# 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.