

EAST230D FIRST LEVEL CHINESE

September 2, 2020 – April 13, 2021

A MESSAGE FROM PROF. WANG

Dear student,

If you've ever wanted to learn a language that is both fun and challenging, with which you'll be able to communicate to one fifth of the world population, then this is the right course for you.

In this course you will embark on a fascinating journey of learning Mandarin Chinese – the official language in mainland China and Taiwan, an official language in Singapore, and a working language for the United Nations.

Whether you take it for personal interest, for major or minor requirement, or for a future career-related preparation, this course will help you set your feet on a solid ground, as we will help you develop a basic conversational skills, master over 400 Chinese characters, and grasp the fundamental Chinese syntactic patterns.

INSTRUCTOR: Bill WANG



Email: renzhong.wang@mcgill.ca

Office Hours: by appointment only

TEACHING ASSISTANT: Tianyi ZHENG

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Class Meeting Date & Time on Zoom:

3:35 pm - 4:25 pm (section 2)

4:35 pm - 5:25 pm (section 1)

Monday/ Tuesday/ Wednesday/ Thursday/ Friday

Learning Objectives & Teaching Approach

By covering a total of 20 chapters of our selected textbooks - *New Practical Chinese Reader* (Liu Xun, Beijing Language University), this course will teach a little over 400 Chinese characters and 900 words approximately, in addition to the basic grammars of mandarin Chinese, as well as the Pinyin scheme – Chinese phonetic system using alphabetic letters to signify the pronunciation of Chinese words. With these-mentioned vocabulary and grammatical knowledge, students in this course will be able to develop basic communicative skills in Chinese, such as, to engage in simple conversations on daily topics, to read simple sentences and short Chinese texts, and to write short passages using Chinese characters.

Blended learning approach will be our primary method of instruction and yet, whenever necessary, we will use as much as possible the communicative approach and interactive activities to promote a meaningful learning experience for students.

As this course is designed for those with little knowledge of Mandarin Chinese, students who can speak or read basic Chinese are not permitted to take this course, instead, they will be advised to take more advanced Chinese courses appropriate to their level of Chinese proficiency.

In addition to the required textbooks and other printed materials, audio/video and multimedia materials/facilities will also be used to increase students' exposure to Chinese speech and culture.

Eligibility

East230D is a full year Chinese language course for beginners and those with very little prior knowledge of Mandarin Chinese. Native speakers of mandarin Chinese and those who already have basic knowledge of 100 or more Chinese characters will not be eligible for this course.

Virtual Classroom using Zoom

Due to the pandemic situation, all our classes will be in the form of online teaching and learning. Students are required to meet, five times each week, for interactive learning activities in our virtual classroom on Zoom. We will try to schedule our synchronous class meetings times on Zoom Prior to each class meeting time, the instructor will inform students by email of the Zoom meeting ID # and the students are responsible for checking their McGill email account in a timely manner for the Zoom meeting ID # and, if any, specific instructions.

Some lectures will be recorded. if you have any concerns about the recording, please discuss with the instructor.

Mycourses for Handouts, Asynchronous Discussions and Projects

Course materials and handouts for exercises and drills will be placed on Mycourses, where you can find relevant handouts or exercises specifically created for a specific lesson. by checking a folder with the lesson number. Students are responsible for checking the lesson folders for the handouts and exercises to be completed before due day/time, according to specific instructions for each lesson.

Some group projects and asynchronous discussions will be carried out, using Discussion Board in Mycourses.

Learning Branch for Audio Work

As Arts Multimedia Language Facility (AMLF) is in a transitional process from the original Can8 virtual lab to a more modern, web-based audio-visual program - Learning Branch, we will be trying to use, as much as possible, this new facility (Learning Branch) for oral and listening work, as well as listening tests.

Required Textbooks

1. Liu Xun, et. *New Practical Chinese Reader Textbook I & II* (second edition), Beijing Language University Press.
2. Liu Xun, et. *New Practical Chinese Reader Workbook I & II* (second edition), Beijing Language University Press.
3. CDs that come with the textbooks.

Note: You may order the textbooks at Le James McGill University Bookstore (<https://lejames.ca/>)

Methods of Evaluation

We will try to use a combination of the formative (weekly dictations, assignments and in-class oral presentations) and summative approaches (four written exams and listening tests) for a fair and effective evaluation, with the intention to reduce the level of anxiety that students may experience due to the obvious challenges that this new mode of online learning has imposed to both the students and instructors. The table below explains the breakdowns of the evaluation:

	METHOD OF EVALUATION Fall & Winter	
1	Class attendance and participation	5%
2	Weekly dictations	20%
3	Weekly assignments (oral and written)	20%
4	Two oral presentations	9%
5	Two listening tests	10%
6	Four written exams	36%

Please Note:

1. Attendance & Participation (5% for the academic year)

Students are expected to attend all class sessions. Each absence without a doctor's note or an acceptable reason will be subject to one percentage point reduction. Five absences will lead to 0 in class attendance & participation mark per term.

Students are expected to come to class prepared and to participate actively. Engagement in class discussions will be counted in the class participation mark.

2. Assignments (20% for the academic year)

Oral and written assignments must be assigned weekly by the instructor and students are expected to complete their assignments on time. Late submission or completion of assignments will be checked but no mark will be given. Assignments must be completed independently.

3. Dictations (20% for the academic year))

Weekly dictation is given every Tuesday. No make-up dictations will be given unless the student provide acceptable evidence that he/she cannot participate in the dictation at the scheduled time.

4. Oral Presentations (9% for the academic year))

Each student is required to give one Chinese oral presentation per semester. Detailed instructions will be given in the second week of each semester.

5. Listening-Oral Tests (10% for the academic year))

There will be one listening-oral test at the end of each semester. Detailed instructions will be given in the middle of each semester.

6. Written Exams (36% for the academic year))

There will be four written exams (unit test) for the full year course. No make-up exams.

MCGILL POLICY STATEMENTS

1. *"McGill University values academic integrity. Therefore, all students must understand the meaning and consequences of cheating, plagiarism and other academic offences under the Code of Student Conduct and Disciplinary Procedures (see www.mcgill.ca/students/srr/honest/ for more information). (approved by Senate on 29 January 2003)*

"L'université McGill attache une haute importance à l'honnêteté académique. Il incombe par conséquent à tous les étudiants de comprendre ce que l'on entend par tricherie, plagiat et autres infractions académiques, ainsi que les conséquences que peuvent avoir de telles actions, selon le Code de conduite de l'étudiant et des procédures disciplinaires (pour de plus amples renseignements, veuillez consulter le site www.mcgill.ca/students/srr/honest/)."

2. *"In accord with McGill University's Charter of Students' Rights, students in this course have the right to submit in English or in French any written work that is to be graded." (approved by Senate on 21 January 2009 - see also the section in this document on Assignments and evaluation.)*

"Conformément à la Charte des droits de l'étudiant de l'Université McGill, chaque étudiant a le droit de soumettre en français ou en anglais tout travail écrit devant être noté (sauf dans le cas des cours dont l'un des objets est la maîtrise d'une langue)."

Copyright of Course Materials

Instructor generated course materials (e.g., handouts, notes, summaries, exam questions, etc.) are protected by law and may not be copied or distributed in any form or in any medium without explicit permission of the instructor. Note that infringements of copyright can be subject to follow up by the University under the Code of Student Conduct and Disciplinary Procedures.

Please note, the class schedules may be subject to change and you will be informed in advance of any changes.