prepared in the assigned materials. Here is the secret to success in learning Chinese: The most important materials are the AUDIO/VIDEO FILES. Whenever possible, your preparation should emphasize the audio and video files. Below are important comments for you:

1. Be sure to come to every class; frequent cutting equals certain disaster! We cannot emphasize enough the importance of regular class attendance and of getting out of each class the maximum possible. You should always participate actively, paying close attention to everything you hear and see and anticipating the responses to questions even when you’re not called upon.

2. We can’t over-stress the importance of thorough preparation before each class. You should plan on spending **1.5 to 2 hours** in preparation for each hour of class. This includes studying the explanations in the textbook and, especially, listening to and repeating after the audio and video recordings. Work with the recordings as actively as possible and (except for the pronunciation exercises the first few days) always be thinking of the meaning of what you are hearing and saying.

3. Memory work will be a very important part of the course. Starting **Monday, August 27**, when we begin conversation, you should memorize the basic conversation that constitutes the core of each lesson by working
intensively with the CD and DVD that accompany the textbooks; do not rely on reading the romanization in your textbook. Memorize each basic conversation thoroughly, so you can perform it in class accurately and fluently. It is essential to internalize the new words, grammar patterns, and cultural behavior so they will be readily available to you for your own use when needed. Memorization will greatly aid your fluency and naturalness of speaking. Students sometimes question the necessity of repetition, drill, and memorization. Certainly, these are only the first steps leading to our ultimate goal of communicative competence; however, they are very important steps, since they firmly establish in your brain the sounds and structures of the language for you to draw on later in your own speech. We hope that you understand the importance of these activities and ask that you work hard at them.

4. Late homework will not be accepted, except in cases of serious medical or family emergency. Tests cannot be made up for students who miss class.

5. To give you as much practice as possible in using Chinese, starting with Tuesday’s class and continuing through the end of the semester, Chinese only is to be used during the first 45 minutes of every class. If you have questions that can be asked or answered only in English, please: (1) ask during the last 5 minutes of class; (2) ask the instructor right after class is over; (3) make an appointment to meet with the instructor individually; or (4) communicate with the instructor via e-mail. In our classes we want to create as “Chinese” an atmosphere as possible and get you used to thinking only in Chinese; if we were to revert to English every few minutes, this would be hard to accomplish.

6. Please do all writing (including homework, tests, and the final exam) in no. 2 pencil, black ink, or blue ink. Please do not use very light pencils or red or green ink.

**Final Words**

You are expected to devote the necessary time and effort to learn the material. This course is the result of years of experience in materials development and teaching. The instructor does her best to make this as enjoyable as possible; however, you must do the work and learn the material. Ultimately, your attitude toward this endeavor will be the biggest single factor in your achievement in this course, as learning as a class requires a great amount of cooperation with both classmates and instructors. Your teacher is determined to give you the best possible opportunity to learn the language. If you ever think we are not living up to this, discuss it with Ms. Angela Chang (Zhang laoshi). I am excited about having you in our Basic Chinese course and, while you should be prepared for a lot of hard work, I think you'll be surprised at how much you will have learned by the end of the semester.

**Classroom Etiquette**

1. No caps.
2. No eating or chewing gum.
3. Do not cross your legs when you are seated.
4. Do not put your hands in your pockets when you do the dialogue performance.
5. Hand in your homework to your teacher with both hands.
6. When the teacher says “wòmen shàngkè ba (let’s begin class)” to begin class, students are expected to respond with “làoshī hǎo (How are you teacher?)” to greet their teacher.
7. When the teacher says “wòmen xiàkè le (we end class now)” at the end of class, students are expected to say “xièxie làoshī (Thank you, teacher)” to show their appreciation.
8. When you write your teacher an email, start with “Laoshi hao.” Do not start with “Hi” or “Hello”, which are considered inappropriate.
9. If you must bring a cell phone to class, make certain it is turned off. If your cell phone rings during class, you will be asked to leave immediately and will not be allowed to return to class.
IMPORTANT INFORMATION – FALL 2014

Dates to remember:

August 27 ................... Wednesday ............ Classes begin
September 01 ................ Monday ................ Labor Day Holiday
September 03 ............... Wednesday .......... Last day to register or add a class
October 15 .................... Wednesday .......... Last day of classes for 1st 7-week Session and final Exams.
October 16 .................... Thursday ............. First Day of Classes 2nd 7-week sesión
October 20 .................... Monday ............... Grades Due for 1st 7-week session
November 07 ............... Friday .................. Last day to drop a class
November 27/28 ......... Thursday/Friday ...... Thanksgiving Holidays
December 01 ................ Monday ............... Last day to withdraw from university
December 02 ................ Tuesday ............... Last day of classes Final Exams 2nd 7-Week Session
December 03 ................ Wednesday ............ Reading Day
December 04-05 & 8-10..... .................................. Final Examinations
December 09 ................ Tuesday ............... Last day to apply for December 2014 graduation.
December 11-12 ............ Thursday & Friday.... Grading Days
December 13 ................ Saturday ............... Fall Commencement
December 15 ................ Monday ............... Fall Grades Due

Students with Disabilities and Veterans
The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please call or visit Disability Services at (361) 825-5816 in Corpus Christi Hall, Room 116.

If you are a returning veteran and are experiencing cognitive and/or physical access issues in the classroom or on campus, please contact the Disability Services office for assistance at (361) 825-5816.

Academic Advisement
Academic advisors are available to assist students with course selection, degree plans, and other academic matters. Each college has an academic advising center, staffed by full-time, professional advisors. Students who have yet to declare a major are advised by the Academic Advising Transition Center. For more information please call (361) 825-5931 or log on to http://www.tamucc.edu/~aac

Grade Appeal Process
Students who feel that they have not been held to appropriate academic standards as outlined in this class syllabus, equitable evaluation procedures, or appropriate grading, may appeal the final grade given in the course. A student with a complaint about a grade is encouraged to first discuss the matter with the instructor. For complete details on the process of submitting a formal grade appeal, please visit the College of Liberal Arts website, cla.tamucc.edu/students/studentinfo.html. For assistance and/or guidance in the grade appeal process, students may contact the Associate Dean.
Week 1: Introduction
BSC
Pinyin pronunciation: initials

Week 2: BSC: Unit 3-4 BWC unit 1-3

Week 3: BSC
Classroom expression Group 1,2,3,5, and 6
Pinyin pronunciation: initials + finals

Week 4: BSC:
Classroom expression Group 4 and 7
Pinyin pronunciation: tones
BSC: Unit 1-1
BWC: Unit A-1

Week 5: BSC: Unit 1-2 BWC: Unit A-2

Week 6: BSC: Unit 1-3 BWC: Unit A-3

Week 7: BSC: Unit 1-4 BWC: Unit A-4

Week 8: Test: BSC Unit 1 BWC: Unit A

Week 9: BSC: Unit 2-1 BWC: UNIT 1-1

Week 10: BSC: Unit 2-2 BWC: Unit 1-2

Week 11: BSC: Unit 2-3 BWC: Unit 1-3

Week 12: BSC: Unit 2-4 BWC: Unit 1-4

Week 13: Test: BSC Unit 2 BWC Unit 1

Week 14: BSC: Review Unit 1- Unit 2
BWC: Review Unit A, Unit 1

Week 15: Final Written Exam
BSC: Unit 1, 2 BWC: Unit A, Unit 1

Week 16: Final Exams