UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

COURSE SYLLABUS

Chinese Language I

2324-1-E2001R055-E2001R059M

Course title

Chinese Language 1

Topics and course structure

Introduction to Mandarin Chinese

The course aims at introducing students to both written and spoken Mandarin Chinese, starting from the most 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.

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

Through constant attendance to the lessons and to the Laboratory connected to the course (APPLICATIONS OF CHINESE LANGUAGE 1), students will reach the A2 level (CEFR).
Such level will provide students with the necessary skills to sit for the HSK level 2 exam.
Students will be able to speak, understand and read basic texts in Standard Chinese.

Methodologies

The course will be held in Italian and Chinese.

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
?????? The Contemporary Chinese Dictionary (Chinese-English edition). Beijing: Foreign Language Teaching and Research Press, 2002 .

OR
Chinese English Dictionary, new edition with 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
OR
Luisa M. Paternicò, Valeria Varriano, Huiting Tian, *Grammatica della lingua cinese*, Utet, Milano, 2021

Programme and references

Standard Mandarin Chinese

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.

Assessment methods

The exam is divided into two parts:

- written (grammar test, reading comprehension, translation {Chinese-Italian and Italian-Chinese} of sentences or short passages. The use of dictionaries is not permitted.)
- oral (listening and speaking, reading comprehsion, grammar questions, questions about the compulsory readings)

** To sit for the oral exam, you must have passed the written exam. **

** The written exam is valid for one year **, after which it is necessary to pass it again in order to access the oral exam.

ONLY those who have properly registered for the exam will be admitted to the test. To access the written exam, it is necessary to register for the written exam, to access the oral exam, please register for the oral exam.

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

Sustainable Development Goals

QUALITY EDUCATION | GENDER EQUALITY | REDUCED INEQUALITIES