



# CHN 101: Beginner Chinese I

## COURSE SYLLABUS

### Overview

Welcome to CLI's *Beginner Chinese I* course, an intensive introduction to the basic fundamentals of Mandarin Chinese. CHN 101 is designed for students who have very limited to no background in the Chinese language, and will cover basic language skills in speaking, reading, writing, and listening.

### Objectives

After completing *Beginner Chinese I*, you are expected to master:

- The *pinyin* Romanization system
- Simple Chinese grammar and sentence structures
- Basic verbal communication in a variety of settings
- The principal rules behind writing Chinese characters
- A fundamental understanding of Chinese customs and traditions

In addition, you should be able to:

- Successfully formulate sentences in Mandarin Chinese
- Hold basic conversations with Chinese speakers
- Comprehend spoken passages in accordance with beginner Chinese vocabulary
- Read and understand written passages in accordance with beginner Chinese vocabulary
- Write simple Chinese characters
- Demonstrate a tangible appreciation for Chinese culture

### Texts

The following textbook will be distributed following your arrival in Guilin:

- Yao, T-C., Liu, Y-H, et al., *Integrated Chinese*, Level 1 Part 1, and workbook. Boston: Cheng & Tsui Company, 2009.
- 汉语听力教程 (Chinese Listening Module; BLCU). (*Supplementary*)

### Credits

Courses are structured so that one credit is earned for every 20 hours (one week) of class, with most classes falling into a range of 3 to 15 weeks (3 to 15 credits). Students will typically earn 6 academic credits upon the completion of CHN 101, awarded by CLI's official university affiliate,



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Guangxi Normal University (GXNU). Classes can be divided into listening, reading, writing, spoken, and/or comprehensive components.

### Grading

Each student will be required to participate in a midterm and final evaluation, which will be used by CLI's teaching staff to assess student progress. In addition, timely completion of homework assignments is expected, and teachers will utilize various informal methods (i.e., oral practice, in-class assignments, pop quizzes) to monitor comprehension.

Midterm evaluation	30%
Homework	20%
Informal assessments	20%
Final evaluation	30%

### Homework

Homework will be assigned for every class and will be due the following day (unless otherwise noted). Homework assignments will not receive a percentage grade, but will simply be checked for completeness and understanding. Students will receive a *zero mark* for each missed homework assignment and a *reduced grade* for each late assignment – missed and late homework will be noted during the final grading process.

### Exams

Students will be required to take two examinations: a midterm evaluation (30%) and a comprehensive final exam (30%). Each of these examinations will feature written and oral elements.

### Course Schedule

*\*Depending on individual pace, students can usually expect to complete between one and three lessons per week.\**

### Introduction

- Introduction to *pinyin*
- Discussion of Chinese language and dialects
- System of Chinese pronunciation
- Basic information about the Chinese writing system



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- Continuation of *pinyin*
- Pronunciation drills
- Using common expressions in the classroom and daily life

### Lesson 1 – Greetings (问好)

- Exchanging greetings
- Asking about someone's nationality
- 姓, 呢, 叫, 是, 吗, 不, 也

### Lesson 2 – Family (家庭)

- Asking about someone's family and profession
- Names of basic kinship terms and common professions
- 的, 有, 二, 两, 都
- Measure words and question pronouns

### Lesson 3 – Dates and Time (时间)

- Expressing times and dates
- Discussing someone's age and birthday
- Inviting someone to dinner
- Numbers
- 我请你。。, 还, 的 (II)

### Review Lessons 1, 2, and 3

### Lesson 4 – Hobbies (爱好)

- Talking about hobbies
- Setting up plans for the weekend
- Word order in Chinese
- 去, 那 (么), 好吗, 想

### Lesson 5 – Visiting Friends (看朋友)

- Welcoming a visitor
- Introducing one person to another



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- Describing a visit to a friend's home
- 一下，在，吧，了，才

### Lesson 6 – Making Appointments (月时间)

- Speaking on the phone
- Setting up appointments
- Asking for favors
- 给，要，别，得

### Review Lessons 4, 5, and 6

### Lesson 7 – Studying Chinese (学中文)

- Talking about exams and learning experiences
- Talking about study habits and writing characters
- 太，真，就，有（一）点儿，怎么

### Lesson 8 – School Life (学校生活)

- Writing a brief letter
- Expressing modesty; inviting friends out
- 一边。。一边，能，会，除了。。意外，就 (III)，了 (II)，的 (III)，就 (III)

### Lesson 9 – Shopping (买东西)

- Talking about purchases
- Characteristics of Chinese money
- Asking for change; asking for a different size
- 要 (II)，measure words (II)，的 (II)，多，跟/和。。（不）一样
- 虽然。。可是/但是

### Lesson 10 – Transportation (交通)

- Means of transportation
- How to travel from one place to another
- Describing traffic



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- Offer New Year's wishes
- 或者。。还是，先。。再，还是。。吧，每。。都，要。。了

***Final course review***