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# Chinese Language (Language and Phonology) (Year 1)

## Prof. Chiara Piccinini

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

The aim of the course is to provide students with essential knowledge of China’s linguistic situation, and to introduce the phonetic and phonological system of Modern Standard Chinese.

The final assessment will be designed to consolidate the ability to understand and reproduce the written and spoken language.

At the end of the course, students will be able to:

– identify the characteristics of standard modern Chinese language with respect to the historical ones concerning archaic and standard Chinese;

– recognise the phonetic and phonological aspects of modern standard Chinese;

– apply their acquired knowledge in order to improve their use of spoken and written Chinese;

– correctly use the spelling of the Romanisation of Chinese characters (pinyin).

***COURSE CONTENT***

– A brief introduction to spoken modern Chinese and to the situation of language varieties;

– The history of spoken Chinese;

– An overview of oral modern standard Chinese language;

– The history and development of the phonology of the Chinese language;

* Introduction to and guidance on applying the phonetics of Modern Standard Chinese;

– Introduction to the phonology of Chinese;

* The relationship between phonology and writing in Chinese;

– The Romanisation system of the Pinyin system;

– Basic rules of Romanising of standard modern Chinese using the Pinyin system.

***READING LIST***

Lecture notes and study material available online on Blackboard.

Basic readings:

Arcodia Giorgio Francesco, Basciano Bianca, *Linguistica Cinese,* Pàtron Editore, Bologna 2016, capitoli 1, 2 e 3, ISBN 978-8855533454

Recommended reading (the parts to be studied will be indicated in class):

San DUANMU, *The Phonology of Standard Chinese,* 2000, ISBN 978-0199215799.

Further study material will be provided by the lecturers during the course on Blackboard platform.

***TEACHING METHOD***

 Lectures on theory and practical classes related to listening, oral reproduction, phonetic transcription and exercises on phonetic and phonological analysis.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

The method of assessing students’ acquired knowledge and skills consists of a written test with multiple-choice questions. Students will be assessed on their ability to understand the pronunciation and writing of the Romanisation of Chinese characters; their knowledge of historical and modern Chinese phonology; the relationship between spoken and written Chinese; appropriate use of specific terminology referring to the Chinese language; the phonetic and phonological references between Chinese, IPA and Italian; the correct spelling of the pinyin system.

The final mark is the weighted average of the results of the interim written and oral language tests.

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

Students are required to use all the material provided in class, summary worksheets published on the lecturer's Blackboard page, as well as the basic readings indicated in the reading list.

Class participation is strongly recommended given the complexity of the language.

Students are given the choice of beginning the language exam with either the oral or written test. Students who pass the two tests will access to the final Chinese language exam (Language and Phonology).

*Prerequisites*

Students must have basic knowledge of standard modern Chinese language (putonghua).

In case the current Covid-19 health emergency does not allow frontal teaching, remote teaching will be carried out following procedures that will be promptly notified to students

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 Classes (Year 1 - First-level Degree)**

Dr Debora Celere; Dott.ssa Li Hui; Other Lecturers

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

The course aims to help students acquire a basic knowledge of oral and written Chinese, corresponding to the HSK2/HSKK elementary level. This will allow them to develop their ability to communicate in Chinese in familiar and everyday situations, also thanks to the practical activities organised in class. At the end of the course, students will be able to write, read, and analyse Chinese characters, and create short written and/oral texts in standard Chinese, using basic vocabulary.

**Intended learning outcomes**

At the end of the course, students will be able to carry out oral/written interactions with other Chinese speakers in everyday situations. To this end, their language skills (reading, listening, writing, and speaking) will be developed simultaneously during the course, using a gradual approach.

Furthermore, during the academic year, students will have the possibility to evaluate their progress through a number of self-assessment activities, and develop their communication skills thanks to continuous interaction with Chinese speaking lecturers.

The first lectures will introduce the key methods to study Chinese, especially Chinese characters, both manual and computer, so that everyone can find the one that best suits their learning characteristics.

***COURSE CONTENT***

The course will be based on the textbook of reference. In particular, it will be focused on the following topics:

– description and use of Chinese phonetics, with a focus on tones

– creation and understanding of sentences related to everyday situations

– writing and analysis of basic Chinese characters

– analysis of key sentence structures of Chinese, for the production of oral and short written texts

– study of basic Chinese vocabulary, written by hand and computer

Further information on the reading list for the final exam will be made available in class.

***READING LIST***

Zhang Hui, *Road to success 成功之路, threshold 入门篇*, Beijing Language and Culture University Press, Beijing, 2008.

Zhang Hui , *Road to Success 成功之路, lower elementary (vol. I) 起步篇,(第一册)*, Beijing Language and Culture University Press, Beijing, 2008.

Yang Nan , *Road to Success 成功之路, lower elementary (vol. 2) 起步篇,(第二册)*, Beijing Language and Culture University Press, Beijing, 2008.

The teaching material will include audi tracks with the recordings of lectures and practical activities. E-book format version is also available.

Recommended readings:

Dictionaries (one of the following):

- AA.VV, *Dizionario di Cinese,* Hoepli, 2007

- Casacchia Giorgio, Bai Yukun, *Dizionario cinese-italiano*, Cafoscarina, Venezia, 2013

- Zhao Xiuying, *Il Dizionario di Cinese,* Zanichelli, 2013

Grammatica:

- Romagnoli Chiara e Wang Jing, *Grammatica d’uso della lingua cinese. Teoria ed esercizi,* Hoepli, 2016

***TEACHING METHOD***

Frontal lectures. Additional self-learning materials will be made available on Blackboard.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

Written test and oral exam.

During the latter – aimed to assess the ability to interact with Chinese native speakers – students will be asked to read a text and answer a certain number of questions about its content or other everyday situations (16/30); then, they will have to make an oral presentation on one of the topics explained during the academic year (10/30); finally, they will have to answer some grammar questions and translate some of the structures analysed in class (4/30).

The written test, instead, will consist in a dictation activity (10%), and a selection of practical exercises based on the topics analysed during the academic year (55%); in addition, students will be asked to translate sentences from Chinese into Italian and vice versa (15%), and write a short text in Chinese (20%).

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

*There are no prerequisites for attending the course. However, students should have a good knowledge of the Italian grammar and the different parts of speech.*

This program is valid for all levels (beginners, intermediate, advanced). Before the start of lessons, students will be divided into groups based on their starting language skills.

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