UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

COURSE SYLLABUS

Chinese Language I

2021-1-E2001R055-E2001R059M

Course title

Chinese I

Topics and course structure

Introduction to Chinese language.

Lessons will concentrate on the basis of Chinese language, starting from the writing system and phonetics:

- Chinese characters: writing and classification
- Phonetics
- *Pinyin* Romanization system
- How to use a Chinese dictionary

Moreover, the course will provide the basis of Chinese grammar; listening and speaking skills will focus on recognizing tones and on basic oral interactions. The students will also be introduced to reading and translating simple texts.

During the second term, students will be required to read and translate newspaper articles abridged to an HSK2 level.

Grammar covered during the first year:

- Affirmative and negative sentences

- Verbal predicate including
    - Double object verbs
    - Verbs + object
    - Predicate adjectives
    - Nominal predicate
    - Existential sentence (I)

- Interrogative sentences

    - Modal particles ?, ?
    - Interrogative substitues
    - Affirmative-negative questions
- ? structural particle and determinate-determinant patterns

- Classifiers

- Modal verbs: ??????????

- Prepositions: ?????????

- Constructions

    - Serial verb construction
    - Pivotal construction
    - Action in progress (??????)
- Modal particles ???
- Adverbs: ???????

- Time words
- Locatives

Objectives

Chinese Language Proficiency: C.E.F.R. A2

At the end of the course the students will have the tools required to attend the HSK2 proficiency language exam.

Students will be proficient in Basic Chinese language listening, reading comprehension and conversation

Methodologies

Interactive classes.

During the Covid-19 emergency, all the lectures will be recorded and made available online.

Students will be asked to deliver some materials to the teacher (translations and ??) by uploading them on the platform and by sending them to the teacher via email.

Further details on how the presence in class will be organized will be provided during the semester.

Online and offline teaching materials

Textbook:

- Federico Masini, Zhang Tongbing, Bai Hua et al., *Il cinese per gli italiani – Corso base*, Milano: Hoepli, 2010.
- Jin Zhigang, Bettina Mottura, *Caratteri cinesi. Esercizi di scrittura*, Milano: Unicopli, 2016.
- Other material provided in class.

Dictionary:

- Zhao Xiuying, Franco Gatti, Cinese. Dizionario compatto cinese-italiano, italiano-cinese, Modena: Zanichelli 2017
- ?????? T*he Contemporary Chinese Dictionary* (Chinese-English edition). Beijing: Foreign Language Teaching and Research Press, 2002 . OPPURE *Chinese English Dictionary*, new edition con dvd, Foreign Language Teaching and Research Press [ISBN 978 7 560098470]

Readings:

Choice of one:

Li Kunwu, Philippe Ôtié, *Una vita cinese – Il tempo del padre* (vol. 1), Torino: Add editore, 2016. **OR** C. Rocchi M. Demonte, *Primavere e Autunni*, Padova: BeccoGiallo, 2015

Compulsory:

Yu Hua, *La Cina in Dieci Parole*, trad. S. Pozzi, Milano: Feltrinelli, 2015 (edizione economica).

Grammars (for further reading, not compulsory):

- Federico Madaro, *La parola – Lingua cinese moderna standard, Parti del discorso - Elementi sintattici - Costruzioni particolari*, Edizioni SEB27, 2016

OR

- Chiara Romagnoli, Jing Wang, *Grammatica d'uso della lingua cinese*, Hoepli, Milano, 2016

Programme and references for attending students

Modern Chinese language

Focus on learning to write and on the phonetics system, introduction to basic grammatical structures.

Chinese characters writing exercises, reading comprehension and basic translation techniques. The course will provide also guidelines to read and translate very simple texts. At the end of the course, the students will be able to introduce themselves and ask basic personal questions, reading basic text and searching for characters they do not know.

Programme and references for non-attending students

Students who wish to define a personalized program for the oral exam (the written part remains the same for everyone) are require to contact the teacher via email at least one month before the exam.

Assessment methods

Written (grammar and translation test) and oral examination (oral production and comprehension, reading comprehension, translating skills, grammar knowledge).

Both the written and oral exam will be online until further notice, please contact the teacher for more information.

Office hours

Contact the teacher for an appointment: alessandra.pezza@unimib.it

Programme validity

Programs are valid for two academic years.

The written part is valid for one academic year.

Course tutors and assistants