

# LC2956: MANDARIN FOR NON-CHINESE SPEAKERS 1

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## Effective Term

Semester A 2025/26

## Part I Course Overview

### Course Title

Mandarin for Non-Chinese Speakers 1

### Subject Code

LC - CFML CSL Language Centre

### Course Number

2956

### Academic Unit

CFML CSL Language Centre (LC)

### College/School

College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences (CH)

### Course Duration

One Semester

### Credit Units

3

### Level

B1, B2, B3, B4 - Bachelor's Degree

### Medium of Instruction

Other Languages

### Other Languages for Medium of Instruction

English/Chinese

### Medium of Assessment

Other Languages

### Other Languages for Medium of Assessment

English/Chinese

### Prerequisites

Nil

### Precursors

Nil

### Equivalent Courses

CAH2956/CTL2956 Mandarin for Non-Chinese Speakers I

**Exclusive Courses**

Nil

**Part II Course Details****Abstract**

This is a beginning language and culture course designed for non-Chinese speakers in the university (including students who can speak Putonghua or a certain dialect but cannot read or write in the language). This course will enable students to apply their knowledge of Chinese language and culture to communication in daily life.

**Course Intended Learning Outcomes (CILOs)**

CILOs		Weighting (if DEC-A1 app.)		
		DEC-A1	DEC-A2	DEC-A3
1	Describe the phonetic system of the language		x	
2	Enumerate the vocabulary of basic Chinese		x	
3	Identify basic sentence patterns and ways of expression in Mandarin		x	
4	Demonstrate the ability to read and write in basic Chinese		x	
5	Apply their knowledge of Chinese culture and tradition to communication			x

**A1: Attitude**

Develop an attitude of discovery/innovation/creativity, as demonstrated by students possessing a strong sense of curiosity, asking questions actively, challenging assumptions or engaging in inquiry together with teachers.

**A2: Ability**

Develop the ability/skill needed to discover/innovate/create, as demonstrated by students possessing critical thinking skills to assess ideas, acquiring research skills, synthesizing knowledge across disciplines or applying academic knowledge to real-life problems.

**A3: Accomplishments**

Demonstrate accomplishment of discovery/innovation/creativity through producing /constructing creative works/new artefacts, effective solutions to real-life problems or new processes.

**Learning and Teaching Activities (LTAs)**

LTAs	Brief Description	CILO No.	Hours/week (if applicable)
1	Lecture	Introducing the phonetic system of Chinese and the grammatical structure and expressions of Chinese Transcribing and indexing of Pinyin; & Explaining the structure and meaning of Chinese characters	1
2	Assignment	Exercises on the stroke order and use of Chinese words	2
3	Assignment	Exercises on Chinese grammar	3, 5

4	Tutorial	Reading comprehension exercises; Drills and group discussion on sentence patterns and expressions; & Exercises on writing Chinese characters and simple sentences	4, 5	
5	Group Presentation	Role play; & Presentation	2, 3, 4, 5	

**Assessment Tasks / Activities (ATs)**

	ATs	CILO No.	Weighting (%)	Remarks ("- for nil entry)	Allow Use of GenAI?
1	Assignments The students are required to write Chinese characters, practice on language use and work on grammatical exercises	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	20	Refer to assessment task instructions to be provided by the course instructor for parameters of use	Yes
2	Participation/In-class activities	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	10	Refer to assessment task instructions to be provided by the course instructor for parameters of use	Yes
3	Quizzes The quizzes are designed to test students' knowledge on Pinyin, Chinese character writing, situational language use, grammatical structures, and translation	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	40	-	No
4	Final test The final test covers the entire materials discussed during the semester	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	30	-	No

**Continuous Assessment (%)**

100

**Examination (%)**

0

**Assessment Rubrics (AR)**

**Assessment Task**

Assignments

**Criterion**

1. Command of Pinyin and basic Chinese characters
2. Understanding of basic sentence structures and ways of expression in Mandarin Chinese (Putonghua)
3. Competence in conducting basic dialogues with proper use of vocabulary and grammar
4. Skills in reading and writing in basic Chinese

**Excellent (A+, A, A-)**

1. Excellent command of Pinyin and basic Chinese characters
2. Excellent understanding of basic sentence structures and ways of expression in Mandarin Chinese (Putonghua)
3. Excellent competence in conducting basic dialogues with proper use of vocabulary and grammar
4. Excellent skills in reading and writing in basic Chinese

**Good (B+, B, B-)**

1. Good command of Pinyin and basic Chinese characters
2. Good understanding of basic sentence structures and ways of expression in Mandarin Chinese (Putonghua)
3. Good competence in conducting basic dialogues with proper use of vocabulary and grammar
4. Good skills in reading and writing in basic Chinese

**Fair (C+, C, C-)**

1. Adequate command of Pinyin and basic Chinese characters
2. Adequate understanding of basic sentence structures and ways of expression in Mandarin Chinese (Putonghua)
3. Fair competence in conducting basic dialogues with proper use of vocabulary and grammar
4. Acceptable skills in reading and writing in basic Chinese

**Marginal (D)**

1. Marginal command of Pinyin and basic Chinese characters
2. Marginal understanding of basic sentence structures and ways of expression in Mandarin Chinese (Putonghua)
3. Marginal competence in conducting basic dialogues with proper use of vocabulary and grammar
4. Marginal skills in reading and writing in basic Chinese

**Failure (F)**

1. Extremely limited command of Pinyin and basic Chinese characters
2. Extremely limited understanding of basic sentence structures and ways of expression in Mandarin Chinese (Putonghua)
3. Extremely limited competence in conducting basic dialogues with proper use of vocabulary and grammar
4. Extremely limited skills in reading and writing in basic Chinese

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**Assessment Task**

Participation/In-class activities

**Criterion**

Contributing to class activities; displaying collegiality and participation in pair work; being prepared for lessons and arriving on time.

**Excellent (A+, A, A-)**

The student participates extremely actively in discussions, activities, and asking questions; is highly responsive to the instructor's questions; leads peers to participate and always comes to class prepared.

**Good (B+, B, B-)**

The student participates actively in discussions, activities, and asking questions; is responsive to the instructor's questions; shows initiative to interact with peers and usually comes to class prepared.

**Fair (C+, C, C-)**

The student participates regularly in discussions, activities, and asking questions; offers answers mostly after being called upon; interacts with peers and occasionally comes to class prepared.

**Marginal (D)**

The student participates passively and shows almost no initiative to interact with peers and the instructor; barely responds when asked questions by the instructor; is absent from class frequently.

**Failure (F)**

The student participates extremely passively and shows no initiative to interact with peers and the instructor; always remains almost silent, ignores questions, activities, and discussions frequently; is absent from class very frequently.

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**Assessment Task**

Quizzes

**Criterion**

1. Command of Pinyin and basic Chinese characters
2. Understanding of basic sentence structures and ways of expression in Mandarin Chinese (Putonghua)
3. Competence in conducting basic dialogues with proper use of vocabulary and grammar
4. Skills in reading and writing in basic Chinese

**Excellent (A+, A, A-)**

1. Excellent command of Pinyin and basic Chinese characters
2. Excellent understanding of basic sentence structures and ways of expression in Mandarin Chinese (Putonghua)
3. Excellent competence in conducting basic dialogues with proper use of vocabulary and grammar
4. Excellent skills in reading and writing in basic Chinese

**Good (B+, B, B-)**

1. Good command of Pinyin and basic Chinese characters
2. Good understanding of basic sentence structures and ways of expression in Mandarin Chinese (Putonghua)
3. Good competence in conducting basic dialogues with proper use of vocabulary and grammar
4. Good skills in reading and writing in basic Chinese

**Fair (C+, C, C-)**

1. Adequate command of Pinyin and basic Chinese characters
2. Adequate understanding of basic sentence structures and ways of expression in Mandarin Chinese (Putonghua)
3. Fair competence in conducting basic dialogues with proper use of vocabulary and grammar
4. Acceptable skills in reading and writing in basic Chinese

**Marginal (D)**

1. Marginal command of Pinyin and basic Chinese characters
2. Marginal understanding of basic sentence structures and ways of expression in Mandarin Chinese (Putonghua)
3. Marginal competence in conducting basic dialogues with proper use of vocabulary and grammar
4. Marginal skills in reading and writing in basic Chinese

**Failure (F)**

1. Extremely limited command of Pinyin and basic Chinese characters
2. Extremely limited understanding of basic sentence structures and ways of expression in Mandarin Chinese (Putonghua)
3. Extremely limited competence in conducting basic dialogues with proper use of vocabulary and grammar
4. Extremely limited skills in reading and writing in basic Chinese

## Assessment Task

Final test

### Criterion

1. Command of Pinyin and basic Chinese characters
2. Understanding of basic sentence structures and ways of expression in Mandarin Chinese (Putonghua)
3. Competence in conducting basic dialogues with proper use of vocabulary and grammar
4. Skills in reading and writing in basic Chinese

### Excellent (A+, A, A-)

1. Excellent command of Pinyin and basic Chinese characters
2. Excellent understanding of basic sentence structures and ways of expression in Mandarin Chinese (Putonghua)
3. Excellent competence in conducting basic dialogues with proper use of vocabulary and grammar
4. Excellent skills in reading and writing in basic Chinese

### Good (B+, B, B-)

1. Good command of Pinyin and basic Chinese characters
2. Good understanding of basic sentence structures and ways of expression in Mandarin Chinese (Putonghua)
3. Good competence in conducting basic dialogues with proper use of vocabulary and grammar
4. Good skills in reading and writing in basic Chinese

### Fair (C+, C, C-)

1. Adequate command of Pinyin and basic Chinese characters
2. Adequate understanding of basic sentence structures and ways of expression in Mandarin Chinese (Putonghua)
3. Fair competence in conducting basic dialogues with proper use of vocabulary and grammar
4. Acceptable skills in reading and writing in basic Chinese

### Marginal (D)

1. Marginal command of Pinyin and basic Chinese characters
2. Marginal understanding of basic sentence structures and ways of expression in Mandarin Chinese (Putonghua)
3. Marginal competence in conducting basic dialogues with proper use of vocabulary and grammar
4. Marginal skills in reading and writing in basic Chinese

### Failure (F)

1. Extremely limited command of Pinyin and basic Chinese characters
  2. Extremely limited understanding of basic sentence structures and ways of expression in Mandarin Chinese (Putonghua)
  3. Extremely limited competence in conducting basic dialogues with proper use of vocabulary and grammar
  4. Extremely limited skills in reading and writing in basic Chinese
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## Part III Other Information

### Keyword Syllabus

- Pinyin: initials, finals and tones
- Introduction to the basic elements of Chinese characters
- Vocabulary building
- Grammatical structure
- Daily conversation
- Reading and writing
- Chinese culture and the language

**Reading List****Compulsory Readings**

Title	
1	Nil

**Additional Readings**

Title	
1	Practical Chinese Reader, Book I, Beijing Language Institute. Hong Kong: The Commercial Press Ltd, 2003. (Simplified version or traditional version)
2	Supplementary materials