

## Coastal Carolina University

### CHIN 311 – Chinese Reading and Writing

#### General Course Information

**Faculty:** Dr. Xinyi Tan

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**Office Hours:** TBA

**Class Location:** TBA

**Meeting Times:** TBA

**Course Description:** CHIN311 Chinese Reading and Writing (3 credits) (Prereq: CHIN 210 or equivalent, or permission of the instructor) This course provides students who have taken CHIN210, or obtained equivalent proficiency, with the opportunity to further develop reading and writing skills in Mandarin Chinese at the intermediate-mid level. Students gain knowledge of Chinese vocabulary and grammar through authentic intermediate-mid-level texts with exercises specifically created to guide comprehension and to strengthen reading strategies. Students acquire about 300 essential Chinese characters and master effective tools for character learning. F, S, Su.

#### About CHIN 311

##### **Course Objectives:**

CHIN 311 will:

- train students to comprehend textual materials of intermediate-mid level composed in Chinese characters.
- help students develop the ability to compose coherent essays in Chinese on several given topics about their school and social lives.
- improve students' reading and writing skills in Mandarin Chinese to communicate across ethnic, cultural, and ideological boundaries.
- deepen students' understanding of Chinese behavioural culture and related thought patterns.

##### **General Student Learning Outcomes:**

After successful completion of the course, students will be able to perform the following tasks at an intermediate proficiency level:

- have a systematic review of all the acquired characters and recognize about 300 more Chinese characters.
- develop and enhance the skills and strategies available for improving reading ability in Chinese at an intermediate-mid level.

- be able to understand main ideas, supporting details, and argumentative structures in different texts in Chinese such as advertisements, poems, journal entries, letters, and short stories, etc.
- be familiarized with useful expressions and appropriate structures for different Chinese texts.
- use the Chinese typing system to communicate with each other and speakers of Mandarin Chinese.
- compose several types of short essays such as journal entries, text messages, and emails in Chinese.

#### **Texts:**

- Matthews, Alison and Matthews, Laurence. Tuttle Learning Chinese Characters: A Revolutionary New Way to learn the 800 most basic Chinese Characters. (1<sup>st</sup> Edition)
- Lee, Philip Yungkin. Chinese Flash Cards Kit Volume 1: HSK Levels 1&2 Elementary Level: Characters 1-349 (audio disk included).
- Pocket Oxford Chinese Dictionary (Oxford Dictionaries) (4<sup>th</sup> Edition, Optional)

#### **Course Requirements:**

In order to ensure that your learning is enjoyable and fruitful, it is important that you meet the requirements and follow the rules outlined below.

1. Attendance and participation (20%). **Class attendance and participation are crucial.** Part of your grade is based on attendance and absences count against your final grade. You cannot participate if you are not present, so attendance counts as a prerequisite to participation. You may miss **3 classes** without it affecting your final grade. In order to progress in understanding and speaking Chinese, you must hear and speak it on a regular basis. You will receive a 15 pt. performance grade once a week (5 pt. per class). These scores will be averaged at the end of the semester to obtain your final participation grade.
2. Daily homework (20%). **Completing your daily assignments on time is essential for your success in this class.** These assignments include vocabulary and grammar exercises, character workbook exercises, and reading exercises.
3. Preparation checks (characters) (10%). You are required to preview the materials covered in each session. There will be **approximately twelve** regular preparation checks, worth 20 pts. each, throughout the semester, as indicated on the schedule. You are allowed to drop the lowest grade at the end of the semester. The purpose of these checks is to verify that you have prepared the lesson for that day by doing the required assignments the night before. Thus, these checks are not meant to be difficult. Each check will take no more than 5 minutes of class time. At the end of the semester, you may drop your lowest grade. **Makeup checks will not be administrated.**
4. Reading comprehension tests (15%). There will be 3 reading comprehension tests throughout the semester. Each test has two parts: characters and reading exercises.

5. Mid-term written exam (10%). The mid-term exam is designed to evaluate your reading and writing skills in Mandarin Chinese. There will be character recognition tasks, reading comprehension, and composition about a given topic.
6. Compositions (12%). Throughout the semester, there will be two writing tasks on selected topics in different forms. You can choose to handwrite or type out these assignments and you are expected to participate in peer editing sessions.
7. Projects & Events (13%). Learning interesting facts about Chinese culture and making cultural comparisons between Chinese culture and your own is a vital part of this course. You will have the opportunity to participate in the following activities and events to deepen your understanding of Chinese culture.
  - 1) Culture Report on Chinese writing systems (5 %): You will find related articles and videos on Moodle that introduce you to the history and the current uses of Chinese writing systems. You need to write your reflections on the materials that you read/watched based on the questions given by your instructor. This assignment is completed in English and will be graded based on the accuracy, the depth, and the creativity of your work.
  - 2) Presentation on Chinese characters (5%): You will conduct research on selected the origin and the development of selected Chinese characters. The choices will be given on the first day of class and you will give a group presentation in English on the marked dates.
  - 3) Cultural Activities/Events (3%): Throughout the semester, there will be several cultural events relating to Chinese customs, traditions, and arts such as Chinese holiday celebrations, Chinese film showings, and Calligraphy Night. I will announce the events at the beginning of the semester. You are encouraged to come to all of them and you need to attend at least two events to receive 3% of your final grade.

**Useful resources to learn and practice Chinese:** In addition to the aforementioned activities, you have two other options to improve your skills in Mandarin Chinese.

- **中文角 ( Chinese Conversation Table)**: the conversation table takes place every week and you are welcome to join the group to practice what you have learned in class and to learn more about Chinese society and culture.
- **FLIC**: You are encouraged to visit the Foreign Language Instructional Center (FLIC) to familiarize yourself with the resources that the language lab provides. <https://www.coastal.edu/flic/>
- Other useful online learning resources can be found on Moodle.

### **Grade Assessment:**

Attendance and Participation	20%
Homework	20%
Preparation Checks	10%

Reading comprehension Tests	15%
Culture Reports	5%
Cultural Events/Activities	2%
Character Presentation	5%
Mid-term exam	10%
Compositions	13%

## LIS GRADING STANDARDS

Letter Grade	CCU Standard	Low %	High %
A	Excellent	90	100
B+	Very Good	86	89
B	Good	80	85
C+	Above Average	75	79
C	Average	70	74
D+	Below Average	65	69
D	Poor	60	64
F	Fail	00	59

Only excellent work will receive an A. Do not expect such a grade unless you strive to produce excellent work for this level.

### Attendance Policies:

“Absences will be excused only for those documented cases listed on p. 41 of the current CCU Catalog. Students will be allowed four (4) unexcused absences on the MWF schedule or three (3) unexcused absences on the MW / TTh schedule throughout the semester. For each additional unexcused absence, two (2) points will be taken off the final grade. Students who miss in excess of 25% of all class meetings (unexcused absences) will receive a failing grade. (25% = 10 absences for MWF classes and 7 absences for TTh classes)”.

(Authorized by the Dean's Office, January 3, 2011).

As for summer classes, students will be allowed two (2) unexcused absences. The rest follows the attendance policy above.

### Documentation Policy:

Documentation must be submitted directly to the professor the day the student returns to class. The professor is not required to accept any excuses after this date. All excuses are subject to verification. IF THE OFFICE OF STUDENT CONDUCT FINDS THAT YOU HAVE SUBMITTED A FAKE EXCUSE, YOU WILL RECEIVE AN “F” IN THE COURSE.

### Make-up Policy:

Only homework submitted by the deadline will receive credit. The professor is not obligated to accept **late work** of any kind. Absences, excused or not, do not absolve a student from the responsibility of completing all assigned work promptly. Students who miss assignments, quizzes, exams or other coursework obligations due to documented, excused absences will be allowed to MAKE UP THE WORK WITHIN ONE WEEK OF THEIR RETURN TO CLASS OR THE STUDENT FORFEITS THE OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE UP THE ASSIGNMENT. It

will be the student's responsibility to contact the instructor and make arrangements at the instructor's convenience. The instructor is not obligated to allow a student to make up work missed due to an unexcused absence.

### **Honor Pledge (Know the Code!)**

*Coastal Carolina University is an academic community that expects the highest standards of honesty, integrity and personal responsibility. As members of this community, we are accountable for our actions and are committed to creating an atmosphere of mutual respect and trust.*

*On my honor, I pledge:*

- *That I will take responsibility for my personal behavior; and*
- *That I will actively oppose every instance of academic dishonesty as defined in the Code of Student Conduct.*

*From this day forward, my signature on any University document, including tests, papers and other work submitted for a grade is a confirmation of this honor pledge.*

[-http://www.coastal.edu/aic/](http://www.coastal.edu/aic/)

### **Participation Grade:**

#### **Outstanding** (12 to 15 points)

The student:

- arrives for class on time and does not leave early or leave and return to the classroom often or for lengthy periods of time,
- participates in all activities with enthusiasm and a positive attitude,
- contributes actively during group activities,
- respects professor and fellow students,
- responds to questions during follow-up and discussion sessions,
- works on comprehension skills by listening attentively when others speak,
- always uses Chinese in class with professor and class members.**

#### **Average** (6 to 11 points)

The student:

- often arrives late and/or often leaves before class ends,
- participates in most of activities, sometimes enthusiastically,
- sometimes contributes actively during group activities,
- most of the time listens to others when they speak,
- most of the time pays attention to professor's explanations,
- usually speaks Chinese in class, but sometimes uses a little bit of English.**

#### **Unacceptable** (0 to 5 points)

The student:

- often arrives **more than 5 minutes** late for class and/or often leaves **5 min. or more** before class ends,
- does not fulfill the homework and class requirements,
- does not listen while others speak,
- shows lack of respect towards the professor and his/her fellow students, uses a laptop for non class-related matters, uses a cellular phone to send text messages, etc.,
- does not contribute much to getting the task done in pair or group work,
- contributes to the failure of activities by not completing small group or individual assignments,
- works on assignments for other classes in Spanish class,
- uses more English than Spanish when speaking with the instructor or class members,
- does not seem to do his/her best in speaking Chinese in class.**