



CHN 201: Intermediate Chinese I

COURSE SYLLABUS

Overview

Welcome to CLI's *Intermediate Chinese I* (CHN 201) course! *Intermediate Chinese I* is designed for students who already have knowledge of basic Chinese, as well as those who have completed two semesters of Mandarin Chinese coursework in an academic setting. *Intermediate Chinese I* emphasizes both the spoken and written elements of the Chinese language, and students enrolling in this course can expect to move from reading individual characters to reading Chinese texts. The course is focused around 20 hours per week of in-class reading, writing, spoken and listening coursework through a combination of the small group and one-on-one intensive Mandarin classes.

Objectives

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

- 400 additional Chinese characters
- Important and complex grammatical phenomena
- Adequate command of functional Chinese for everyday use
- Expression of views on serious, topical issues in increasing detail
- Further understanding of Chinese customs and traditions

In addition, you should be able to:

- Handle most daily conversation with moderate fluency
- Become familiar with the most common characters when written in traditional form
- Read comprehension texts designed for Chinese language learners
- Be able to talk about common topics, as well as some social issues
- Display a deep understanding of Chinese culture

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 201, awarded by CLI's official university affiliate, Guangxi Normal University (GXNU). Classes can be divided into listening, reading, writing, spoken, and/or comprehensive components.

Texts

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



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- Yao, T-C., Liu, Y-H, et al., Integrated Chinese, Level 2 Part 1, and workbook (Simplified and Traditional Characters). Boston: Cheng & Tsui Company, 2009.
- Yao, T-C., Liu, Y-H, et al., Integrated Chinese, Level 2 Part 1 Character Workbook (Simplified and Traditional Characters). Boston: Cheng & Tsui Company, 2009.

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 study pace, students can usually expect to complete between one and three lessons per week.

Lesson 1 – The School Term Begins (开学)

- Explain how to write your Chinese name
- Say where you were born and grew up
- Discuss the pros and cons of living on and off campus



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- Express politely a dissenting opinion
- Disambiguating homophones in Chinese
- Forms: 了, 是。。的; 除了。。意外; 再说
- Words & phrases: 觉得; 方便; 安全; 省钱; 自由; 不见得; 好处; 适应

Lesson 2 – The Dormitory (宿舍)

- Name basic pieces of furniture in a house
- Describe your living quarters
- Comment on someone's living quarters
- Disagree tactfully
- Forms: 真; 比较; 得很; 那; conjunctions
- Words & phrases: 恐怕; 差不多; 吵; 安静; 一般; 不怎么样; 得道

Lesson 3 – At the Restaurant (在饭馆儿)

- Name four principal regional Chinese cuisines
- Order food and drinks
- Talk about what flavors you like or dislike
- Make your dietary restrictions or preferences known
- Settling a bill and tipping in China
- Forms: 一 + v.; 又 adj./verb, 又 adj./verb; 不如
- Words & phrases: 正好; 特别是; 麻烦; 这(就)要看。。(了); 比如(说)

Lesson 4 – Going Shopping (买东西)

- Name basic clothing, bedding, and bath items
- Describe your shopping preferences and criteria
- Disagree with others tactfully
- Present your arguments with rhetorical questions
- Knowing when to bargain
- Forms: 都。。无论。。; 都。。; conjunction 于是; Adj./verb + 是 + adj./verb; 可是/但是; 难道
- Words & phrases: 。。什么的; 大小; 长短; 宽窄; 打折; 要不然; 非。。不可; 标准; 在乎

Lesson 5 – Choosing Your Studies (选课)

- State your major area of study and some required general courses you have taken



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- Talk about what you plan to do after graduating
- Explore what will enhance your future job opportunities
- Explain whether your family members have had an influence on your choice of career path
- Share tips on how to save money for your education
- The compartmentalized educational system in China
- Forms: 对。。来说; 至于; 另外; 在, 有, and 还 compared

Review Lessons 1 – 5

Lesson 6 – Boyfriends & Girlfriends (男朋友女朋友)

- State if you share your interests or hobbies with others
- Inquire if everything is OK and find out what has happened
- Describe typical behaviors of a forgetful person
- Give a simple description of what you look for in a boyfriend/girlfriend
- Tell what makes you anxious or angry
- Dating and marriage in China
- Forms: (在)。。上; V.来 V.去; 地; 原来; set phrases
- Words & phrases: 到底; 根本; 一干二净; 难怪; 实际上; 去三拉四; 一会儿。。一会儿。。一会儿又

Lesson 7 – Computers & Internet (电脑和网络)

- Find out if others are angry with you and apologize if so
- Reduce tension in a conversation by changing the subject
- Let people know about the trouble you had to go through because of their thoughtlessness or carelessness
- Name your activities on the internet and discuss how you make use of the internet
- Discuss the pros and cons of using the internet
- Forms: 甚至; potential complements; 好 as a resultative complement; connecting sentences
- Words & phrases: 从。。到。。; 结果; 或者; 害(得); 几乎; 看起来; 听起来

Lesson 8 – Part-time Work (打工)

- Review your monthly income and spending patterns
- Talk about how you balance your personal budget
- Name some possible reasons to work part-time while in school
- Discuss the pros and cons of working part-time while in school



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- Describe what you dislike or what bothers you
- Forms: 来 connecting two verb phrases; rhetorical questions; adverb 可; directional complements
- Words & phrases: 压力; 收到; 减轻; 合适 and 适合; 影响; 取得; 说到; 嫌; 不是 A, 就是 B; 多

Lesson 9 – Education (教育)

- Comment whether you had a stress-free childhood
- Name some typical classes offered in after-school programs
- Indicate agreement or disagreement
- Present your opinions
- Talk about parents' aspirations for their children
- Forms: adverb 才; adverb 并; descriptive complements; adjectives as predicates; 不是 A, 而且 B
- Words & phrases: 一直; 好 (不) 容易; 像。。一样; 可以说; 怎么说; 最好

Lesson 10 – China's Geography (中国地理)

- Locate major Chinese cities, provinces, and rivers on the map
- Give a brief introduction to the geographic features of China
- Compare some basic geographic aspects of China and the United States
- Describe features that may attract you to or deter you from visiting a tourist site
- Plan a trip to China
- Forms: 起来; conjunction 而; 最 adj.不过了; 过 indicating experience
- Words & phrases: 为了 and 因为; 一下子; 太多; 呢

Final course review