

EAST230D FIRST LEVEL CHINESE

August 30, 2023 – April 12, 2024

A WELCOME MESSAGE FROM PROF. WANG

Dear students:

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 program requirement, or for future career- preparation, this course will help you set your feet on a solid ground, as we will help you develop basic conversational skills, master over 900 Chinese words and expressions, and have a basic knowledge of fundamental Chinese syntactic patterns.

INSTRUCTOR:

Renzhong WANG



Office Hours

Friday, 1:00pm-2:00pm, room 253,
680 Sherbrooke W.

Or by appointment

renzhong.wang@mcgill.ca

Teaching Assistant:

Eldar (Shiting) WANG

Eldar.wang@mail.mcgill.ca

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Learning Objectives & Teaching Approach

By covering a total of 20 chapters of our selected textbooks -volume 1 and volume 2 of *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 grammatical patterns of Mandarin Chinese, as well as the Pinyin scheme – Chinese phonetic system using alphabetic letters to signify the pronunciation of Chinese words. With this vocabulary and the grammatical knowledge, students will be able to develop basic communication skills in Chinese - to engage in simple conversations on daily topics, to read simple sentences and short Chinese texts, and to write short passages in 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 suitable for this course, instead, they will be advised to take the next level or more advanced Chinese courses appropriate to their level of knowledge and proficiency in Chinese.

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.

Registration

Since this is a full year D course, students who are registered in the course are required to stay in the same section throughout the academic year. There is no option of taking only one semester of the full year course.

Mycourses for Handouts, Asynchronous Discussions and Projects Mycourses is our online course management platform where you can find all the handouts and materials as well as website links for relevant exercises and meaningful practice for each lesson. Students are responsible for checking the lesson folders for updates on new materials and handouts, as well as important announcements and messages.

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 web-based, more easily accessible multimedia program - Learning Branch, we will try to use, as much as possible, this new facility (Learning Branch) for our oral and listening work, including weekly lab work and term-end 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 are encouraged to purchase the textbooks at Le James McGill University Bookstore as soon as possible, just in case the bookstore runs out of the textbooks (this happens often because people from outside the university come to buy our textbooks).

Methods of Evaluation

We will try to use a combination of the formative (weekly dictations, weekly assignments, and in-class oral presentations) and summative evaluation (four written exams and listening tests) for a fair and effective evaluation. The table below explains the breakdowns of the evaluation:

	METHOD OF EVALUATION	
	Fall & Winter	
1	Class attendance and participation	5%
2	Weekly dictations (10 per semester)	10%
3	Weekly written assignments (10 per semester)	10%

4	Weekly lab work (10 per semester)	5%
5	Two oral presentations (one per semester)	8%
6	Two listening tests (1 per semester)	8%
7	Four written exams (2 per semester)	24%
8	Final written exam	30%

Important Notes:

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

Students are required 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 in class activities actively. Your engagement in class discussions and activities will be counted in the class participation mark. Coming to class meetings with no preparation or being inactive for class activities will lead to point-deductions in the total mark of Attendance and Participation.

2. Assignments (10% for the academic year)

Students are expected to complete their assignments independently and submit their work on time. Late submissions will be checked but no mark to be given.

3. Dictations (10% for the academic year)

Weekly dictation is given in class **on Fridays**. 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. Two Oral Presentations (8% for the academic year)

Each student is required to give one Chinese oral presentation per semester. For the fall semester, oral presentations are scheduled for the final week. Oral presentation schedule for the winter semester will be available on the first day of Winter semester.

5. Listening-Oral Tests (8% for the academic year)

There will be one listening-oral test at the end of each semester.

6. Written Exams (24% for the academic year)

A total of four written exams for the full year course. No make-up exams.

7. Final Written Exam (30%)

The final exam will be given at the end of the academic year in April (to be scheduled by Exam Office). It is a comprehensive exam that covers all the content taught in this course. It requires the students, therefore, to keep reviewing the old lessons while learning new lessons.

MCGILL POLICY STATEMENTS

Language of submission

“In accord with McGill University’s Charter of Students’ Rights, students in this course have the right to submit in English or in French written work that is to be graded. This does not apply to courses in which acquiring proficiency in a language is one of the objectives.” (Approved by Senate on 21 January 2009)

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. » (Énoncé approuvé par le Sénat le 21 janvier 2009)

Academic integrity

“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” (Approved by Senate on 29 January 2003) (See McGill’s guide to academic honesty for more information). 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 procédures disciplinaires. » (Énoncé approuvé par le Sénat le 29 janvier 2003) (pour de plus amples renseignements, veuillez consulter le guide pour l’honnêteté académique de McGill.)

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.