Syllabus for Intermediate Chinese: Very Fast Track 21G.142/143
Spring 2016

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, 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 spring semester due to the enrollment cap. Students with prior knowledge of Chinese must contact a Chinese language instructor for a placement test before beginning your studies of the Chinese language at MIT.

Sign up for

- **21G.162/163** if you are seeking graduate credit

Stellar Site URL: http://stellar.mit.edu/S/course/21G/sp16/21G.142/

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

Course Description

21G.142 and 143, together with 21G.101, form the intermediate level of what constitutes a four-term foundation in Mandarin. The foundation (Chinese I through IV) covers the core grammar of the language; it develops a sensitivity to linguistically appropriate behavior; it introduces extensive vocabulary and usage as a basis for conversational development; and it provides a step-by-step guide to the principles and practice of reading and writing Chinese characters. Upon completion of Chinese 21G.143, students should be able to speak Chinese with fluency on everyday topics, reach a literacy level of 600 characters (approximately 1000 common words written in both traditional and simplified characters), read materials written in simple standard written Chinese, and produce both orally and in writing short compositions on everyday topics. Throughout the course we will address issues of how cultural differences inform and are informed by different linguistic contexts and practices.

Class Meeting Time

MTRF 9-11, 14N-313

Instructor

Dr. Haohsiang Liao（廖灏翔老师 Liào Hàoxiáng lǎoshī）
Office: 14N-320 (617) 324-2431
Office Hours: MTR1-2 or by appointment
Email: hliao@mit.edu

Textbooks

For 21G.142, we will continue using the series of *Basic Spoken/Written Chinese*:

1. *Basic Spoken Chinese*, Cornelius C. Kubler. Tuttle Publishing, Rutland, 2011.
2. *Basic Spoken Chinese Practice Essentials*, Cornelius C. Kubler and Yang Wang. Tuttle Publishing, Rutland, 2011.
3. *Basic Written Chinese*, Cornelius C. Kubler. Tuttle Publishing, Rutland, 2012.
4. *Basic Written Chinese Practice Essentials*, Cornelius C. Kubler and Jerling Guo Kubler. Tuttle Publishing, Rutland, 2012.

You can purchase the above books at the COOP in Kendall Square. **You will need all four textbooks right away!**

For 21G.143:

Purchase the following two books at the COOP in Kendall Square:

1. *Intermediate Spoken Chinese*, Cornelius C. Kubler. Tuttle Publishing, Rutland, 2013.
2. *Intermediate Spoken Chinese Practice Essentials*, Cornelius C. Kubler and Yang Wang. Tuttle Publishing, Rutland, 2013.

Purchase the following two books (course pack for 21G.142) at the MIT CopyTech at Building 11-004:

1. *Intermediate Written Chinese*, Cornelius C. Kubler. Tuttle Publishing, Rutland, 2015.
2. *Intermediate Written Chinese Practice Essentials*, Cornelius C. Kubler and Jerling Guo Kubler. Tuttle Publishing, Rutland, 2015.

If you buy used books, make sure that they contain both the DVD and the MP3 Audio CD. They are essential for this course.

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.

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.

Learning Objectives/Goals of the Course

The focus of this course is to train you to function successfully in Chinese culture using Mandarin as your primary language. We assume that you are interested in interacting with Chinese people in a way that will permit you to pursue professional goals in some segment of Chinese society. This means that we expect you to learn how to present yourself in a way that a Chinese person will find comfortable. If a Chinese person has to adapt to you in order to communicate, it is not likely that you can accomplish what you intend in China.

This course will further help you develop skills in Mandarin Chinese to communicate across ethnic, cultural, ideological and national boundaries and to develop an understanding of Chinese interpersonal behavioral culture and related thought patterns. At the end of the course, you will be expected to perform in speaking, listening, reading and writing Chinese at an intermediate proficiency. You should also demonstrate a level of cultural understanding suitable for correct performance of assigned tasks in Chinese (e.g., how to make a request in an appropriate way). This means that we will pay attention to the way you behave as much as we attend to your use of the language. We are really coaching you on how to behave in Chinese culture. This is a long-term process, but we will get started on it right away. In order to do this, you will have to perform. **Performance, *your* performance**, is the focus of this course.

We assure you that if you do what we ask of you on a daily basis, you will learn Chinese. If you learn Chinese, you will do well in this program. Therefore, our evaluation (i.e.,

your grades) will be based largely on your daily performances. The following section should be read carefully and thoroughly understood.

Evaluation

The grade for 21G.142 will be based on the following:

1. Daily classroom performance including performance of the basic conversation, exercises, participation in class activities, quizzes, and/or homework (60%)
2. Review tests (10% x 3 = 30%)
3. Final oral interview (10%)

The grade for 21G.143 will be based on the following:

1. Daily classroom performance including performance of the basic conversation, exercises, participation in class activities, quizzes, and/or homework (60%)
2. Review tests (10% x 3 = 30%)
3. Essay (10%)

Your grades in the course are largely determined by classroom performance. 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 8 possible points – 4 for "performance of memorized basic conversations" and the other 4 for overall practice based on drills, communicative exercises, quizzes, and/or written assignments. Grades will be kept for every assigned performance. **As of Thursday, February 4, the grading system will go into full effect**. You will need a minimum of 60% to pass the course. Percentage Grade Scale:

	A = 100-93.4	**A- = 93.3-90**	
B+ = 89.9-86.7	**B = 86.6-83.4**	**B- = 83.3-80**	
C+ = 79.9-76.7	**C = 76.6-73.4**	**C- = 73.3-70**	
D+ = 69.9-66.7	**D = 66.6-63.4**	**D- = 63.3-60**	**F = below 60**

Grades and comments will be recorded on **Engrade** online at http://www.engrade.com. You should check this daily to track your progress. 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 us 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 instructors 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 us 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*. You should plan on spending **two hours** in preparation for each hour of class. This includes studying the core conversations, vocabulary, supplementary vocabulary, grammatical and cultural notes 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. Memory work will be a very important part of the course. Starting **Thursday, February 4**, when we begin conversation, you should memorize the assigned conversation that constitutes the core of each lesson by working intensively with the audio files; *do not rely on reading the romanization in your textbook*. Memorize each basic conversation thoroughly, so you can perform it in class accurately and fluently. It is essential to internalize the new words, grammar patterns, and cultural behavior so they will be readily available to you for your own use when needed. Memorization will greatly aid your fluency and naturalness of speaking. Students sometimes question the necessity of repetition, drill, and memorization. Certainly, these are only the first steps leading to our ultimate goal of communicative competence; however, they are very important steps, since they firmly establish in your brain the sounds and structures of the language for you to draw on later in your own speech. We hope that you understand the importance of these activities and ask that you work hard at them.

4. 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**.

5. **No make-up quiz** or **review test.** However, the lowest THREE grades of your daily performance will be dropped toward your semester grade.

6. To give you as much practice as possible in using Chinese, starting with Thursday'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.

7. To become a successful learner of Chinese, your goal is to know both traditional and simplified characters. We will continue with **simplified characters** in 21G.142. In 21G.143, **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 handouts and tests will be provided in both versions.

8. 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.

Classroom Etiquette

1. No caps.
2. No eating or chewing gum.
3. Do not cross your legs when you are seated.
4. Do not put your hands in your pockets when you do the dialog performance.
5. Hand in your homework to your teacher **with both hands**.
6. When the teacher says "Wǒmen shàngkè ba (*Let's begin class*)" to begin class, students are expected to respond with "Lǎoshī hǎo (*How are you teacher?*)" to greet their teacher.
7. When the teacher says "Wǒmen xiàkèle (*We end class now*)" at the end of class, students are expected to say "Xièxie lǎoshī (*Thank you, teacher*)" to show their appreciation.
8. When you write your teacher an email, start with "Laoshi hao." Do not start with "Hi" or "Hello", which are considered inappropriate in this situation.
9. If you must bring a cell phone to class, make certain it is turned off. If your cell phone rings during class, you will be asked to leave immediately.

Useful Resources

- Online Chinese-English Talking Dictionary: http://www.yellowbridge.com/chinese
- Simplified to Traditional Characters Converter: http://www.chinese-tools.com/tools/converter-simptrad.html
- Chinese Characters to Pinyin Converter: http://www.words-chinese.com/pinyin-converter

Food for Thought

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, Taiwan, Hong Kong, 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).

****