Chinese 110    Fall 2008

Instructors:

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Textbooks:

Course Packet:
Green Book: vocabulary, sentence patterns, text, grammar    $ 13
Yellow Book I: characters    $ 8
Blue Book: Foundation work pronunciation handouts    $ 4

Meeting Times and Classrooms:

Session I:       MW    12:00-12:50 (CJ 305)
                 TR    12:00-12:50 (CJ 308)
Session II:      MW    12:00-12:50 (CJ 308)
                 TR    02:30-03:20 (CJ 308)
Session III:     MW    12:00-12:50 (CJ 309)
                 TR    12:00-12:50 (CJ 309)

Individual session: Friday 9:00AM-4:30PM (TBA)

Language Table:  Tuesdays 5:30-7:00PM (Commons)
Starting from the 2nd week, Sep. 9th

Course Objectives:

This course is designed for students who want to have a basic command of Chinese language and culture. Using multimedia teaching materials, the course will help students discover a different linguistic dimension in describing human behaviors and experiences. It offers students the opportunity to gain not only the ability to use a different language, but also the perspective for appreciating a different culture in its own context.
Through classroom practice and after-class activities (lab work, tutorial), students will gain a basic command of the spoken and written language, as well as the cultural knowledge in which this living language is embedded. By the end of the semester, students are expected to be:

- Able to distinguish the tones and sounds of Chinese, to pronounce individual sounds and tones according to the Pinyin system of modern standard Chinese, to write down dictated syllables with correct tones as required;
- Able to comprehend general information and vocabulary when the communication partner uses objects, gestures, and visuals in speaking or writing;
- Able to comprehend the message or conversation using contextual clues, key words redundancy, paraphrase or restatement;
- Able to perform basic communicative functions in face-to-face social interactions using a string of short sentences;
- Able to recognize and write approximately 250 characters, to read and comprehend simple passages written in Chinese characters, to write short notes or simple messages using a mixture of Pinyin and characters.

Course Description and Requirements:

Preparation and Attendance
Students are expected to be prepared vocabulary, grammar notes, and text for each class meeting and come to the class punctually.

Daily Dictation
At the beginning of each class, students will be given a short dictation of vocabulary and sentences. More than thirty-five dictations may be given in this semester, but only the thirty best results will be eventually counted into your final grade.

Individual Session
Individual session is normally scheduled on Fridays, and it is required. As an important part of this course, attendance at the one-on-one weekly individual tutorial is mandatory. During these fifteen-minute sessions, each student will have the opportunity to practice his/her listening and speaking skills with one of the instructors. Normally, this oral practice focuses on the material covered in class.

Homework
Doing homework and turning it in on time is essential and crucial to success in this course.

Homework is assigned on a weekly basis. It usually consists of four parts:
- Character sheets
- Exercises from the workbook
- Listening comprehension
- Reading assignment
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You are allowed to discuss questions concerning your homework with your classmates or anyone who has a better knowledge of Chinese, but you must complete the homework independently. **Any direct copying from other student’s work is absolutely prohibited and is considered as cases of plagiarism to be reported to the Honor Court.** If you have any questions concerning the rules and regulations Honor Code relating to this course, you may either ask your instructors or visit website http://www.hamilton.edu/college/Student_Handbook/HonorCode.html.

**Dictation Correction**

You learn through your mistakes. Therefore, you are required to make corrections on your dictation from the instructor and then hand in your correction on the next meeting day. You can earn up to 10% credits by doing correction (the correction policy is in effect after the second monthly test).

**Language Lab**

Students are required to work independently in the language lab on the tapes and/or computer programs specified or assigned by the instructor. Students must spend at least two hours each week working on these relevant materials in the lab. For the first two weeks, 30 minutes everyday on Foundation Work (http://www.hamilton.edu/academics/llc/hamilton_web/) is mandatory. Please remember to sign in at the lab.

**Weekly Quizzes**

There will be quizzes given on a weekly basis throughout the semester. These quizzes are used to check students’ knowledge of: (a) new characters from the yellow book; (b) new structures and vocabulary from the green book; and (c) listening comprehension.

**Course Policies:**

**Preparation and Attendance**

Students who have three or more absences from class (including weekly individual tutorial sessions) throughout the semester will lose all 10% for attendance.

**Note:** students are asked **NOT** to take an early departure before the college scheduled break.

- **Fall recess begins 4 p.m. October 15th**
- **Thanksgiving begins 4 p.m. November 21st**

**Late Homework**

10% of daily homework credit will be taken away if you fail to turn in your homework in class on the day it is due. If you don’t hand in the homework at all, you will lose all the points.

**Make-ups**

There will be no make-ups for daily dictations, weekly quizzes, or tests unless you have a legitimate reason (such as family emergency or serious personal sickness).

**Tardiness**
Punctuality is expected of every student. Coming to class meetings or appointments on time shows your respect for your instructor, classmates, and yourself. Therefore, fifteen minutes late for class will be counted as an absence.

**Change of Appointment**

For any change of a scheduled appointment, you are required to inform the instructor at least 24 HOURS ahead. Not to show up at an appointment without an acceptable excuse will also result in lowering your grade.

**Change of Exam Schedule**

If there is any exam schedule conflict, you must inform the instructor A WEEK ahead.

**Grading System:**

- Dictations: 10%
- Homework: 20%
- Language Lab: 5%
- Weekly quizzes: 15%
- 3 tests: 30%
- Final: 10%
- Term Project: 5%
- Class, individual session and language table attendance: 10%

**How to Access Course Information on Blackboard**

1. Find Blackboard website at blackboard.hamilton.edu and login with your ID and password.
2. Click on “FA2008 First term Chinese” in “My Courses”, you will see the following screen and use the menu button on the left corner to access Chinese 110 course information:
3. To access digital files of “Foundation Work” (FW) during the first two weeks, click on “External links”. You will find FW Lesson 1 to Lesson 5 there. You need to use them daily to practice your tones and pronunciation. In order to keep track of your listening comprehension activities, we ask you to go to the lab and use the Blackboard system there. When you are at the lab, make sure you sign your name first. We will use the tracking results to credit your lab session.

4. To access Chinese 110 course description and syllabus, click on “Course information” button, you’ll find the documents there. You can click on the link and open or save the files.

5. To access review and class materials, click on “Course documents” button, you will find folders named “PPT files in class”, “weekly syllabi”, etc. You should check out these course materials daily because you will need them for class preparation, homework, and daily correction. In addition, daily dictation answer keys, test review materials, PPT and other class materials are displayed there.

6. We will also upload daily assignment files on Blackboard every week, you must first print them out from Blackboard, work on them independently, and then hand them in during class on the due date. You can find the daily homework by clicking on “Assignments”.

7. This semester we plan to use discussion board to communicate with everyone. The discussion board is in “Communication” under “Tools” on the menu bar. We have created two forums now, which are “general information question” and “homework question”, please feel free to post any questions.