

Classroom Proverb: *Nothing is impossible to a willing mind.*

(Source: Unknown)

Learn Chinese: Evening Course for Adult Beginners

Sponsored by the Confucius Institute at the University of Pittsburgh

Day/Time: Monday and Wednesday at 7:00 pm

Classroom: March 3 - April 16 and April 30, 2008: Crawford Hall Room 169;
April 21- May 21, 2008 (except for April 30): Wesley W. Posvar Hall
Room 4130

Instructor: Ms. Xiaofang Ouyang 412-880-7104 (cell) xouyang+@pitt.edu

CI-Pitt Contact: Mr. Yongfei Zhao 412-648-2256 (work) cipitt@pitt.edu

CI-Pitt Website: <http://www.ucis.pitt.edu/cipitt>

Course Syllabus

Course Objectives

This course is designed for adults who are interested in learning Chinese language and culture. Students will learn the Mandarin phonetic system (*Pinyin*) and common Chinese expressions and everyday words. Oral and listening skills will also be emphasized as well as basic Chinese grammar and character writing. In addition, students will gain knowledge and understanding of Chinese culture.

Course Outcomes

At the end of this course, students will be able to:

- Exchange information using Chinese words, phrases, and short sentences; topic examples include family members, friends, day and time, feelings, daily life, etc.
- Read and write *Pinyin* correctly.
- Correctly copy Chinese characters and write some basic Chinese characters.
- Gain basic knowledge of Chinese culture.

Lesson Plan

3/3/2008 Crawford Hall Room 169

1. Welcome
2. Introduction
 - a. China and Chinese Language and Culture
 - b. Teacher and Classmates
 - c. Class Survey
3. Systematic knowledge about Chinese *Pinyin* (phonetic transcription)
 - a. Initials, finals and tones
 - b. Simple greetings.

3/5/2008 Crawford Hall Room 169

1. Simple conversation about name and nationality with each other.
2. *Pinyin*: Initials (b p m f d t n l), finals (a o e i u ü), four tones.
3. Numbers in Chinese: 一 二 三 四 五 六 七 八 九 十。 (One through ten)
4. Chinese characters: strokes in writing.
5. Culture: What do you know about Chinese New Year?

3/10/2008 Crawford Hall Room 169

1. Simple conversation about studying Chinese.
2. *Pinyin*: Initials (g, k, h), finals (ai, ei, ao, ou, an, en, ang, eng), neutral tone.
3. Chinese characters: some strokes and the order of strokes. Writing: 人 (people, person), 大 (big, huge), 口 (mouth), 手 (hand), 上 (upper), 中 (middle), 下 (lower, below) 小 (small)
4. Culture: What do you know about Beijing?

3/12/2008 Crawford Hall Room 169

1. Simple conversation about asking location.
2. *Pinyin*: Initials (j q x), finals (ia ie iao iou ian in iang ing iong ü üe üan ün), modulation of the 3rd tone.
3. Chinese characters: components and structure. Writing: 国 (country) 学 (learn) 习 (practice) 汉 (Chinese) 语 (language) 文 (literature) 写 (write) 字 (word, character)
4. Culture: What do you know about Chinese food?

3/17/2008 Crawford Hall Room 169

1. Simple conversation about shopping.
2. *Pinyin*: Initials (z, c, s), finals (u, ua, uo, uai, uei, uen, uang, ueng,), modulation of the 3rd tone.
3. Character: strokes. Writing: 女(girl, female) 子(son, child) 好(good) 水(water) 门(door, gate) 王(king)
4. Culture: About Chinese characters and words.

3/19/2008 Crawford Hall Room 169

1. Simple conversation about day.
2. *Pinyin*: Initials (zh, ch, sh, r), finals (er), retroflex finals.
3. Chinese characters: learn strokes and write 日(sun) 月(moon) 木(wood) 马(horse) 田(field) 天(sky)
4. Culture: About ancient characters.

3/24/2008 Crawford Hall Room 169

1. Simple conversation about date.
2. *Pinyin*: review.
3. Chinese characters: review what has been learned and learn to write names.

3/26/2008 Crawford Hall Room 169

1. Conversation performance.
2. Culture: knowledge of radicals, traditional and simplified characters.

3/31 & 4/2/2008 Crawford Hall Room 169

Lesson One: What's Your Surname?

1. New words in Lesson One
2. *Pinyin*: modulation of “不”
3. Grammar:
 - a. Simple sentence pattern: Subject + Verb (+Object);
 - b. Question patterns
4. Conversation about name, nationality and mother language.
5. Characters: writing the new words
6. Culture:
 - a. About Chinese names, e.g. Hanyu, Zhongwen, etc.
 - b. About Putonghua.

Lesson Two: Glad to Meet You

1. New words in Lesson Two
2. *Pinyin*: word stress
3. Grammar: Simple sentence pattern: Subject + Adjective
4. Conversation about greeting, asking, number, location, situation and evaluation.
5. Characters: writing the new words
6. Culture: visiting.

Lesson Three: How many people are there in your family?

1. New words in Lesson Three
2. *Pinyin*: modulation of “一”
3. Grammar: measure words, numbers and verb phrases in series
4. Conversation: asking about age and reasons; expressing willingness.
5. Characters: writing the new words.
6. Culture: the structure of a common Chinese family.

Lesson Four: This map is in English.

1. New words of lesson 4
2. Grammar: 这那哪+ Number + Measure word + Noun; review the sentence patterns learned.
3. Conversation: asking for reasons and requesting.
4. Characters: writing the new words.
5. Culture: population and geography of China; names of major cities in China.

4/28/ & 4/30/2008 4/28 in Wesley W. Posvar Hall Room 4130; 4/30 in Crawford Hall Room 169

Lesson Five: May I try?

1. New words in Lesson Five
2. Grammar: the reduplication of verbs; attributives
3. Conversation: shopping, asking price, making choice, expressing capability, willingness and permission.
4. Characters: writing the new words
5. Culture: Chinese currency; shopping and dining in China.

5/5 & 5/7/2008 Wesley W. Posvar Hall Room 4130

Lesson Six: What are you going to do tomorrow?

1. New words in Lesson Six
2. Grammar: expression of time (week and clock time); adverbial.
3. Conversation: making an arrangement, plan, invitation, date, and phone call.
4. Characters: writing the new words
5. Culture: how to address people in China

5/12/ & 5/14/2008 Wesley W. Posvar Hall Room 4130

Lesson Seven: When will you come back?

1. New words of lesson 7
2. Grammar: expression of time (year, month and day), direction verbs and reduplication of adjectives.
3. Conversation about expressing worry and comfort; describing displacement and appearance of persons.
4. Characters: writing the new words
5. Culture: Chinese calendars and festivals; Chinese education system.

5/19 & 5/21/2008 Wesley W. Posvar Hall Room 4130

Lesson Eight: Is there a bank nearby?

1. New words in Lesson Eight
2. Grammar: location words and place expression.
3. Conversation about asking for directions.
4. Characters: writing the new words
5. Culture: transportation in China.

Course Evaluation

The activities and assignments of the course are designed to allow you to interact with other students in class through a variety of contexts: pair/team, individual, written, oral, reading, speaking, listening, and asking questions.

Quizzes/tests will be given during the course for the purpose of quality improvement. The quiz/test results will also be used by the instructor to determine the pace of the class. Surveys will be conducted for students' feedback of the class.

Class Schedule

Date	Time	Classroom
March 3	7:00pm-8:30pm	Crawford 169
March 5	7:00pm-8:30pm	Crawford 169
March 10	7:00pm-8:30pm	Crawford 169
March 12	7:00pm-8:30pm	Crawford 169
March 17	7:00pm-8:30pm	Crawford 169
March 19	7:00pm-8:30pm	Crawford 169
March 24	7:00pm-8:30pm	Crawford 169
March 26	7:00pm-8:30pm	Crawford 169
March 31	7:00pm-8:30pm	Crawford 169
April 2	7:00pm-8:30pm	Crawford 169
April 7	7:00pm-8:30pm	Crawford 169
April 9	7:00pm-8:30pm	Crawford 169
April 14	7:00pm-8:30pm	Crawford 169
April 16	7:00pm-8:30pm	Crawford 169
April 21	7:00pm-8:30pm	Posvar 4130
April 23	7:00pm-8:30pm	Posvar 4130
April 28	7:00pm-8:30pm	Posvar 4130
April 30	7:00pm-8:30pm	Crawford 169
May 5	7:00pm-8:30pm	Posvar 4130
May 7	7:00pm-8:30pm	Posvar 4130
May 12	7:00pm-8:30pm	Posvar 4130
May 14	7:00pm-8:30pm	Posvar 4130
May 19	7:00pm-8:30pm	Posvar 4130
May 21	7:00pm-8:30pm	Posvar 4130

★ class changes room!

★ Return to Crawford!

★ change to 4430!

This syllabus, and its contents, is subject to change at the discretion of the instructor. An updated syllabus will be available throughout the session.