

21F.106 Chinese VI Regular Spring 2018

Selection Criteria of Registration

Enrollment limited to 16 for pedagogical reasons. No auditors. Please note that you have to attend the first day of class to maintain your preference level. In case of over-enrollment, preference will be given in the following order: declared minors, declared concentrators, pre-registered students of 21F.076J, sophomores, freshmen, juniors, seniors and graduate students. Within each category, priority will be given to pre-registered students, including pre-registered undergraduates who were cut from the same class the previous fall semester due to the enrollment cap. Students who did not begin their studies of the Chinese language at MIT and with prior knowledge of Chinese must contact a Chinese language instructor for a placement test.

Stellar Site URL: <https://stellar.mit.edu/S/course/21G/sp18/21G.106/>

Please check the Stellar website frequently for the most up-to-date information. The website has the syllabus, calendar, audio files, and weekly schedules detailing daily classroom activities and preview and review assignments.

Course Description and Learning Objectives

This course is designed for students who have completed 21F105 or who possess equivalent skills. The focus of this course is to consolidate previously acquired skills and help students to develop sophisticated listening, conversational, reading and writing skills. Students will be exposed to various Chinese texts with different writing styles in both traditional and simplified characters, and the topics will cover some aspects of Chinese society, including culture, politics and society. This course is conducted entirely in Chinese.

Note on Disabilities

Students who feel they may need an accommodation based on a disability should contact the instructor privately to discuss their specific needs.

Instructors

Mr. Tong Chen (陈彤老师 Chén Tóng lǎoshī)

Office: 14N-330 (617) 253-0109

Office Hours: MF11-12, W12-1 or by appointment

Email: tongchen@mit.edu

Section

Section 1 (Chén lǎoshī)

MWF 10:00 – 11:00

16-628

Textbooks

All the lessons are written by Chén lǎoshī and will be posted onto stellar under materials.

Academic Conduct

Please go to the MIT Plagiarism website and read through the information carefully to prevent unintentional violations: <http://integrity.mit.edu/>

"MIT assumes that all students come to the Institute for a serious purpose and expects them to be responsible individuals who demand of themselves high standards of honesty and personal conduct. Cheating, plagiarism, unauthorized collaboration, deliberate interference with the integrity of the work of others, fabrication or falsification of data, and other forms of academic dishonesty are considered serious offenses for which disciplinary penalties can be imposed."

You are expected to finish the writing assignments **independently**, without using online translation applications such as Google Translate, or receiving help from family and/or friends for translation assignments, compositions, etc.

Evaluation

The grade for this course will be based on the following:

Review tests	30% (10% x 3 = 30%)
Daily quizzes	10%
Written assignments	10%
Essay	10%
Attendance, preparation and participation	25%
Lingt oral practice	10%
Final presentation	5%
Total ----- 100%	

Daily classroom performance plays a significant role in your grades in the course. The reasons for this emphasis are many, but the main reason is that we are convinced that if you follow the course with consistency and persistence, you will develop significant demonstrable skills in Chinese by the end of the semester. Your daily performance on the activities assigned on the weekly schedule will be graded on the following four-point scale unless indicated otherwise:

- 4 Performance that promises interaction with a native with no difficulty, discomfort, or misunderstanding; no English hesitation noises in speaking and no “foreignisms” in the written work.
- 3.5 Performance comprehensible to native speakers, but some non-patterned errors that

would hinder smooth interaction with them.

- 3 Performance comprehensible to a native, but evident weakness or patterned errors.
- 2.5 Communication requires much help from interlocutor.
- 2 Performance puts burden on interlocutor. To facilitate communication, a Chinese-speaking native would probably avoid using Chinese with you.
- 1.5 Barely prepared, little competency evident.
- 1 Evidently unprepared, unable to perform.
- 0 Absent.

Most class sessions will be graded on a scale of 10 possible points, including familiarity with the assigned materials, accuracy and fluency in drill practice, participation in class activities, quizzes, and/or homework. Grades will be kept for every assigned performance. **As of Friday, February 6, the grading system will go into full effect.** You will need a minimum of 60% to pass the course. Percentage Grade Scale:

94 – 100 = A	90 – 93.9 = A-	
87 – 89.9 = B+	83 – 86.9 = B	80 – 82.9 = B-
77 – 79.9 = C+	73 – 76.9 = C	70 – 72.9 = C-
67 – 69.9 = D+	63 – 66.9 = D	60 – 62.9 = D-
Below 60 receives F		

Grades will be recorded on **Gradekeeper**. If you have a question about a grade, ask your instructor. There is **no curve** in this course. You are competing against the communicative demands of the language, not against each other. Each person will have to perform to receive credit; but there is nothing in the grading system to discourage collaborative efforts to achieve the highest level of performance possible.

If you must miss class, please let your instructor know well in advance if possible. You will be allowed to make up no more than **TWO** missed classes in this course unless you provide a doctor's note or a note from your academic advisor to the instructor in advance. The make-ups will be conducted by the instructor by appointment and will cover the work missed. Make-ups are to be arranged within two days of your return to class; missed classes which are not made up within the above time frame or which exceed two in number will be entered as zeroes in your grade record. It is vital that you maintain communication with your instructor if you miss class. You are expected to be in class each hour ready to perform; we do not have the resources to set up a separate program for those who cannot make it to class each hour each day.

Preparation for Classes and Policies

All classes are conducted in Chinese only. English will not be used except when asked for with a Chinese request. Therefore, you must come to class well-prepared in the assigned materials. Here is the **secret to success** in learning Chinese: The most important materials are the **AUDIO FILES**. Whenever possible, your preparation should emphasize the audio files. Below are important comments for you:

1. Be sure to come to every class; frequent cutting equals certain disaster! We cannot emphasize enough the importance of regular class attendance and of getting out of each class the maximum possible. You should always participate actively, paying close attention to everything you hear and see and anticipating the responses to questions even when you're not called upon.
2. We can't overstress the importance of *thorough preparation before each class*. Although your instructor does not ask you to memorize the content of each lesson, your well preparation for the assigned materials is expected. You should plan on spending **three hours** in preparation for each hour of class. This includes studying the text, vocabulary, grammar, explanations in the textbook and, especially, listening to and repeating after the audio recordings. Work with the recordings as actively as possible and always be thinking of the meaning of what you are hearing and saying.
3. Written homework will be due **in class**. Late homework will be accepted with a penalty (10% off per day) and will not be accepted two days late, except in cases of serious medical or family emergency. **"Extra work" to make up for missed homework later on will not be accepted for this class.**
4. **No make-up quiz or review test.** However, the lowest THREE grades of your daily performance will be dropped toward your semester grade.
5. To give you as much practice as possible in using Chinese, starting with Friday's class and continuing through the end of the course, *Chinese only is to be used during the first 45 minutes of every class*. If you have questions that can be asked or answered only in English, please: (1) ask during the last 5 minutes of class; (2) ask the instructor right after class is over; (3) make an appointment to meet with the instructor individually; or (4) communicate with the instructor via e-mail. In our classes we want to create as "Chinese" an atmosphere as possible and get you used to thinking only in Chinese; if we were to revert to English every few minutes, this would be hard to accomplish.
6. To become a successful learner of Chinese, your goal is to know both traditional and simplified characters. From Chinese III on, you can choose to write either in traditional or in simplified characters. Do not mix both. When it comes to reading, however, **you are expected to be able to read both**. All tests will be provided in both versions.
7. Please do all writing (including homework and tests) in no. 2 pencil, black ink, or blue ink. Please do not use very light pencils or red or green ink.

Resources on Stellar Site

1. Listen to the recordings of each lesson on a regular basis.

2. Useful websites and mobile devices:

- Online Chinese-English Talking Dictionary (website)
<http://www.yellowbridge.com/chinese>
- Online Dictionary
<http://dict.cn> (website)
- Dictionary **Pleco** (mobile device)
- Flashcards **Anki** (mobile device)

Classroom Etiquette

1. Greet your instructor and classmates in Chinese when you arrive at the classroom.
2. Hand in your homework and quizzes to your instructor **with both hands**.
3. Use Chinese for small talk with your instructor and classmates to the best of your ability.
4. When the instructor says “我们上课吧!” to begin class, students are expected to respond with “老师好!” to greet their instructor.
5. When the instructor says “我们下课了!” at the end of class, students are expected to say “谢谢老师” to show their appreciation.
6. When you write your instructor an email, start with “老师好!” Do not start with “Hi” or “Hello”, which are considered inappropriate.
7. If you must bring a cell phone to class, make certain it is turned off during class.

Stay playful!

Interested in working or teaching abroad?

1. The MIT China Program, one of the MISTI (MIT Science and Technology Initiative) programs, sponsors students working or teaching in Mainland China, Hong Kong, Taiwan, or Singapore for a summer, six months, or a school year. The website is:
<http://web.mit.edu/misti/mit-china/>
2. CETI (Chinese Education and Technology Initiative), a student-run group affiliated with MISTI China, sponsors students teaching high-school students science and technology over the summer.

Interested in studying abroad?

Check out the Global Education Office website (http://gecd.mit.edu/go_abroad/study) for opportunities and scholarships for studying Chinese or ask Chinese Study Abroad Advisor, Liang laoshi (mliang@mit.edu).

