Course Syllabus and Instructor Qualifications

2023 Fall

**Class Title:** Conversational Chinese

**Instructor:** Ms. Xu

**Cell Phone Number:** 314-391 1133 (Text)

**Email Address:** [cn\_wjxu@yahoo.com](mailto:cn_wjxu@yahoo.com)

**Class Format:** Zoom meeting

**Grades:** Grade 3-8

**Class Day/Time:** to be scheduled with the instructor: weekly, Monday- Friday.

**Start Date:** the week of August 27th. No school on the week of November 19th due to Thanksgiving holiday.

**End Date:** the week of December 17th.

**# weeks:**16

**#Hours:** 16

**Materials Needed for Class:** A binder to hold class handouts and homework sheets, pencil and notebook

**Instructor Qualification:**

I have a bachelor’s degree and a master’s degree. I became a teacher at Beijing Normal University after I graduated from the Beijing University of Science and Technology with my master's degree.

After I came to the US, I studied at Louisiana State University and Washington University in St. Louis. I am very interested in teaching and education. In America, I have been teaching Chinese for 10 years.

From 2013 to 2015, I taught at MCCC Chinese Language School in South Bend, IN.

From 2015 to 2017, I taught at Bridge to China in Saint Joseph, MI.

In 2018, I founded Lotus Chinese.

In 2019 I became a member of EDUStaff and since then I have been teaching through Berrien Springs Parent Partnership.

In 2022, I also started to teach at the Three River Partnership in Michigan.

As of now I have been teaching at the Berrien Springs Parent Partnership and the Three River Partnership in Michigan.

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**Course Description:**

Students will learn basic knowledge about Pinyin, tones, and characters. Following that will be sentence structures and grammar, as well as essential vocabulary and sentences students *must* know when first learning Chinese! After this course, students will have a strong foundation in Chinese and will be able to have basic conversations with native Chinese speakers! The student will also learn about Chinese culture through the songs and authentic Chinese stories, etc.

**Pre-requisites:** None or little knowledge.

**Goals:** By the end of the course, students will be able to:

1. Count up to the number 100 and use measure words to count objects.
2. Master all pinyin sounds and automatically pronounce words in the Chinese language.
3. Learn basic vocabulary and how to break down compound characters to put clues and pieces together to learn characters systematically.
4. Learn grammatical structure to discuss favorite animals and seasons, describe family members, introduce themselves, and ask and answer questions in Chinese.
5. Use common expressions and vocabulary to make conversations such as greetings, expressing and accepting “thanks” graciously, making and accepting apologies gracefully, asking and answering the name, etc.

**Homework:**

Students will have approximately 30 minutes to an hour of homework each class so that they can continue to practice new sounds, vocabulary, and sentences taught during each week’s lesson. I will send out the homework sheets after each class and check them at the beginning of the next lesson.

**Assessments:** Students’ homework and class participation will be looked at to evaluate their progress.

**Class Focus and Activities:**

| **Lessons** | Focus | Activities |
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| **Lesson 1** | Pinyin: Simple Finals  Vocabulary: Numbers and Counting | 1. Talk about study requirements.  2. Introduce what the Chinese language is and tell a story behind the characters.  3. Explain what is Pinyin, why Pinyin was created, and the components of Pinyin, from Chinese learners' perspective.  4. Learn to pronounce the tones and three simple finals: a o e.  5. Learn how to pronounce, recognize, and write numbers 1-5.  6. Practice writing two basic strokes. |
| **Lesson 2** | Pinyin: Simple Finals  Vocabulary: Numbers and Counting | 1. Learn to pronounce three Simple Finals: i u ﻿ü.  2. Learn how to pronounce, recognize and write numbers 6-10.  3. Practice writing two new basic strokes.  4. Chinese story “It’s hard to write the character ‘wan’ (ten thousand).” |
| **Lesson 3** | Pinyin: Initials  Vocabulary: Numbers and Counting | 1. Learn to pronounce eight initials: b p m f d t n l.  2. Learn to count numbers: 1-100.  3. Learn the measure words and how to count people.  4. Practice writing two new basic strokes.  6. Study a Chinese poem: Number Poem. |
| **Lesson 4** | Pinyin: Initials  Vocabulary: Nature | 1. Learn to pronounce six new initials: j q x g k h.  2. Learn how to mark tones.  3. Learn characters “sun, moon, water, fire, mountain, rock, dirt, field, tree, crop” and related vocabulary.  4. Learn how to express the 12 months and dates.  5. Practice writing two new basic strokes.  6. Culture： The Chinese five elements of Earth |
| **Lesson 5** | Pinyin: Initials  Vocabulary: Comparing | 1. Learn to pronounce four new initials: zh ch sh r.  2. Learn characters “top, middle, bottom,” and related vocabulary.  3. Learn characters” big, small, many, few” and related vocabulary.  4. Explain the stroke order rules.  5. Children's song: big small many few. |
| **Lesson 6** | Pinyin: Initials  Vocabulary: Body Parts | 1. Learn to pronounce three new initials: z c s.  2. Learn characters “head, heart, mouth, ear, eye, eyebrow, hand, foot” and related vocabulary.  3. Sing a Chinese song: My Eyes |
| **Lesson 7** | Pinyin: Initials  Vocabulary: People | 1. Learn to pronounce two new initials: y w.  2. Learn characters “ man, woman, father, son, sit, stand, walk,” and related vocabulary.  3. Understand and learn how to give orders such as “ stand up, sit down, take a walk,” etc, and play Simon Says to practice these new commands.  4. Introduce the Chinese culture: A Chinese old saying “Stand like a Pinetree and sit like a clock.” |
| **Lesson 8** | Pinyin: Compound Final  Vocabulary: Animals | 1. Learn to pronounce three Compound Finals: ai ei ui.  2. Learn characters “horse, ox, sheep, fish, bug, bird,”. and related vocabulary.  3. Tell a classical children's story: a little horse crosses the river. |
| **Lesson 9** | Pinyin: Compound Finals  Vocabulary: Weather | 1. Learn to pronounce three new Compound Finals: ao ou iu.  2. Learn the characters” wind, rain, snow, cloud, lightning, sky,” and related vocabulary.  3. Chinese Joke: The Sky. |
| **Lesson 10** | Pinyin: Compound Finals  Seasons | 1. Learn to pronounce three new Compound Finals: ie *ü*e er.  2. Learn how to build associative compound characters by using two simple characters.  3. Learn characters “Spring, Fall, Summer, Winter,” and related vocabulary.  4. Use the sentence structure” I like…” to express your favorite season.  5. Guess a Chinese character riddle. |
| **Lesson 11** | Pinyin: Compound Finals  Students | 1. Learn to pronounce front Nasal Compound Vowels: an en in un *ü*n.  2. Introduce what a radical is.  3. Learn how to build associative compound characters by using a radical and a simple character.  4. Learn vocabulary” primary school students, middle school students, high school students, and college students,” and related vocabulary.  5. Use the sentence structure “I am …” to introduce oneself.  6. Guess a Chinese Riddle. |
| **Lesson 12** | Pinyin: Compound Finals  Family | 1. Learn to pronounce back nasal Compound Vowels: ang eng ing ong.  2. Learn how to build pictophonetic compound characters using radical and pronunciation parts.  3. Learn compound Characters “Dad, Mom, sisters, brothers”, and related vocabulary.  4. Use sentence structure “There are…” to talk about how many people are there in the family and learn to use 'I love + a family member” in a sentence and in a conversation.  5. Song: I love Dad and Mom. |
| **Lesson 13** | Greetings  Typing | 1. Have a comprehensive Pinyin Review (Part 1): 6 simple finals and 23 initials.  2. Greeting people and related vocabulary.  3. Simplified Chinese vs. Traditional Chinese.  3. How the tone changes when two third-tone syllables appear together.  4. Learn new characters and a few radicals.  5. Learn to type in Chinese. |
| **Lesson 14** | The “Magic Words” | 1. Have a comprehensive Pinyin Review (Part 2): 16 Special sounds and 18 Compound Consonants.  2. Express and accept “Thanks” graciously.  3. Make and accept apologies gracefully.  4. Learn new characters and a few radicals.  5. Sing a song: Thank you. |
| **Lesson 15** | Introduce Oneself | 1. Have a comprehensive Pinyin Review(part (3): Practicing tone pairs and summarize tone change rules.  2. Learn how to ask the name and introduce oneself.  3. Learn Chinese Grammar: how to ask a question with “what” in Chinese.  4. Learning new characters and a few radicals.  5. The culture of Chinese names. |
| **Lesson 16** | Class Review and Final Presentation | 1. Have an active recall of what we’ve learned in class.  2. Each student will make a short speech in Chinese for the class. |

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