# Chinese Language and Civilisation

## Prof. Natalia Francesca Riva

**Chinese Language Practical Classes (Year 2 – Master’s Degree)**

## Dr. Zhang Hui

# Chinese Language and Civilisation

## Prof. Natalia Francesca Riva

***COURSE AIMS AND INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES***

The course aims to provide the tools, mainly in Chinese, for understanding contemporary China by acquiring and consolidating the fundamental knowledge on its historical development, systems of thought, cultural dynamics and social, political and institutional structures of the country from the origins to today.

Through the analysis of primary and secondary sources, at the end of the course students will be able to integrate theoretical and empirical knowledge and develop the specialised lexicon necessary to read and discuss topics related to the main historical-cultural and socio-political issues of Chinese civilisation.

***COURSE CONTENT***

The course will focus on some main topics regarding the development of modern and contemporary China from an intercultural perspective. Specifically, the topics will include:

* China’s traditional culture, philosophical systems and values, and how they inform the present;
* Chinese society and social changes;
* China’s economic development;
* the Party-State system and the main institutions;
* China and the world: the domestic and foreign challenges that China faces today.
* Communication and media.

***READING LIST***

Study of a text chosen from the following volumes:

* K. Brown, *Contemporary China*. Macmillan International Higher Education, 2019 (Third Edition).
* G. Andornino (ed.). *Cina. Prospettive di un paese in trasformazione*. Bologna: il Mulino, 2021
* Lavagnino, B. Mottura. *Cina e modernità. Cultura e istituzioni dalle Guerre dell'oppio a oggi*. Roma: Carocci, 2016.

It is possible to agree on an alternative volume with the lecturer.

Notes, slides and texts used in class.

Additional materials will be indicated by the lecturer and, if possible, uploaded to the platform during the course.

The reading of a narrative or non-fiction text chosen from the following:

* Chi Ta-wei, *Membrana* (trad. di Alessandra Pezza), add Editore, 2022.
* Hao Jingfang, *Pechino pieghevole* (trad. di Silvia Pozzi), add Editore, 2020.
* Lu Nei, *Giovane Babilonia* (trad. di Gloria Cella e Natalia Riva, a cura di Silvia Pozzi), Atmosphere Libri, 2021.
* Wu Ming-yi, *Montagne e nuvole negli occhi* (trad. di Silvia Pozzi), Edizioni E/O, 2021.
* Yan Lianke, *Servire il popolo* (trad. di Patrizia Liberati), Einaudi, 2006.
* Yan Lianke, *I quattro libri* (trad. di Lucia Regola), Nottetempo, 2018.
* Yu Hua, *Mao Zedong è arrabbiato* (trad. di Silvia Pozzi), Feltrinelli, 2018.
* Yu Hua, *La Cina in dieci parole* (trad. di Silvia Pozzi), Feltrinelli, 2011.

It is possible to agree on an alternative title with the lecturer.

***TEACHING METHOD***

The course includes theoretical lectures, practical tutorials on Chinese texts and, if possible, seminars/conferences on specific topics.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

The final exam assesses the student's linguistic ability, knowledge of the topics covered during the course and critical skills, as well as their presentation and argumentation skills. The exam takes place orally and is divided as follows:

* the reading, improvised translation and commenting, from a grammatical, linguistic and translational point of view, of an extract of a Chinese text assigned during the course;
* presentation of the contents of a chapter, contribution or part of the volume chosen for study;
* presentation of the contents and critical commentary of the fiction or non-fiction text read;
* answering potential questions on the development of the main historical-cultural and socio-political issues dealt with in class.

The mark resulting from the weighted average of the language tutorial results contributes to the final mark.

Further information regarding the assessment methods and criteria will be given by the teacher during the course.

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

The didactic activities of the second year of the LM presuppose the passing of the first-year interim tests (written and oral) as well as the Communication Strategies of the Chinese language exam. The Chinese Language and Civilisation exam can therefore only be taken after closure of the Chinese Language Communication Strategies exam of the first year.

Due to content variety and diversity, attendance is highly recommended.

Further information can be found on the lecturer's webpage at http://docenti.unicatt.it/web/searchByName.do?language=ENG or on the Faculty notice board.

# Chinese Language Practical Classes (Year 2 – Master’s Degree)

## Dr Li Man

***COURSE AIMS AND INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES***

**Course aims**

The course aims to help students develop advanced reading, listening, speaking and writing skills in Chinese – also through the use of multimedia tools in Chinese – with a focus on understanding and use of the specific terminology related to the thematic area of their curriculum.

In particular, the course aims to guide students towards the acquisition of an excellent knowledge of the Chinese language, corresponding to the HSK5 level.

**Intended learning outcomes**

At the end of the course, students will be able to deal with complex texts and conversations (advanced level) and use the oral and written language with a high degree of autonomy, also in unknown situations. Reading, writing, and listening skills will be developed using a gradual and simultaneous approach.

The speaking skill, instead, will be developed through interaction with native Chinese lecturers.

***COURSE CONTENT***

– Analysis of complex and specialised sentence structures to create and understand specialised texts.

– Writing and understanding of texts containing specialised terminology.

The reading list for the test (that is fundamental to access the Chinese language and civilisation exam) will be made available by the lecturer in class and on Blackboard.

***READING LIST***

The teaching material will be made available online during the academic year.

***TEACHING METHOD***

Frontal lectures, consisting of in:

– Writing activities based on written and oral documents.

– Speaking activities based on complex texts.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

Assessment of the practical activities will be included in the Chinese language and civilisation exam. Students must be assessed on the Practical Classes BEFORE they can take the Language and Civilisation exam, and have already passed the exam on Communicative Strategies in Chinese.

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

Students should have a good knowledge of the topics explained during the Chinese language course of year 1. In addition, in order to attend this course, they will have to have passed the Chinese language exams of year 1, and the practical classes of year 2.

Further information can be found on the lecturer's webpage at http://docenti.unicatt.it/web/searchByName.do?language=ENG or on the Faculty notice board.