

**21G.107/157 CHINESE I (STREAMLINED)
FALL 2016 MIT**

STELLAR SITE

Please check the Stellar site often for the most up-to-date information.

<http://stellar.mit.edu/S/course/21G/fa16/21G.107/>

INSTRUCTOR

Min-Min Liang (梁老師)

Office: 14N-222

Tel: 617-253-4743

Email: mliang@mit.edu

Office hours: MW 11-12, T 10 -11 and by appointment

TIME AND PLACE

Section 1 MWF 10:05 – 10:55am (Bldg.1-375)

Section 2 MWF 12:05 – 12:55pm (Bldg.14N-325)

Streamlined I and II – each section is limited to 16 students for pedagogical purposes. Pre-registered students have priority. Continuing students get first priority, followed, in order, by students in 21F.076, declared concentrators and minors, sophomores, freshmen, juniors, seniors, and graduate students. Pre-registered students who did not show up for the first two days of class without warning will be eliminated. Students beginning their studies of Chinese language at MIT above the elementary level must contact the Chinese instructors for a placement test. No auditors allowed.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course, along with 21F.108/158 offered in the spring, form the elementary level of the streamlined sequence, which is for students who have some basic conversational skills gained, typically, from growing up in a Chinese speaking environment, but lack a corresponding level of literacy. The focus of the course is on learning standard everyday usage, on reading in both full and simplified characters, and on writing.

CHARACTERS AND PINYIN

Students are expected to be able to read texts written in either the full or simplified sets of Chinese characters, but are free to choose either one in writing.

The following web page <http://web.mit.edu/jinzhang/www/pinyin> has a guide to the Pinyin system. You may access it any time to refresh your memory.

REQUIRED LEARNING MATERIALS

1. Julian Wheatley, Learning Chinese: A Foundation Course in Mandarin (The Character

- Text) (Available at the Stellar course site. Print out a copy yourself.).
2. Duanduan Li, et al. *A Primer for Advanced Beginners of Chinese V.1* (Daxue Yuwen), Columbia UP (2003, 2004) (Available at the MIT Coop)
- There are two versions of this textbook: a simplified character version (ISBN: 0-231-13567-X) and a traditional character version (ISBN: 0-231-12555-0). You may purchase whichever one you prefer.
3. Additional handouts in class.

Recommended Dictionaries

1. DeFrancis, John, ed. ***ABC Chinese-English Dictionary*** (regular or pocket edition). Honolulu: University of Hawaii Press, 1996. ASIN: 0824817443 (regular); ISBN: 0824821548 (pocket).

This is the only Chinese-to-English dictionary ordered by alphabet without reference to the head character of a word. In effect, it allows you to look up a word on the basis of its pronunciation alone, with no knowledge of the characters associated with it (though searching by character is also possible.)

2. Yuan, Boping, and Sally Church, eds. ***The Starter Oxford Chinese Dictionary***. New York, NY: Oxford University Press, 2000. ISBN: 0198602588.

This is a handy starter's dictionary, with good definitions and clear format.

3. Manser, Martin H., ed. ***Concise English-Chinese Chinese-English Dictionary***. 2nd ed. New York, NY: Oxford University Press, 1999. ASIN: 0195911512.

More entries than the previous dictionary, and with English-to-Chinese.

4. Please check our course website for recommended **online dictionary** tools.

CLASS

The first two meetings will be devoted to learning about the SOUNDS of the language and the ways we represent them in the pinyin system of transcription. We will also introduce the basics of CHARACTER WRITING. By the fifth week, we will begin the first lesson in your textbook, *A Primer for Advanced Beginners of Chinese Vol.1* (Daxue Yuwen/大學語文/大学语文), and we will be covering approximately one lesson in that book per week.

Classroom activities will include discussing the content of the texts, short reports and performance based on the texts, practicing some of the relevant grammatical patterns, sight reading of supplementary materials, and almost daily quizzes.

Writing: You will be asked to learn a selection of the characters introduced in the lesson, not all of them (see “Dictations” in “Grading”). And you will be asked to learn to recognize both simplified and full form characters from memory. For writing, you may choose one, full form or simplified, as you prefer.

GRADING

A = 100-95	A- = 94.9-90		
B+ = 89.9-86.7	B = 86.6-83.3	B- = 83.2-80	
C+ = 79.9-75	C = 74.9-70	C- = 69.9-60	F = below 60

Class Performance ----- 30%

(attendance 5%, promptness 3%, preparedness 5%, **class report** 7%, and participation 10%)

Written Assignments ----- 20%

Lingt Assignments ----- 5%

Bi-weekly Tests ----- 30%

Vocabulary Quizzes and Dictations ----- 10%

(Vocabulary quizzes are done at the beginning of the first of the two periods devoted to each lesson. You will need to transcribe a sentence into Pinyin and translate it into English. Dictations of selected required characters are done after the two periods devoted to each lesson.)

End-of-term Essay ----- 5%

(a 2-page double-space typewritten essay using Microsoft Word; 16-point font; instructions on how to input Chinese characters using pinyin are available on the Stellar site)

Attendance and promptness is assumed; more than **three unexcused absences (a week's worth) lowers your grade one letter**; significant lateness will add up to absences.

Twice during the semester, if you are late for class without telling your instructor in advance and miss a quiz, you are allowed to **take the quiz at the end of the class**.

Absences will count as excused ones only if you provide a doctor's note or a note from your academic advisor to the instructor.

Other factors may come in to play, eg. improvement versus stagnation or deterioration over the course of the semester, and progress relative to starting level. Academic Integrity is extremely important in this class. Cheating on homework and tests, and plagiarizing will be reported.

There are NO MAKE-UPS for quizzes and tests if you do not notify your instructor about your absence first but however, your lowest two quiz grades will be dropped. If you cannot take the quizzes on time, you should talk to the instructor to make arrangements for you to take the quizzes before your classmates do.

There is no final examination this term.

Homework handed in late will not receive full credit. You will lose one point per day of lateness. (ex: 9 out 10 points if you turn it in the next day)

ADVICE ON APPROACHING THE CLASS

[illegible]

**MISTI China
&
CETI (Chinese Education and Technology Initiative)**

<http://web.mit.edu/MISTI/www/events/index.html>