UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

COURSE SYLLABUS

Chinese Language I

2122-1-E2001R055-E2001R059M

Course title

Chinese 1

Topics and course structure

Introduction to Chinese language.

The course aims at introducing students to both written and spoken Chinese starting from the basic elements of the language:

Characters' classification and writing

Chinese phonology

Pinyin transcription system

How to use paper dictionaries

The course will also touch upon basic grammatical features of the language.

Practice of basic-level listening and speaking skills. Students will be introduced to reading and translating simple texts.

During the second semester, students will also be trained in the reading and translation of adapted HSK2-level

newspaper articles.

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 substitutes
    - Affirmative-negative questions
- ? structural particle and determinate-determinant patterns
- Modifiers
- Modal verbs: ??????????
- Prepositions: ?????????
- Constructions
    - Serial verb construction
    - Pivotal construction
    - Action in progress (??????)
- Modal particles ???
- Adverbs: ???????
- Time words
- Locatives

Simple and compound locatives

Objectives

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

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

Students will be proficient in listening, reading comprehension and conversation at the basic level.

Methodologies

Online and offline teaching materials

Compulsory textbooks:

- 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 . OR *Chinese English Dictionary*, new edition con dvd, Foreign Language Teaching and Research Press [ISBN 978 7 560098470]

Compulsory readings:

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

AND:

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

This first year course emphasizes writing in both characters and pinyin (phonetic system). Moreover, it serves as an introduction to basic grammar structures.

Chinese characters writing exercises, reading comprehension and basic translation techniques.

The course will also provide guidelines to reading and translating very simple texts. At the end of the course, students will be able to introduce themselves and ask basic personal questions, reading basic texts and searching for characters they do not know.

Programme and references for non-attending students

Students who, for special reasons, wish to follow a special program for the oral exam (the written part remains the same for everyone) are require to contact the lecturer via email at least one month before the exam.

Assessment methods

Students shall sit for a written (grammar and translation test) and an oral exam (oral production and comprehension, reading comprehension, translation skills, grammar).

Office hours

Please refer to the lecturer's web page.

Programme validity

Programs are valid for two academic years.

The written part is valid for one academic year.

Course tutors and assistants