**George Mason University  
Department of Modern & Classical Languages**Fall 2010: CHINESE 300 – Reading Skills Development

Class Meeting Time: TR 3:00 p.m. - 4:15 p.m.   
Class Meeting Place: RA 109  
Instructor: Chen, Xi   
Office Location: Aquia 312   
Office Hours: TR 12:15p.m - 1:15p.m. and by appointment   
Phone: (703) 993-1631   
E-mail:   [xchen8@gmu.edu](https://mail.gmu.edu/attach/java_script:main.compose%28%27new%27,%27t=xchen8@gmu.edu%27%29)

Course website: http://mason.gmu.edu/~kzhang/

Course Description/ Objectives  
This course is designed for advanced students of Chinese. Completion of the Elementary and Intermediate Chinese courses or equivalent is required. With a focus on reading skills, this course also strongly emphasizes the further development of, writing, speaking and listening skills. Specifically, students are expected   
·to develop a solid grasp of more complex Chinese syntax through the intense study and practice of grammar and common idiomatic expressions  
·to broaden their vocabulary and active character knowledge   
·to learn and appreciate various unique aspects of written and spoken Chinese  
·to employ effectively all four skills (speaking, listening, reading, writing) in classroom activities and homework assignments  
·to appreciate Chinese culture as an integral part of the Chinese language

Textbook (two volumes)   
*A New China: Intermediate Reader of Modern Chinese* by Chih-p'ing Chou. Princeton University Press: Princeton, New Jersey, 1997. (Text)  
*A Trip to China: Intermediate Reader of Modern Chinese - Grammar Notes, Exercises* by Der-lin Chao. Princeton University Press: Princeton, New Jersey, 1997.   
  
Recommended Dictionary:   
*The Oxford Chinese Dictionary*. New International Edition. Chinese-English/ English-Chinese.   
Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1999.

Course Requirements & Rules

1.  Attendance. Attendance at class meetings is crucial. Students should keep in mind that part of their grade is based on attendance and that absences count against them regardless of the reasons. There will be no penalty for the first two missed classes. After that, however, each absence will reduce the final grade by one percentage point. (That is, twelve absences over the course of the semester will result in a ten percentage point subtraction from the final grade, so even perfect scores on all tests and homework will result in a "B").

2.  Preparation & In-Class Performance. Thorough preparation of the materials to be covered in each session and in-class performance will be graded on a four-point scale. Students who come in well prepared and perform well will get four points each day. Those who are not well prepared, do not participate, do not pay attention, or disrupt the class, will receive lower scores accordingly. Absence, of course, scores a zero. Students are expected to prepare **beforehand** the material to be covered in class, such as new vocabulary, grammar, and sentence patterns. A detailed session-by-session schedule is provided for this purpose.

3.  Quizzes. There will be a quiz after each lesson (L1-L6). The lowest score on a quiz (including zero for a missed quiz) will be dropped when calculating the final grade. There will be no make-up quizzes or quizzes taken in advance, unless the student has a legitimate reason and informs the instructor in a timely fashion.

4.  Homework. Homework will be due **no later** than the day of the quiz.  Late homework will be corrected, but no credit will be given for it.

5.  Honor Code. The George Mason University Honor Code is in effect throughout the entire duration of the course and applies to all course work carried out inside and outside the classroom. It is the responsibility of each student to be familiar with the GMU Honor System and Code as laid out in the Student Handbook.   
Please refer to <http://www.gmu.edu/mlstudents/handbook/honor.html> for detailed information.

Quizzes **&** Final Exam  
There will be five quizzes that cover Lessons 1 to 6 respectively. The quizzes will test listening, reading, and writing skills, as well as knowledge of grammar and cultural aspects. The written final exam at the end of the semester will cover all seven lessons (approximately 40%L1-L6, 60%L7).

Oral Exam  
There will be a final oral exam at the end of the semester. Each student is required to give a presentation of approximately 5 minutes in front of the class on a topic of his or her choice. Students should try to incorporate as much of the studied material/ grammar/ vocabulary as possible, but they can be creative in devising form and content of the presentation. For example, the presentation can be a role-play, the telling of a story, describing a picture or scene, or a discussion of socio-cultural issues related to the lessons covered during the semester. Students are required to submit a draft of the proposed presentation to the instructor in advance. More details will be given in class.

Grades  
Final grades are composed as follows:  
  
In-Class Performance 20 %  
Homework                   20 %  
Quizzes                       30 %  
Oral                             10 %  
Final                            20 %

Grading Scale  
  
A         100-93  
A-         92-90  
B+         89-87  
B           86-83  
B-          82-80  
C+         79-77  
C           76-73  
C-          72-70  
D           69-60  
F            59-  0

**Session Schedule**

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **Date** | **Class** | **Homework** |
| Week 1 Tue, 8/31 | Introduction to the Course |  |
| Thurs, 9/2 | L 1 Vocabulary, |  |
| Week 2  Tue, 9/7 | L1 Text |  |
| Thurs, 9/9 | L1 Grammar Notes; Exercises; |  |
| Week 3 Tue, 9/14 | L1 Quiz | L1Homework Due   (Translations, Compositions) |
| Thurs, 9/16 | L2 Vocabulary |  |
| Week 4 Tue, 9/21 | L2 Text |  |
| Thurs, 9/23 | L2 Grammar Notes; Exercises; |  |
| Week 5 Tue, 9/28 | L2 Quiz | L 2 Homework Due  (Translations, Compositions) |
| Thurs, 9/30 | L3 Vocabulary |  |
| Week 6 Tue, 10/5 | L3 Text |  |
| Thurs, 10/7 | L3Grammar Notes; Exercises |  |
| Week 7 Tue, 10/12 | Columbus Day  No Class! |  |
| Thurs, 10/14 | L3 Quiz | L 3 Homework Due  (Translations, Compositions) |
| Week 8 Tue, 10/19 | L4Vocabulary |  |
| Thurs,  10/ 21 | L4 Text |  |
| Week 9 Tue, 10/26 | L4 Grammar Notes; Exercises; |  |
| Thurs, 10/28 | L4 Quiz | L 4 Homework Due  (Translations, Compositions) |
| Week 10 Tue, 11/2 | L5 Vocabulary |  |
| Thurs, 11/4 | L5 Text |  |
| Week 11 Tue, 11/9 | L5 Grammar Notes; Exercises; |  |
| Thurs, 11/11 | L5 Quiz | L 5 Homework Due  (Translations, Compositions) |
| Week 12 Tue, 11/16 | L6 Vocabulary |  |
| Thurs, 11/18 | L6 Text |  |
| Week 13 Tue, 11/23 | L6 Grammar Notes; Exercises |  |
| Thurs, 11/25 | Happy Thanksgiving! No class. |  |
| Week 14 Tue, 11/30 | L6 Quiz & L7 Vocabulary | L 6 Homework Due  (Translations, Compositions) |
| Thurs, 12/2 | L7 Text |  |
| Week 15 Tue, 12/7 | L7 Grammar Notes; Exercises; Preparation for Final Oral Presentation |  |
| Thurs, 12/9 | Final Oral Presentation and Course Evaluation | L 7 Homework Due  (Translations, Compositions) |
| **Thursday**  **December 16 1:30p.m. - 4:15 p.m.** | FINAL EXAM (in our classroom)  ***HAPPY HOLIDAYS!*** |  |