

COURSE SPECIFICATION DOCUMENT

Academic School / Department:	School of Liberal Arts
Programme:	Liberal Arts Core
FHEQ Level:	4
Course Title:	Chinese Language and Culture 1
Course Code:	MCL 4100
Course Leader:	George Zhang
Student Engagement Hours:	120 (standard 3- credit BA course)
Lectures:	39
Seminar / Tutorials:	6
Independent / Guided Learning:	75
Semester:	Fall, Spring
Credits:	12 UK CATS credits 6 ECTS credits 3 US credits

Course Description:

This is an introductory course to Mandarin Chinese language, with an integrated approach to the Chinese language and Chinese culture. While the course primarily focuses on oral communication based upon key structures and vocabularies, reading Chinese characters and writing are integral parts of the course. The course will introduce fundamental speech patterns, key characters, essential vocabulary items and cultural and linguistic knowledge associated with the use of the language, with which students should be able to communicate in a limited range of contexts in everyday life situations.

Prerequisites:

None

Aims and Objectives:

The course is designed to develop students' basic communicative competences in modern Mandarin Chinese in terms of linguistic skills and cultural awareness. The course integrates the learning of fundamental language structures and essential vocabularies with an understanding of not only how the Chinese language works but also how it is related to the Chinese culture. It encourages students to develop their own language learning strategies so as to be able to conduct basic communication functions confidently in a limited range of topics concerning daily life situations

Programme Outcomes:

A3; A6 (Richmond Liberal Arts Core)

A detailed list of the programme outcomes is found in the Programme Specification. This is maintained by Registry and located at: <https://www.richmond.ac.uk/programme-and-course-specifications/>

Learning Outcomes:

By the end of this course, successful students should be able to:

- have a good grasp of Chinese pronunciation and tones, understand basic spoken information/interactions delivered at manageable speed and engage in simple conversations/transactions concerning everyday situations
- read simple sentences and short Chinese texts to extract facts or data, mostly made up of 40 speech patterns, 200 characters and 30 vocabulary items that are covered in the course.
- write out selected Chinese characters based upon understanding and construct and write sentence and short texts in Chinese with the help of limited use of pinyin and computer to communicate in written form.
- acquire an awareness and analytical knowledge of language based cultural differences and similarities concerning intercultural communications

Indicative Content:

- 40 speech patterns, over 200 Chinese characters and 300 vocabulary items from the key textbook.
- Exposure to authentic materials, both audio and visual. demonstrating the oral interaction with the use of the language and its context
- Use of authentic text materials, demonstrating the written communications with the use of the language and its context
- Thematic activities which require the students to interact with each other in the language.
- Practical activities (e.g. restaurant visit and meeting with Chinese speaking “language partner”) which require the students to interact with others.

Assessment:

This course conforms to the University Assessment Norms approved at Academic Board.

Teaching Methodology:

Weekly classroom teaching with strong emphasis on class participation based on task oriented exercises in various forms (e.g. pair work, group work, discussion, role play and presentation) to encourage and maximise interactive communications. Class will be taught in a mixture of both English and Chinese. Self and group study outside class are also part of the delivery, including blended learning involving some form of virtual learning away from the classroom, with support from the instructors. Feedback will be provided in a timely manner to facilitate the learning.

Indicative Text(s):

- Liu, Xun, et al. 2002. New Practical Chinese Reader 1 (text book and workbook). Beijing Language and Cultural University Publishing House.
- Zhang, George X et al, 2011. Chinese in Steps, Volume 1 (3rd Edition). London: Sinolingua Ltd. ISBN-10: 1907838104 ISBN-13: 978-1907838101
- Zhang, Pengpeng 2001. Rapid Literacy in Chinese – new approaches to learning Chinese. Beijing: Sinolingua
- Yuan, Boping and Church, Sally. 2000. The Oxford Starter Chinese Dictionary. Oxford University Press (Alternatively, Oxford Beginner's Chinese Dictionary, also by Oxford University Press)

See syllabus for complete reading list

Change Log for this CSD:

Nature of Change	Date Approved & Approval Body (School or AB)	Change Actioned by Academic Registry
Initial course approval	May 2013	
Transfer onto new CSD template	Dec 2017	