

Chinese - Language and culture

Lecturer: Ching-Yi Amy Juan

Language

English

Course description and objectives

The course is intended for beginner students and aims to provide the fundamental elements of both spoken and written Chinese, along with an introduction to Chinese culture.

Audience

The course is open to students enrolled in Bocconi.

Prerequisites

No prior knowledge of the Chinese language is required.

Guidelines

Registration:

You can register for the course exclusively through the yoU@B student Diary, under the **"Sign-up for various activities"** section (*please note that this section will only be visible once registration is open; it will not appear beforehand*).

Cancellations must also be made via yoU@B Diary, and no later than the course registration deadline. No other cancellation methods will be accepted.

Registration will be confirmed a few days before the course begins through a message posted in the yoU@B student Diary.

Attendance:

- Attendance of **75% or more** of class hours: obtainment of the **Open Badge**
- Attendance of **less than 25%** of class hours: **Exclusion list**

Duration

30 hours

Teaching mode

This course will be only taught in person. Online mode will not be provided.

Calendar

Lecture	Date	Time	Room
1	Fri 19/09/2025	14.45 – 16.15	E (Sarfatti)
2	Fri 19/09/2025	16.30 – 18.00	E (Sarfatti)
3	Fri 26/09/2025	14.45 – 16.15	E (Sarfatti)
4	Fri 26/09/2025	16.30 – 18.00	E (Sarfatti)
5	Fri 03/10/2025	14.45 – 16.15	E (Sarfatti)
6	Fri 03/10/2025	16.30 – 18.00	E (Sarfatti)
7	Fri 10/10/2025	14.45 – 16.15	E (Sarfatti)
8	Fri 10/10/2025	16.30 – 18.00	E (Sarfatti)
9	Fri 07/11/2025	14.45 – 16.15	E (Sarfatti)
10	Fri 07/11/2025	16.30 – 18.00	E (Sarfatti)
11	Fri 14/11/2025	14.45 – 16.15	E (Sarfatti)
12	Fri 14/11/2025	16.30 – 18.00	E (Sarfatti)
13	Fri 21/11/2025	14.45 – 16.15	E (Sarfatti)
14	Fri 21/11/2025	16.30 – 18.00	E (Sarfatti)
15	Fri 28/11/2025	14.45 – 16.15	E (Sarfatti)

Syllabus of the course

Lecture	Topics	Book reference
1	Introduction of Chinese language	Lecture notes

2	Greeting (1) How do you do? Phonetics 1. Initials and finals (1) 2. Phonetic alphabet (1) 3. Tones 4. Neutral tone 5. Change of tones 6. Notes on spelling (1)	Lecture notes & assigned textbook (<i>Conversational Chinese 301</i>)
3	Greeting (2) How is your health? Phonetics 1. Initials and finals (2) 2. Phonetic alphabet (2) 3. Notes on spelling (2)	Lecture notes & assigned textbook (<i>Conversational Chinese 301</i>)
4	Greeting (3) Are you busy with your work? Phonetics 1. Finals (3) 2. Phonetic alphabet (3) 3. Notes on spelling (3) 4. Change of tones 5. Retroflexion with -r 6. The dividing mark	Lecture notes & assigned textbook (<i>Conversational Chinese 301</i>)
5	1. Reivew phonetics 2. Using computer keyboard to write Chinese characters 3. Learn and write Chinese characters 1. Methods of constructing 2. Basic strokes of Chinese characters 3. Rules of stroke writing order	Lecture notes & assigned textbook (<i>Conversational Chinese 301</i>)
6	Making an acquaintance (1) What is your surname? Grammar 1. Questions with “吗” 2. Questions with interrogative pronouns 3. The sentence with an adjectival predicate	Lecture notes & assigned textbook (<i>Conversational Chinese 301</i>)

7	Making an acquaintance (2) Let me introduce... Grammar 1. The sentence with a verbal predicate 2. The attributive genitive 3. The “是” sentence (1)	Lecture notes & assigned textbook (<i>Conversational Chinese 301</i>)
8	1. Review lessons 1-5 of the textbook 2. Culture – general information about China	Lecture notes & assigned textbook (<i>Conversational Chinese 301</i>)
9	1. Making an inquiry (1) When is your birthday? Grammar 1. The sentences with a nominal predicate 2. Ways to show the year, the month, the day and the days of week 3. The question tag “..., 好吗? ” 2. Culture – brief introduction of Confucianism	Lecture notes & assigned textbook (<i>Conversational Chinese 301</i>)
10	1. Making an inquiry (2) How many people are there in your family? Grammar 1. The “有” sentence 2. Prepositional constructions 2. Culture – brief introduction of Taoism and Deities	Lecture notes & assigned textbook (<i>Conversational Chinese 301</i>)
11	Review lessons 6-7 of the textbook	Lecture notes & assigned textbook (<i>Conversational Chinese 301</i>)
12	1. Making an inquiry (3) 2. What time is it? Grammar 1. How to tell time 2. Grammatical functions of time words 2. Culture – brief introduction of Buddhism in China	Lecture notes & assigned textbook (<i>Conversational Chinese 301</i>)

13	1. Review grammar and vocabulary 2. Practice conversation and write short text 3. Culture: multiple ethnic groups	Lecture notes & assigned textbook (<i>Conversational Chinese 301</i>)
14	1. Review grammar and vocabulary 2. Practice conversation and write short text 3. Culture: traditional festivals and legends	Lecture notes & assigned textbook (<i>Conversational Chinese 301</i>)
15	1. Summary: lessons 1-8 of the textbook 2. Culture: doing business in China: Chinese business etiquette	Lecture notes & assigned textbook (<i>Conversational Chinese 301</i>)

Suggested bibliography

Assigned Textbook

Kang Yuhua & Lai Siping, *Conversational Chinese 301*, 3rd edition, Beijing Language and Culture University press, 2006

Recommended Readings

- Liu Xun, *New Practical Chinese Reader: Textbook 1*, 2nd Edition, Beijing Language and Culture University press, 2015
- Liu Xun, *New Practical Chinese Reader: workbook 1*, 2nd Edition, Beijing Language and Culture University press, 2010
- <https://www.thechairmansbao.com/>

Available seats

This activity is limited to **110** participants. Registrations cannot be carried out once this number has been reached or after closing of the registration period.

Please remember that you can unsubscribe from Language Center courses only before the registration deadline.