

Georgia Institute of Technology
Department of Modern Languages

**Chinese 3021: Issues in Chinese
Society and Culture I
Fall 2001 Syllabus**

Class hours: TR 3:05-4:25 am

Room: 112 Swann

Instructor: Paul B. Foster, Ph.D.

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office: 206 Chapin; office phone: 404-385-0936 (email contact recommended)

office hours: Tuesday & Thursday: 1:30 – 3:00 pm; or by appointment

DESCRIPTION:

Objectives. This is a 3 credit, intermediate level language course that simultaneously develops the skills of listening, speaking, reading and writing Mandarin Chinese through exploration of various topics in Chinese society and culture. Topics cover a range of issues including sports, holidays, education, equal rights, crime, and the environment and will be drawn from our textbook, Integrated Chinese, Level 2, lessons 11-20, and supplementary materials from Chinese websites, newspapers, music, and other media.

Regular, punctual attendance is essential.

Class Preparation. Students are expected to prepare the typical daily lesson by doing the following:

- (1) read and study the text and supplementary material (including grammar notes);
- (2) practice writing the new vocabulary, first in a character journal and then independently;
- (3) listen to and practice each lesson with the audio tapes
- (4) memorize a brief monologue or dialogue for class performance;
- (5) complete the lesson assignments in the workbook.

Class Activities. Students will participate in a variety of class activities geared toward language acquisition including, but not limited to, drills, monologues, dialogues, skits, and games as well as discussion of readings and supplementary topics. Students with stronger language skills will be paired with weaker classmates in these activities.

Workbook.

Speaking Exercises: in class

Listening Comprehension: at home

Reading Comprehension: at home (occasionally in class but still must be completed at home)

Grammar & Usage: at home

Translation: at home—do all Chinese to English items and ½ of English to Chinese

Composition: at home—choose one of the topics (attach additional paper)

Particularly troublesome problems and important exercises in the workbook may be discussed in class when necessary. It is highly recommended that you keep up with the workbook since lesson tests will draw in part on workbook exercises. The completed workbook is due for grading at the beginning of the final exam, but please do assignments during the period we cover the lesson in class. Extra coaching is available in office hours or by email.

Character Journal. The student will keep a neat, well organized character journal in which the vocabulary for each lesson will be copied 10 times each. You may choose to use simplified or traditional characters. The journal is due for grading at the beginning of the final exam. Please keep up with character practice, especially since knowledge of characters, pinyin and definitions are required on vocabulary and lesson tests, as well as the final exam.

Exams, Tests, Quizzes and Oral Interview. All exams, tests and quizzes are taken in class and are closed book, closed notes. Two brief vocabulary quizzes will be held for each lesson due to the large number of vocabulary to be learned. Lesson tests take approximately 50 minutes and are scheduled below. A 20-30 minute individual oral interview will be scheduled during the final three weeks of the semester. The instructor will keep lesson tests, oral interview results and the final exams on file for two semesters following the completion of this semester. These items will be available for perusal during office hours.

Supplementary Materials. Each week you will be assigned supplementary material complementing the textbook assignments. This material will be used as a basis for classroom presentation and discussion exercises such as the creation of skits, dialogues or monologues.

Recap. Instruction, readings and class discussion are for the most part in Chinese. There is an emphasis on discussion of the texts and drilling of new vocabulary and sentence structures. *The student is expected to think about what is read for each class period and contribute to class discussion.* It is the goal of this course that the student develop the skills of listening, speaking, reading and writing in Mandarin Chinese through mastery of the text and supplementary material.

REQUIRED TEXTS:

Liu, Yuehua & Tao-chung Yao, et. al. Integrated Chinese 第二版 繁体/简体字版 :
Traditional and Simplified Character Edition, Level 2. Textbook. Boston: Cheng & Tsui Co., 1997.

Liu, Yuehua & Tao-chung Yao, et. al. Integrated Chinese 第二版 繁体/简体字版 :
Traditional and Simplified Character Edition, Level 2. Workbook. Boston: Cheng & Tsui Co.,
1997.

Supplementary Materials Provided.

EVALUATION:

1. Class Activities/Participation/Performance/Presentation (30%)

- 1) discussion of readings & supplementary topics
- 2) grammar patterns
- 3) performance: monologues/dialogues/skits/games/presentations
- 4) drop 3 lowest daily grades at end of semester

2. Assignments (20%)

- 1) completion of workbook (10%)
- 2) completion of character journal (10%)

3. Vocabulary Quizzes (20%)

- 1) 2 brief vocabulary quizzes per lesson (character, pinyin & definition).
- 2) 2 lowest vocabulary quizzes will be dropped.
- 3) extra credit included on each quiz.

4. Lesson Tests (15%)

- 1) 3 lesson tests focusing on 2 lessons each.
- 2) instructor keeps all lesson tests on file and they may be reviewed in office hours.
- 3) extra credit is usually available on each test.

5. Oral Interview (5%): Approximately 20-30 minutes

- 1) student prepares a 3 minute presentation on any topic covered during the semester.
- 2) student answers questions about the topic for 2-3 minutes.
- 3) student and examiner engage in free discussion of unannounced topic(s) for 15-25 minutes intended to assess the student's grasp of grammatical patterns and vocabulary throughout the semester.
- 4) scheduled by appointment during final 3 weeks of the semester.

6. Final Exam (10%)

A cumulative exam with a focus on material since the last lesson test. (Note that language course tests and exams are naturally comprehensive since they build upon accumulated knowledge of material learned throughout the course of study).

- 7. Make-up Policy:** Make-up is counted only for excused absences (verifiable illness, etc.) and must be completed within one week of return to class. Timely email notification of absence is expected if you want consideration for make-up. The student is responsible for providing verification and turning in work within this period. It is recommended that the student complete all assignments regardless the of status of an absence since assignments contribute to the student's overall skills base.

GRADING SCALE:

There is no curve. You are competing with the demands of the Chinese language and will be evaluated on that basis.

Grading Scale: 100—90 A; 89—80 B; 79—70 C; 69—60 D; 59—0 F.

NOTE: MINIMUM GRADE FOR "PASS" IF TAKING THIS CLASS PASS/FAIL IS 70 (C).

SCHEDULE

We have 30 days of class which is the equivalent of 45 class hours. The schedule outlined below may be adjusted slightly based on our rate of progress and the cooperation of the class as a whole. Dialogue performances may be modified for length. I hope everybody has a great semester in Chinese!

Week #	Date	Day	Assignments	Primary Assessment
1	8/21	Tuesday	Class Introduction;	
			Lesson 11—Letter	Text, vocabulary, grammar
	8/23	Thursday	Lesson 11—Letter	vocabulary quiz 1.1 speaking exercises
2	8/28	Tuesday	Lesson 11—Letter	vocabulary quiz 1.2 reading exercises/presentation
	8/30	Thursday	Lesson 12—Chinese Festivals	Text, vocabulary, grammar
3	9/4	Tuesday	Lesson 12—Chinese Festivals	vocabulary quiz 12.1 speaking exercises
	9/6	Thursday	Lesson 12—Chinese Festivals	vocabulary quiz 12.2 reading exercises/presentation
4	9/11	Tuesday	Test #1: L11 & L12 Lesson 13 Introduction	Test #1: L11 & L12
	9/13	Thursday	Lesson 13—Sports	Text, vocabulary, grammar
5	9/18	Tuesday	Lesson 13—Sports	vocabulary quiz 13.1 speaking exercises
	9/20	Thursday	Lesson 13—Sports	vocabulary quiz 13.2 reading exercises/presentation
6	9/25	Tuesday	Lesson 14—Family	Text, vocabulary, grammar
	9/27	Thursday	Lesson 14—Family	vocabulary quiz 14.1 speaking exercises
7	10/2	Tuesday	Lesson 14—Family	vocabulary quiz 14.2 reading exercises/presentation
	10/4	Thursday	Test #2: L13 & L14 Lesson 15 Introduction	Test #2: L13 & L14
8	10/9	Tuesday	Lesson 15—Equality between the Sexes	Text, vocabulary, grammar

	10/11	Thursday	Lesson 15—Equality between the Sexes	vocabulary quiz 15.1 speaking exercises
9	10/16	Tuesday	Fall Break: no classes	
	10/18	Thursday	Lesson 15—Equality between the Sexes	vocabulary quiz 15.2 reading exercises/presentation
10	10/23	Tuesday	Lesson 16—Health and Insurance	Text, vocabulary, grammar
	10/25	Thursday	Lesson 16—Health and Insurance	vocabulary quiz 16.1 speaking exercises
11	10/30	Tuesday	Lesson 16—Health and Insurance	vocabulary quiz 16.2 reading exercises/presentation
	11/1	Thursday	Test #3: L15 & L16 Lesson 17 Introduction	Test #3: L15 & L16
12	11/6	Tuesday	Lesson 17—Education	Text, vocabulary, grammar
	11/8	Thursday	Lesson 17—Education	vocabulary quiz 17.1 speaking exercises
14	11/16	Tuesday	Lesson 17—Education	vocabulary quiz 17.2 reading exercises/presentation
	11/13	Thursday	Lesson 18—Guns and Crime	Text, vocabulary, grammar
15	11/15	Tuesday	Lesson 18—Guns and Crime	vocabulary quiz 18.1 speaking exercises
	11/22	Thursday	Thanksgiving Holiday: no classes	
16	11/27	Tuesday	Lesson 18—Guns and Crime	vocabulary quiz 18.2 reading exercises/presentation
	11/29	Thursday	Lesson 19—Animal & Human Rights	Text, vocabulary, grammar
17	12/4	Tuesday	Lesson 19—Animal & Human Rights	vocabulary quiz 19.1 speaking exercises
	12/6	Thursday	Lesson 19—Animal & Human Rights	vocabulary quiz 19.2 reading exercises/presentation
18	12/14	Friday	Final Exam: 8:00—10:50pm	workbook and character journal due