UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

COURSE SYLLABUS

Chinese Language I

2627-1-E2002R006-E2002R00601

Course title

Chinese language 1

Topics and course structure

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 in Chinese.
Teaching methodology is predominantly interactive, with a few number of lectures.
In case of special teaching needs, one or two recorded lectures will be made available on the e-learning platform in asynchronous mode.
The lecturer's lessons follow a completely interactive methodology, with some oral and written production activities conducted directly by the students with the lecturer's supervision.

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.
Writing Exercises Booknote : Further information to be provided in class.
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
560098470]
Chinese English Dictionary, new edition with dvd, Foreign Language Teaching and Research Press [ISBN 978 7

Compulsory readings:

1. Chi Ta-wei, Membrana, trad. Alessandra Pezza. Torino: Add 2022. OPPURE Qiu Miaojin, I taccuini del coccodrillo, trad. Silvia Pozzi, Torino: Add 2026 (or English translations of the same novels)
2. Simone Pieranni, Red mirror. Il nostro futuro si scrive in Cina. Bari: Laterza, 2020 OPPURE Thekla Chabbi, I segni del drago, Bollati Boringhieri, 2020. (in case the student requires an English reading, it can be discussed with the teacher)

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

There will be no on-going assessment, but one final test 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

Contact the teacher via email 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

Sustainable Development Goals

QUALITY EDUCATION