**Chinese I Course Syllabus (2011-2012)**

***Course Description***

Chinese 1 is an introductory course to “Mandarin”.  In everyday English, "Mandarin" refers to [Standard Chinese](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Standard_Chinese), which is often called simply "Chinese". With communicative classroom activities and on-line practices, this course seeks to help students acquire the rudimentary knowledge of Chinese and develop basic skills in understanding, speaking, reading and writing in the language.  By the end of the course, students are expected to have a good command of the pronunciation system and basic grammar, to be able to conduct daily conversation in simple Chinese, and to read and write short passages with an active vocabulary of about 200 simplified Chinese characters.

The ultimate goal of this course lies in enhancing students’ communicative competence.  Therefore, during early stages of their Chinese studies, class time will be primarily devoted to acquiring basic oral and listening skills.  Later on, when students are more familiar with structural conventions, they will be challenged with listening and reading materials that include some unknown characters in order for them to develop these skills under more authentic context.  In addition to gaining communicative and linguistic competence, students will be exposed to Chinese culture in order for them to better understand the cultural background in which their language skills will be used.  Topics include pinyin; greetings; self-introductions; numbers and ages; Chinese zodiac; family and occupations; pets; countries and languages; face features and body parts; sports; food; date and time; daily activities and hobbies.

***Goals & Objectives***

Students will gain listening, speaking, reading and writing skills in standard (Mandarin) Chinese, attaining approximately the Novice level on the ACTFL (American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages) proficiency scale. Specifically, students will be able to achieve the following:

**Listening**

Understanding short, fixed utterance and some sentence-length utterance, especially where context supports understanding and speech is clear. Students will also be able to comprehend limited vocabulary and some simple questions and statements about names, ages, nationalities, family members, time, hobbies, etc.

**Speaking**

Make short statements and ask simple questions, primarily by relying on memorized utterances but occasionally by recombining familiar phrases and fragments. Vocabulary centers on areas such as self-information, family, common classroom objects, time and dates, hobbies, etc.

**Reading**

Identify a limited number of character components and high-frequency characters in areas of immediate need. Students will be able to read typical messages for instructional and directional purposes, such as food in stores, times and dates on schedules, and simple realia.

**Writing**

Write fixed expressions and short statements. Vocabulary centers on areas such as common objects, places, daily activities, shopping, transportation, etc. Students will also be able to write simple in formation as well as some short phrases.

***Text & Materials***

• *Nihao* (Level 1), Textbook

• *Nihao* (Level 1, Workbook

• Audio Recordings for *Nihao*(Level 1)

# Students are expected to come to class prepared. The following materials are required in class every day:

* pencil/pen
* notebook with clean sheets of paper
* Nihao (Level 1), Textbook
* Nihao (Level 1), Workbook

Supplementary Recourses

• *Chinese Made Easy 1& 2* (Textbook, Workbook*)*

• Online Leaning supporting videos <http://english.cntv.cn/learnchinese/>

• Online news, magazines and movies

***Students Responsibilities***

**Attendance**

Attendance is mandatory. Absences without valid reasons will affect your grade. Students who are more than 15 minutes late to class will be regarded as absent. Keep in mind the importance of regular class attendance. Without meaningful reinforcement through consistent instruction, learners may not achieve language acquisition as effectively as they could be.

Tardy Policy

* 1st unexcused tardy a verbal warning from the teacher
* 2nd unexcused tardy 15 minutes of detention either at lunch or after school
* 3rd unexcused tardy 30 minutes of detention and parent notification
* 4th unexcused tardy administrative referral

Class preparation and Participation

All students are expected to prepare for class and participate actively in the day’s language practice. Practice is vital to comprehension and achieving fluency.

Homework and Assignment

Please be prompt with all homework and assignments. Maintaining the sequence and pacing of the curriculum is importance as it has been purposely designed for meaningful comprehension. By not following the intended curriculum, you may not allow yourself adequate opportunity to focus on all areas of the material. No language can be acquired overnight; the best way to build up Chinese proficiency is gradually, through frequent interaction with the course material.

Make-Up Work for Absences

Students have an equal number of days to make up daily work as were missed. For example, if a student is absent for 2 days, he/she has 2 days to make up the in-class activity or homework. If the work is not made up in that time, students will lose 50% of the credit they earn on the work. In case of a long-term illness, special arrangements will be made. The guidelines stated in the Student/Parent Handbook apply regarding absences and tests/presentations/projects.

Quizzes and Testes

Every effort should be made to take quizzes and tests at specified times. Quizzes and tests have been designated at particular points to help chart your progress. To be an accurate measure, the intended schedule should be followed. This is to help you identify areas that extra work and help you focus your study time.

Academic Integrity

The nature of language learning provides the opportunity for much group and partner work. In Chinese class, cooperation and teamwork are encouraged. However, no type of cheating or plagiarism is tolerated. The consequences of cheating are listed in the Academic Integrity Policy in the SIS Student/Parent Handbook. Cheating and plagiarism include the use of on-line translation services.

A few reminders:

1. Observe the Behavior Policy of the Seoul International School Student/Parent Handbook.
2. Show respect for everyone in the classroom: the teacher, guest teachers, fellow students, visitors, and, most of all, yourself. This includes not talking when someone else, teacher or student, is talking to the class.
3. Get to class on time. Be in your assigned seat working on your entry task by the time class begins.
4. Keep food, drinks (except water), and gum OUT of the classroom.
5. Do not use your laptop unless the teacher tells you do so in the classroom. This is a language class and you need to be actively listening or participating.
6. Speak Chinese and keep a positive attitude. The only way you’ll improve is to practice! Don’t give up if you don’t understand at first. Be patient. And, be proactive.
7. Please keep in mind that each student’s background, interests, learning style, difficulties and goals are different. Please be patient with each other and do not hesitate to see your teacher for extra help or explanations.

Grading

Grades are based on the following weighting system:

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| --- | --- |
| Quarter Grades | Weight |
| Class Work (participation, effort, in-class work) | 20% |
| Homework | 20% |
| Quizzes | 20% |
| Projects and Oral Work | 30% |
| Tests | 10% |

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| --- | --- |
| Semester Grades | Weight |
| First/Third Quarter | 40% |
| Second/Fourth Quarter | 40% |
| Exam | 20% |

Course Outline

**Quarter 1 and 2 - August to December 2012**

Unit 1: Introduction to China and Pinyin

Unit 2: Greetings and Basic Self-introduction

Unit 3: Numbers

Unit 4: Family (Occupation and family pets)

Unit 5: Introduction of Chinese Zodiac

Unit 6: Countries and Languages I

**Quarter 3 and 4 – January to June**

Unit 7: Countries and Languages

Unit 8: Classroom Objects

Unit 9: People Describing

Unit 10: Food

Unit 11: Daily activities and Hobbies

Unit 12: Date and Time

Contact

If you have any concern or question, please, feel free to contact me. The best method would be using the email duane@siskorea.org