FLNG 1010  
Elementary Chinese

**Instructor:** Min Hu (胡敏)

**Office:** 9067 Haley Center

**Office Hours:** MWF 11:00-12:00 am or by appointment

**Ways to contact me:** My mailbox is in the main office of the Foreign Language Department. My email address: humin01@auburn.edu (I will respond to your email as quickly as possible, usually within one day.) My office phone number: 844-9067

**Textbook:**


**Description and Objective:**

This Chinese course is for beginners. It aims at developing students' communicative competence in the four basic skills of listening, speaking, reading, and writing the Chinese language. Students will learn basic vocabulary and sentence structures for use in essential everyday situations through various forms of oral practice. Pinyin (the most widely used Chinese phonetic system) will be taught as a tool to learn the spoken standard Chinese—Mandarin. Students will also learn simplified Chinese characters in order to be able to communicate effectively in real Chinese situations. About 10 lessons will be covered in the first semester. The number of characters that students are required to learn and recognize is approximately 120. The teaching schedule and content may be changed based on students' learning ability and progress.

**Requirements:** (You may withdraw with a W on your transcript until mid-semester, Aug. 8th.)

1. **Attendance:** Daily attendance is required. Roll is taken at the beginning of class every day (see Tiger Cub). PLEASE COME ON TIME! You can have three unexcused absences. **YOUR FINAL GRADE WILL BE REDUCED BY 5 POINTS FOR EACH UNEXCUSED ABSENCE AFTER THAT. SEE ME IMMEDIATELY RE: EXCUSED ABSENCES; SHOW ME AN ORIGINAL COPY OF YOUR EXCUSE AND GIVE ME A XEROXED COPY TO KEEP.** It is the responsibility of the student to keep a record of total absences.

2. **Exams:** A missed quiz or exam may be made up ONLY in the case of illness, family emergency, or an official university excuse (see Tiger Cub). In the case of illness and family emergencies, the instructor must be personally notified by the student as soon as possible. In case you cannot contact your instructor personally, document your efforts by sending an e-mail. A written medical excuse by the attending physician is appropriate in case of illness. **ALL MAKE-UPS TAKE PLACE ONLY AT THE TIME DESIGNATED BY ME.**
3. **Preparation:** Students are expected to come to class with all necessary materials and having read the English explanation of the grammar or culture on any particular day, as indicated on the syllabus. Students are responsible for written preparation of grammar and exercises assigned. Lack of preparation and participation will negatively affect students' final grades. Students who prepare regularly usually do well in this course.

4. **Graded assignments:** All homework is accepted ONLY in the class hour of the day the assignment is due. LATE SUBMISSIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED ONLY IN THE CASE OF ILLNESS OR FAMILY EMERGENCY. Please be sure to write your LAST NAME as well as your first name, and your class hour, on ALL work submitted, so that we can assign the grade to the correct person. SAVE ALL GRADED WORK/RECORD.

5. **Language Resource Center** (LRC): Listening ability is essential for this class. All textbook listening materials have been installed into computer software CAN8 at LRC. Students are expected to use the lab for finishing their homework or other class requirements.

6. **Conversation Hour:** Each student will have a 20-minute conversation session approximately each month in my office during office hours. I will have a sign-up sheet for you very soon.

7. **Disturbance:** Turn off your cell phones before the class. If your noisy electronic devices interrupt my class, I will ask you to leave class and count you absent. Food is not allowed in class, but you may bring non-alcoholic drinks. Any other behavior that disrupts the class will lead to discipline action.

8. **Special Accomodations:** Students needing special accommodations should arrange a meeting the first week of class. Come during office hours or email for an alternate time. Bring the Accommodation Memo and Instructor Verification Form to meeting. Discuss items needed in this class. If you do not have an Accommodation Memo but need special accommodations, make an appointment with the Program for Students with Disabilities, 1244 Haley Center, 844-2096 (V/TT) or email: haynemd@auburn.edu.

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**Some Advice:**

**Learning a foreign language is no easy task; hard work pays off.**

- Prepare before each class and review after each class.
- Remember to keep up with your assignments. Do not fall behind.
- Do your homework as soon as new materials are introduced.
- To minimize study time, maximize learning IN CLASS. Be attentive and repeat new words as much as you can.
- Prepare some cards to help you memorize the pronunciation and spelling of characters.
• Be organized. Get a folder and put all class materials in it.
• If you do not understand something or feel uncomfortable about the class in any way, see me immediately.
• Do not be afraid of making mistakes. You are a work in process.
• Do not be afraid to speak up. Use Chinese as much as possible in and outside of class with classmates, friends (especially Chinese friends), and instructor.
• Find a study partner or form a study group for oral practice and moral support.
• Practice, practice, practice.
• Learning a new language involves much memorization and time-consuming preparation. It is very demanding but can also be very rewarding and a lot of fun. Don't easily give up.

Grading:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Weight</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Homework</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Quizzes</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mid-term exam</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>*Oral production</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final exam</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
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A: 90 and above; B: 80 to 90; C: 70 to 80; D: 60-70; F: Below 60

*Oral production includes individual duty report, group presentations, and final oral exam.

Schedule (It may be changed according to students’ progress.)

There will be homework (HW) for almost each class. HW includes oral and written homework. Each Oral HW will be posted on the Voice Board on your Blackboard; complete it in the Foreign Language lab (3234 HC) or by using your home PC with a microphone. Oral HW is due by 9:00 pm the night before it is due. Written HW is in the Workbook; tear required pages out of the book and turn them in on the due day. Please check the Companion Site or CDs for audio materials needed for written HW. The exam pages for each class will be announced beforehand.

Week 1: Class introduction; I. Pinyin foundation; II. Structure of Chinese syllables
III. Tones and tone marks; IV. Vowels/simple Finals; V. Initials (pp. F-3—F-7)
VI. Compound finals; VII. Nasal finals; VIII. Summary (pp. F-7—F-9)

Week 2: IX. Special Pinyin rules; X. Special tone rules (pp. F-9—F-11)

Week 3: Quiz 1, The Chinese writing system (pp. F-26—F-32)

Week 4: Classroom expressions (pp. F-34—F-35); Lesson 1—Part I: vocabulary and language; link (pp. 2-4); Part II: Grammar (4-6)

Week 5: Part III: Activities and Culture link (6-12); Lesson 2—Part I (14-17); Part II (17-19)
Week 6: Part III (19-27); Lesson 3—I (30-33); II (33-36)
Week 7: III (36-42); Review for the mid-term; **Mid-term Exam**
Week 8: Lesson 4—I (44-47); II (47-51); III (51-59)
Week 9: Lesson 5—I (64-67); II (67-69); III (69-76)
Week 10: Review; **Quiz 2**; Lesson 6—I (78-84); II (84-86)
Week 11: III (87-94); Lesson 7—I (96-100); II (100-102)
Week 12: III (102-109); Review; **Quiz 3**; Lesson 8—I (112-115)
Week 13: II (116-117); III (118-124); Lesson 9—I (126-131)
Week 14: II (132-134); III (135-142);
Week 15: Presentations, Review for the final

**Final exam**: Check AU homepage>Academics>Final exam schedule for exam time