

LIN 355 Language and Life in China

Fall 2016

Time	TuTh 4:00PM - 5:20PM
Location	SBS S328
Instructor	Chong ZHANG
Office	SBS N234
Office Hours	Tu 1:00 - 4:00PM or by appointment
Email	chong.zhang@stonybrook.edu
Teaching Assistant	Lei LIU
Office	SBS N230
Office Hours	Mon & Wed 2:00-3:30 PM
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Course Description

This course introduces students to the study of the languages of China in relation to the society, culture, history, and politics. More specifically, we will explore Chinese languages with respect to such topics as language family, structural properties, writing scripts, dialectal differences, social varieties, status and attitudes, language policies, and cultural patterns reflected in language use.

Recommended textbooks

- Morton, W. S., & Lewis, C. M. (2005). *China: Its history and culture* (Vol. 4). New York: McGraw-Hill.
- Ramsey, S. R. (1987). *The languages of China*. Princeton University Press.
- Sun, C. (2006). *Chinese: A linguistic introduction*. Cambridge University Press.

Grading

Attendance & Class participation	10%
Presentation	15%
Homework	10%
Term Project (Essay)	20%
Quizzes	15%
Midterm	15%
Final	15%

Homeworks

There will be weekly homeworks. It will be posted on Blackboard every Thursday, and due on the following Tuesday. You can drop your homework at TA's office or hand it in during class. Homeworks must be typed up and printed. Without my permission you cannot email your homeworks. Late hand-ins are subject to point deductions, i.e. about 20 percent for each overdue day.

Weekly Quizzes

There will be a short in-class quiz every Thursday starting from Week 3 (Sept. 15th). It will be given at the beginning of the class and will consist of several multiple-choice questions based on the lectures from the previous week. No class material or electronic device is allowed. There will be no make-up for missed quizzes. Please don't ask for one. The lowest quiz grade (absence included) will not be calculated in your final grade.

Only documented medical emergencies, university-organized artistic performances, or university sports-related events (to which you are obligated) with documentation will excuse missed work. A physician's note must specifically list the injury, illness, or treatment, and verify that you were unable to attend class that day. Booking a flight or leaving campus early for holiday will not be accepted as an excuse for absence. In such cases, the instructor would not be responsible to reschedule an exam.

Presentation

- Each student is responsible for **one short presentation** (linguistics or non-linguistics) on the topic of their own choice. Possible topics include (but are not limited to) history, politics, economics, religion, science, education, literature, food, arts, movies, music, pop culture, architecture, etc.
- The individual presentation is about 15 minutes including Q&A. A longer 'group presentation' could be given if two or three (no more than three) students are interested in similar topics, but grading will be done individually.
- Send your topic to the instructor through email by **Sept. 8th, Thursday**. Indicate if you are interested in group presentation in the email. Presentations will be scheduled on Thursdays. Students who volunteer to present on the first available day (Sept. 15th) will receive 10% of extra credits for the presentation.
- For each presentation Thursday, the presenters must send their slides to the TA before class starts. We will follow a *quiz » presentations » lecture* schedule.

Essay

Students will write an essay on the topic of their own choice. It should be a non-linguistic topic. Criteria for grading include originality, clarity, and writing style. The format is 12-point font size, single-spaced, up to 4 pages. The essay can be submitted any time throughout the semester but no later than **Dec. 9th, Friday**.

Student essay examples:

<http://aaari.info/ethics.htm>

Exams

There will be two exams: midterm (in-class, tentatively in Week 7) and final (**Dec. 19th, Monday, 2:15-5:00PM**). The final exam is cumulative but with emphases on material covered after midterm. There will be no make-up exams.

Class Schedule (subject to changes)

Week	Date	Topic
1	Aug 30	Basic Facts about China
1	Sept 1	Sounds of Standard Chinese Part 1
2	Sept 6	Labor Day
2	Sept 8	Sounds of Standard Chinese Part 2
3	Sept 13	Chinese Words Part 1
3	Sept 15	Quiz 1 & Presentations 1-3 & Names, World Heritage Sites in China
4	Sept 20	Chinese Words Part 2
4	Sept 22	Quiz 2 & Presentations 4-6 & Festivals
5	Sept 27	Chinese Writing System
5	Sept 29	Quiz 3 & Presentations 7-9 & Clothing and Culture
6	Oct 4	Sentence Structure in Chinese Part 1
6	Oct 6	Quiz 4 & Presentations 10-12 & Cuisine
7	Oct 11	Midterm
7	Oct 13	Presentations 13-16 & Calendar
8	Oct 18	Sentence Structure in Chinese Part 2
8	Oct 20	Quiz 5 & Presentations 17-19 & Folk Arts
9	Oct 25	Sentence Structure in Chinese Part 3
9	Oct 27	Quiz 6 & Presentations 20-22 & Literature
10	Nov 1	Sentence Structure in Chinese Part 4
10	Nov 3	Quiz 7 & Presentations 23-25 & Traditional Performing Arts
11	Nov 8	Chinese Dialects
11	Nov 10	Quiz 8 & Presentations 26-28 & tbd
12	Nov 15	Ethnic Groups in Southern China
12	Nov 17	Quiz 9 & Presentations 29-31 & tbd
13	Nov 22	Ethnic Groups in Northern China
13	Nov 24	Thanksgiving Break
14	Nov 29	Politeness in China
14	Dec 1	Quiz 10 & Presentations 32-35 & tbd
15	Dec 6	Language and Culture
15	Dec 8	Quiz 11 & Presentations 36-40 & tbd

Disability Support Services

If you have a physical, psychological, medical or learning disability that may impact your course work, please contact Disability Support Services, ECC (Educational Communications Center) Building, Room 128, (631) 632-6748. They will determine with you what accommodations, if any, are necessary and appropriate. All information and documentation is confidential. Students who require assistance during emergency evacuation are encouraged to discuss their needs with their professors and Disability Support Services. For procedures and information go to the following website:

<http://www.stonybrook.edu/ehs/fire/disabilities>

Academic Integrity

Each student must pursue his or her academic goals honestly and be personally accountable for all submitted work. Representing another person's work as your own is always wrong. Faculty are required to report any suspected instances of academic dishonesty to the Academic Judiciary. Faculty in the Health Sciences Center (School of Health Technology & Management, Nursing, Social Welfare, Dental Medicine) and School of Medicine are required to follow their school-specific procedures. For more comprehensive information on academic integrity, including categories of academic dishonesty, please refer to the academic judiciary website at

<http://www.stonybrook.edu/uaa/academicjudiciary/>

Critical Incident Management

Stony Brook University expects students to respect the rights, privileges, and property of other people. Faculty are required to report to the Office of Judicial Affairs any disruptive behavior that interrupts their ability to teach, compromises the safety of the learning environment, or inhibits students' ability to learn. Faculty in the HSC Schools and the School of Medicine are required to follow their school-specific procedures.