MX101x Chinese Language:
Learn Basic Mandarin - Level 1 (self-paced) – Syllabus

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Course Description and Prerequisite

This is a beginner’s level course of basic Mandarin for students who have little or no previous background in the language. While the course materials are written and organized according to different contexts and include cultural information, linguistic elements are also a major focus of this course.

If you have any questions while taking lesson 1, we highly recommend you go over the “before you start” session, which serves as the foundation of learning Chinese. You will learn the fundamental content, including pinyin, tones, and the writing system to understand the six lessons.

Learning Goal and Objectives

The goal of this MOOC is to teach students the following communication skills in Mandarin Chinese as well as teach about Chinese culture.

As for the learning objectives, students will learn spoken Chinese in real situations using everyday vocabulary and grammar. You will learn useful sentence patterns, but also how to interact with others in real-world situations rather than just memorizing responses to common questions and reading from rote. Special attention to tones will be addressed as well since, it being a tonal language, they are essential to understanding and being understood. These skills are
all integrated in a way that allows you to communicate and behave appropriately in Chinese culture. For students who have further learning needs, like Chinese character writing, there is a list of learning tools and supplemental learning materials to satisfy your needs.

**Nature of Learning a Second Language**

Communication involves more than just knowing the right words. It also entails knowing how to act, what to say, how to say it, with whom it is appropriate to use certain language, gestures or body language, and so on. Some of this information may seem intuitive to your native culture, but an accurate and informed understanding of Chinese culture will provide you with the tools necessary to successfully represent yourself, develop and maintain relationships, and generally to behave in a culturally appropriate way in a Chinese context. Ultimately, this means that we expect you to learn how to conduct yourself in such a way that a native Chinese person would see that you have put forth the effort to learn.

**Content – What and Where Are Learning Materials?**

**News:** Under “Course Info”. Keep an eye on the news and updates.

**Syllabus:** Under “Courseware” -> “Overview”. When you encounter problems regarding this course, the syllabus is the first place to look and the mostly likely place to find the answer.

**Foundation of learning Chinese:** Go to “Courseware” -> “Before you start…”. This prepares you to take all 6 lessons. Content includes: introduction to tones, pinyin system, numbers, writing systems, and so on. We highly recommend you go back to review this part regularly.

**Lesson 1-6:**

1. **Videos:** Including Intro, Vocabulary, Grammar and Sentence patterns, and Dialogue.
2. **Quizzes:** Testing vocabulary, grammar, dialogues in context, and tone recognition.
3. **Dictation & cultural notes:** Cultural notes address the difference between Taiwan Chinese and mainland China Chinese. We hope to show the variance of Chinese because you will not only meet people from one region. The relationship between two regional variations is similar to the differences between British English and American English.
4. **Textbook:** The textbook corresponds with the videos, and includes additional vocabulary.
5. **Workbook:** It is like your “homework”. Answer keys will be provided for you to check your own work.

Note: For most of the learning materials, both a Traditional Chinese version and a Simplified Chinese version are provided.

**Learning Activities - How Can I Make the Most of This Course?**

1. **Read the syllabus.** This is the first step in taking the course.
2. **Watch** the videos.
3. **Read** the textbook.
4. **Do** the workbook and **take** the quiz. Don’t miss any of them. They help you have a comprehensive understanding of Chinese.
   a. **The workbook** is like a self-assessment. Answer keys are provided. Though it will not be graded, we highly recommend that you it since learning a language involves a lot of repetitive practice, especially learning Chinese, which is an ideographic language that is much different from alphabetic languages.
   b. **Quizzes** helps you see what you have learned and what you need to work on. Don’t panic. You are given a lot of opportunities to submit your answer. The FAQ about quizzes is below.
5. **Discuss** on the forum. Feel free to post any questions. The more you ask, the more you learn. Also, your question might have been raised by other learners, so searching before posting always saves you time!
6. **Talk** with Estella and the TAs. You can meet Estella virtually and practice Chinese with her!
7. **Contact** us if you have more questions.

**Pacing - How Should I Plan My Learning Schedule?**

This is a **self-paced** course that starts at October 19th, 2015. It will **run for a whole year**. This course has **6 lessons**. For each lesson, the average time commitment is **4 hours**. All course content is released at once. However, we highly recommend you to **keep your own pace** of learning. For example, you could take lessons every two weeks. After all, language learning is a slow but ongoing process.

Any **unexpected changes** to released content will be communicated to students through course info, the discussion forum, and the newsletter. Feel free to let us know how to satisfy your needs through email or on Facebook!

**Deadline and Due Dates**

The deadlines of quizzes and final exam are:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Quiz</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Quiz1</td>
<td>May 19, 2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quiz2</td>
<td>June 19, 2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quiz3</td>
<td>July 19, 2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quiz4</td>
<td>Aug 19, 2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quiz5</td>
<td>Sep 19, 2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quiz6</td>
<td>Oct 19, 2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final exam</td>
<td>Oct 19, 2016</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For time zone information, please visit [http://www.timeanddate.com/worldclock/converter.html](http://www.timeanddate.com/worldclock/converter.html)

**Make Your Own Study Plan - How Can I Keep Track Of My Learning Activities?**
This is a template of a study plan. You might want to write it down on a piece of paper or in a Word document file.

1. What is my learning objective? Perhaps:
   a. To get the certificate?
   b. How high of a score, on average, do I want to get?
   c. Do I want to make friends with Chinese speakers? Do I want to do business with Chinese speakers? Do I want or plan to travel there?
   d. For vocabulary, how many characters do I want to remember after taking this course? (Be realistic)
   e. Do I want to learn how to write Chinese characters?

2. What is my time frame for taking this course? Research shows setting a fixed time schedule helps you better take a MOOC!

3. My learning schedule:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level and lesson</th>
<th>Learning activities</th>
<th>Done?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Level 1, lesson 1</td>
<td>Watch video</td>
<td>Done</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Level 1, lesson 1</td>
<td>Take quiz (deadline: xx)</td>
<td>Done</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Level 1, lesson 1</td>
<td>Ask questions</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Level 1, lesson 1</td>
<td>Speaking group</td>
<td>7/7/2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Level 1, lesson 1</td>
<td>Other…</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

4. Reflection
   a. What did I know before?
   b. What did I learn in this course? Any interesting findings?
   c. What do I want to know?
   d. What great question did I ask?
   e. How do I feel about learning Chinese?

Academic Policy - Assessment and Certificate

You need to obtain a **score of 80 or above** to get a certificate. Each quiz is worth 10 points and the final exam is worth 40 points.

Two types of certificates are granted. If your final score is 80 or above, you will get an **honor certificate**. If you have paid for the course and get a final score of 80 or above, you will receive a **verified certificate**. Your certificate will be delivered online through edx.org. So be sure to check your email in the weeks following the final grading – you will be able to download and print your certificate.

Only quizzes and final exam will be graded, and they must be finished by the due date. For workbooks, we will provide the answer key so that you will be able to grade your own work and discuss in the forum.

Forum Discussion Etiquette
We highly recommend that you join the forum discussions. Your involvement will motivate Chinese language learners from around the world! You will see discussion boards under each lesson as well as a general discussion forum. It is our hope that you post **at least one post** for each lesson. While posting on the forum does not reflect on your grade either positively or negatively, your comments or questions may aid in the learning process, if not for you then maybe for someone who is too shy to post themselves.

Also, please be respectful to other students. Offensive words or comments will be removed by the forum admin.

If you have any questions regarding the quiz answers, please send a screenshot to info@mandarinx.com. Revealing the answers is not allowed by edX.

**Help Seeking**

To get help with the course, click the Discussion tab and post a question. To get help with a technical problem, click Help to send a message to edX Student Support.

A TA will help you with the following things:

- Answering the questions on the discussion board.
- Replying to your emails.
- Online tutoring if you enroll for MandarinX online tutoring service.

**Accessibility**


If you have any accessibility needs, please contact us.

**Contact Us**

Email: info@mandarinx.com

Facebook: MandarinX