

Chinese 1

Description

Chinese 1 is a rigorous academic course that takes an integrated communicative approach to empower students to speak Chinese (by mastering the Pinyin system, communicating through accurate pronunciation and intonation), to listen to Chinese (understand simple everyday narratives and dialogues), to read Chinese (comprehend simple texts on personal and social interactions using context clues, sentence structure, and identifying details), and to write Chinese (mastering strokes, stroke order, radicals, and writing traditional characters and simplified characters).

Objective

The objective of this course is to equip you with skills in speaking and listening to Mandarin and reading and writing in Chinese. You will leave the course equipped with the ability to conduct basic conversations in Mandarin in everyday and formal situations and to write and read using Chinese transliteration (汉语拼音/漢語拼音 Hànyǔ pīnyīn) and a set of 100 to 300 simplified and traditional characters. The four skills (speaking, listening, reading and writing) will be integrated throughout this course. Vocabulary, language patterns and grammar are introduced and applied in the context of practical communication.

Traditional/Simplified Characters

Chinese characters may either be written in the simplified (简体) or the traditional system (繁体). The simplified system is used in Mainland China, while the traditional style is used in Hong Kong, Taiwan, and overseas Chinatowns.

For Chinese 1, all students write both traditional and simplified Chinese characters. Textbooks will be printed in both simplified and traditional Chinese and the character workbooks are in both traditional and simplified Chinese. Whenever writing characters, we write both sets of characters in all examples, text materials, and handouts. The aim is for all students in the first year to learn, recognize and write both character sets. This is important from a number of perspectives. For instance, from a linguistic perspective, many sounds are linked to radicals and characters in both traditional and simplified scripts and also since our students come from a variety of backgrounds, we hope to encourage a variety of heritage and Chinese-character (like students who have taken Japanese) learners. Finally, our curriculum follows the standards recommended by a majority of colleges and universities in the United States including the UC/CSU systems.