Second-Year Chinese
LC 211
Boston University Study Abroad: Shanghai Center
Spring/Fall

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This intermediate Chinese course is designed for students who have completed one year of university-level Chinese (LC 111 and LC 112). It will improve students’ knowledge of the Chinese language through practice in four language skills (listening, speaking, reading, and writing). Students will learn how to combine or recombine learning materials to talk about familiar topics pertaining to their daily lives (e.g. family, work, school, recreation, and interests) and also gain knowledge of Chinese cultures and customs. Chinese audio-visual materials, simulated conversations in life situations, and authentic reading materials will be used to facilitate appropriate language use and develop proficiency.

Credits: 4
Prerequisites: First-Year Chinese (LC 112) or by placement test

COURSE MATERIALS:

ISBN: 978-088727-679-8

Workbook: *Integrated Chinese Level 2, Part 1 Workbook: Simplified Characters*

Supplementary Materials:
In addition to the textbook, other reading materials selected from *A New China* (C. P. Chou, et al. Princeton University Press) will also be used for this course. This book provides deeper insight into the Chinese way of life and the intricacies involved in being a resident of China.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

Keeping in mind that native speakers of English learning Chinese require about 2,200 hours of class time before they can be fluent and that this class exposes students to a minimum of 60 class hours, the objectives of this class are to help students:

- Continue to develop basic communication skills at “survival” level (e.g. ask and answer simple questions on familiar topics and handle a simple situation or transaction);
- Combine and recombine learned materials in personal meaningful communication;
- Locate Chinese language information on familiar topics (e.g. daily life, asking direction, hobbies, and so on);
- Continue to gain concrete knowledge of Chinese customs and manners, geography,
shopping conventions, and major holidays in Chinese-speaking countries;
• Continue to acquire some commonly used idiomatic expressions;
• Continue to master the standard sound system and acquire correct pronunciation and tones;
• Continue to learn what it is like to live in China or other Chinese-speaking countries;
• Be able to use more complex grammatical constructions such as:
  - Complex directional and resultative complements; complements of state
  - Progressive and continuous aspect
  - Passive constructions (marked and unmarked)
  - Comparative constructions (comparative and superlative)
  - More complex sentence structures (e.g. sufficient and necessary conditional, causal and disposal constructions)
  - Serial verb constructions
  - Reduplication of nouns, adjectives and verbs
• Continue to study when to use formal and informal registers of language
• Learn to describe or narrate one’s past experiences, current condition, and future plans; express affirmation and refusals, personal opinions, make suggestions, and so on.

COURSE OUTCOMES:

If students come to class regularly, complete all of the in-class assignments, homework, and average a B on their tests, they will be able to reach the *Intermediate Low or Mid level* on the language proficiency scale developed by the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL) after this course.

• In terms of **speaking**, students will be able to recombine learned material to express personal meanings, such as asking and answering simple questions and handling a straightforward survival situation. They will be able to produce sentence-level language.

• In terms of **writing**, students can satisfy some practical writing needs, such as simple messages and letters, requests for information, and notes. They are able to create with the language to communicate simple facts and ideas in a series of loosely connected sentences on topics of personal interest and social needs.

• In terms of **listening**, students will be able to understand information conveyed in simple, sentence-length speech on familiar or everyday topics. They are able to engage in face-to-face conversations or in routine listening tasks such as understanding highly contextualized messages, straightforward announcements, or simple instructions and directions.

• In terms of **reading**, students will be able to understand short, non-complex texts that convey basic and familiar information and deal with basic personal topics, such as in notices, weather reports, or a social announcement. Students at this level may comprehend some meaning from short connected texts featuring description and narration, dealing with familiar topics.
COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

Be aware that you are taking an intensive Chinese course, in order to achieve the objectives of this course, students are expected to spend at least ONE or TWO hours per day outside of class reviewing daily all new words and grammar patterns, memorizing vocabulary, completing homework assignments, listening to supplementary audio materials and previewing the next day’s class.

To ensure maximum efficient utilization of class time, you are required to prepare each lesson before class, which means you need to gain familiarity with the new textbook lesson. Study new words (pronunciation, meaning, usage, and characters) and grammatical structures in the Study Guide on your own. The instructor will distribute a study guide handout in class before every new lesson is introduced.

ASSESSMENT, GRADING SCALE, AND COURSE EXPECTATIONS:

Assessment:
Students’ language proficiency will be assessed in a variety of ways, both through formal oral and written tests and informally in class. After students have acquired vocabulary or basic linguistic structures, they will have various opportunities to demonstrate that they have remembered and understood the new material, can apply it in a similar context, compare and analyze, as well as use the language creatively. Informal assessments will take on a variety of forms and may include role-plays and skits, writing a short email, or producing an illustration of a concrete situation.

Grading Scale:

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<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Grade</th>
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<td>Regular attendance, preparation, and participation</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<td>100%-93% A</td>
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<td>92-90% A-</td>
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<td>89-88% B+</td>
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<td>87-83% B</td>
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<td></td>
<td>82-80% B-</td>
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<tr>
<td>Homework and Compositions</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<td>79-78% C+</td>
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<td>In-class dictation quizzes</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<td>77-73% C</td>
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<td>Midterm exam</td>
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<td>72-70% C-</td>
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<td>(10% for written, 10% for oral)</td>
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<td>69-68% D+</td>
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<td>Final exam</td>
<td>30%</td>
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<td>67-63% D</td>
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<td>(15% for written, 15% for oral)</td>
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<td>62-60% D-</td>
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Attendance, Preparation and Participation (20% of grade):
The pace of the class will be steady. Students are required to attend all classes scheduled and take an active part in classroom activities. Please note two unexcused absences will lead to one point deduction from your final score, as will three unexcused lateness. Active participation means that students do not only speak when called upon but contribute to class discussions. Students who do not engage in class discussions and only speak when called upon cannot expect to receive a grade higher than C for participation. Please also note that students cannot receive a participation grade if they are absent from class.
Homework and Compositions (15% of grade):
Regular homework will be given at the end of each lesson (10%).
You will be required to write three compositions (5%).
Composition Requirements: Create a title; use first person narration; use as many new words and grammar patterns as possible; 300-500 characters, handwritten, double space.

Late or incomplete homework or compositions will be graded but only receive half credit. Homework received more than one week after the due date will receive no credit.

In-class Dictation Quizzes (15% of grade):
A written quiz on Chinese characters and grammar will be given before the new lesson is introduced. This means that you are required to preview each lesson before class. Guidance will be provided in Study Guide. Missed quizzes cannot be made up. You will have the option of dropping the lowest quiz grade to allow flexibility for excused absences and emergencies.

Oral Midterm Exam for LC 211 (10% of grade)
The speaking topics will be selected from the first part of *Integrated Chinese: Simplified Characters Textbook, Level 2, Part 1* (e.g. Lesson 1 - 5).

Written Midterm Exam for LC211 (10% of grade)
The content will cover from Lesson 1 to 5 in *Integrated Chinese: Simplified Characters Textbook, Level 2, Part 1*.

Oral Final Exam for LC 211 (15% of grade)
The speaking topics will be selected from the first part of class materials (e.g. Lesson 6-10)

Written Final Exam for LC 211 (15% of grade)
The content will cover from Lesson 6 to 10.

COURSE POLICIES:

Absences:
Excused absences will only be granted for documented illness or emergency, for which you MUST contact Instructor PRIOR TO CLASS. (Doctors in China routinely give out notices for workplaces, to document your illness.) If for some justifiable reason you need to plan to be absent from class on a certain day, you are required to give advance notice to the instructor, except for emergency cases.

Each unexcused absence will result in a 0.5 % deduction from your final grade. (3 unexcused lateness = 1 point deduction) Make-up tests or exams will not be permitted except in the case of illness or emergency situations.

Academic Integrity/Plagiarism Statement:
Cheating and plagiarism are forbidden. It is your responsibility to know the Academic Conduct Code. See: www.bu.edu/academics/resources/academic-conduct-code/

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:

1. To set up Chinese input and output on your computer: www.pinyinjoe.com
2. Chinese dictionaries:
   On the computer: [http://www.neiku.com](http://www.neiku.com)
   On mobile phones: Pleco or nciku