

Syllabus – Spring 2024

Instructor

Chunsheng Yang Chunsheng.yang@uconn.edu
Office Herbst Hall 204
Office Hours: Tu & Thur. 11am – 12pm & by appt

Textbook:

Gao, Panpan, & Sun, Hongyun. 2021. Expressive Chinese (故事内外). Cheng & Tsui Company.

Course description: This course aims to improve your Chinese proficiency to the intermediate-high or advanced level. By taking the course, you are expected to learn how to describe social phenomena, to argue for/against a point of view, and to make comments on abstract issues/concepts. Another important goal of the course is to train you to deliver paragraph-length speech, instead of just scattered sentences.

Language learning is no easy task, which requires a lot of time and effort. You need to study each lesson carefully **BEFORE CLASS** and **BE PREPARED FOR CLASS ACTIVITY & DISCUSSION**.

Five lessons will be covered in the semester. We will spend two weeks or so on each lesson. Below is the tentative schedule for each lesson.

Day 1 and Day 2: Please study the vocabulary of the lesson on Quizlet before class (follow the link on lecture ppt). Next read and learn the lecture ppt before class. Lesson text audios are provided in the lecture ppt, so make sure you listen to it as well (ideally a few times). We plan to spend two class meetings to finish every lesson's lecture.

A small quiz is given before either class on HuskyCT, not for grading, just for the purpose of preparation!

Day 2: Vocabulary quiz (typing)

We will be using the Wechat and Kahoot regularly when we are having synchronous sessions. Please make sure you have Wechat installed on your smart phone or your computer.

Day 3: Quiz to check on grammar and vocabulary (kahoot). Text recording homework due before class and sentence quiz at the beginning of class (typing and translation, maybe on

WeChat or some other platforms). Discussion on the text and other related topics in class. In-class reading and writing (typing on Padlet or google slides):

Day 4: Quiz to check on text comprehension (kahoot). Pair or group presentation on a given topic and review for chapter test. Edpuzzle listening materials related to the text.

Day 5: Chapter test on HuskyCT.

Day 6: Movie discussion/Reading 画皮. You need to watch the movie or complete the designated reading pages before class in order to get involved in the discussion in class. You need to complete the discussion questions before class on HuskyCT.

Homework assignment: There will be one homework assignment (multiple choice questions, fill in the blanks, and answer questions related to the text, or short essay questions) for every unit on HuskyCT.

Movie discussion/Reading 画皮: Every time we complete one lesson, we will either watch a movie or read from a Chinese book (extensive reading) to improve your Chinese reading and speaking proficiency.

For the movies, you need to watch the movie before class and be ready to discuss it in class. You do not have to know every word in the movie. Our in-class discussion focuses on the movie theme, character analysis, and cross-cultural comparison. A short quiz on the story/plot of the movie will be given at the beginning of the day of movie discussion. The movie titles and links will be announced ahead of time so that you have enough time to watch it, ideally with friends or classmates, and prepare for the movie discussion.

For the additional reading, you will read on the assigned chapters, ideally with friends, before class, and need to be ready to talk about the story there. Most of the stories are short stories which are carefully written to increase your exposure to characters at a certain level. So the goal of the additional reading is to help you review/relearn old characters and learn some new frequently used and important ones.

After the movie/additional reading class, you need to post a critical summary (300-400 characters) on the discussion board of HuskyCT, in which you briefly summarize the movie/book, and present and support your opinion on the issue(s) raised. Besides, everyone is required to read and comment upon at least one summary written by others.

Oral presentation: One oral presentation during the mid-term period (topic and grading rubrics will be given ahead of time)

1. You will give a formal speech on a topic that we have discussed so far (旅游, 食物, 人口 or something else you are interested in; or your though after watching 人在囧途 or reading 画皮)
2. 2-3 minutes;

3. Need to record your presentation and submit the link to the discussion board.
4. Note that you can not read, but can refer to flashcard once in a while. Reading from notes will lead to huge mark-down.
5. Try to only use words that you know, especially those we have just learned. Provide the glossary for the words that your classmates may not know on PPT.
6. After the oral presentation deadline, you need to watch at least two classmates' oral presentations and provide peer assessment (peer assessment forms will be used)

Grading rubrics:

Fluency: 10; Content: 10; Vocabulary: 10; Grammar: 10; Peer assessment: 10

Total: 50 points

Final project: There will be a final project for groups in 3s or 4s. You can choose to work on a brochure on one issue that we have discussed or provide Chinese dubbing to one movie you choose (5-6 minutes). Try to use as many words/structures that we have used this semester as possible in your group project.

October 16, Friday : Group formation and topic selection;

November 6th, Friday: Script draft of the final project (share with instructor via google doc);

November 20th , Friday : Final project due on discussion board of HuskyCT.

Final project grading rubrics:

Organization: 10 points

Team work/participation: 10 points

Content: 20 points

Peer assessment (two other projects): 10 points

Class Policy

1. As a student-centered class, you need to actively participate in various activities.
2. As absence from class will affect your class participation.
3. Homework must be turned in on the due date. Late homework is not accepted unless accompanied with a doctor's or academic advisor's note.
4. No make-up quizzes or exams unless a doctor's or academic advisor's note is provided.
5. While acknowledging the many constraints in a virtual class, please be respectful to both the instructor and your classmates in your language and behaviors.

6. Please have your camera open in all synchronous sessions.

To provide you with more exposure to the Chinese language, I will pair you up with a Chinese native speaker from China so that you can communicate on Wechat regularly on topics related to our textbook.

The Center for Students with Disabilities (CSD) at UConn provides accommodations and services for qualified students with disabilities. If you have a documented disability for which you wish to request academic accommodations and have not contacted the CSD, please do so as soon as possible. The CSD is located in Wilbur Cross, Room 204 and can be reached at (860) 486-2020 or at csd@uconn.edu. Detailed information regarding the accommodations process is also available on their website at www.csd.uconn.edu.

Academic Integrity

Dishonesty of any kind will not be tolerated in this course. Dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarizing, fabricating information, facilitating acts of academic dishonesty by others, having unauthorized possession of exams, submitting work of another person or work previously used without informing the instructor, or tampering with the academic work of other students. Students who are found to be dishonest will receive academic sanctions and will be reported to the University's Judicial Affairs office for possible further disciplinary sanctions. Possible academic sanctions include an F grade for the course. In addition, there are disciplinary sanctions that may include the F grade and permanent expulsion.

Grading

Attendance and participation: 10%

Quizzes: 10%

Homework assignments: 10%

Writing on movies/additional reading: 20%

Oral presentation: 10% (1% for each small oral presentation + 5% for the big oral presentation)

Chapter tests: 20%

Final project: 20%

Letter grade converting scale

A: 93 % or above;	A-: 90% or above;	B+: 88% or above	B: 82% or above
B-: 80% or above;	C+: 78% or above;	C: 72% or above;	C-: 70% or above
D+: 68% or above;	D: 62% or above;	D-: 60% or above;	F: below 60%

Online resources for Chinese learning

<http://www.fluentu.com/chinese/blog/2013/06/28/learn-chinese-movies/>

<http://collections.uiowa.edu/chinese/> (Chinese reading world)

<https://www.slow-chinese.com/> (slow-speed Chinese. Excellent listening materials)

<https://www.bbc.com/zhongwen/simp> (BBC 中文新闻)

<https://chinafocus.kuaizhan.com/>

<https://www.youtube.com/user/ChinesePodTV>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vFYODJyOAlc>


<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLFwbm44TfPJHjxE3Lg4mLZBN81qQ15ptp> (看电影学中文)

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLFwbm44TfPJHjxE3Lg4mLZBN81qQ15ptp> (汉字宫)

Tentative weekly schedule (subject to change)

Week	Date	Content	Homework on HuskyCT
Week 1	Aug 27 (M)	Syllabus + introduction	Homework 1
	Aug 29 (W)	Review 1	
	Aug 31 (F)	Review 2	
Week 2	Sep 3 (M)	Labor Day	Homework 2
	Sep 5 (W)	Review 3	
	Sep 7 (F)	Review 4	
Week 3	Sep 10 (M)	Lesson 1: Vocabulary and grammar learning (Lesson 32 vocab quiz)	
	Sep 12 (W)	Lesson 1: quiz 1: Character recognition. Learn and practice grammar/structures	
	Sep 14 (F)	Lesson 1: quiz 2: Dictation. Text discussion	
Week 4	Sep 17 (M)	Lesson 1: Exercises in textbook	Homework 3

	Sep 19 (W) Sep 21 (F)	Small oral presentation and additional readings or in-class writing Lesson 1 Chapter test	
Week 5	Sep 24 (M) Sep 26 (W) Sep 28 (F)	1 st movie discussion 《人在囧途》 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=26OUqTzrzv0 Lesson 2 Lesson 2 : quiz 1	
Week 6	Oct 1 (M) Oct 3 (W) Oct 5 (F)	Lesson 2: quiz 2 Lesson 2 Faculty on conference	Homework 4
Week 7	Oct 8 (M) Oct 10 (W) Oct 12 (F)	Lesson 2 Lesson 2 chapter test Extra reading 1 (ch. 1-7)	
Week 8	Oct 15 (M) Oct 17 (W) Oct 19 (F)	Lesson 3 Lesson 3 Lesson 3: quiz 1 Final skit: Group formation and topic selection, and start to work on script writing	
Week 9	Oct 22 (M) Oct 24 (W) Oct 26 (F)	Lesson 3 Lesson 3: quiz 2 Lesson 3: oral interview at Yang Laoshi's office (Oak 204)	Homework 5
Week 10	Oct 29 (M) Oct 31 (W) Nov 2 (F)	Lesson 3 chapter test review <u>-Lesson 3 Chapter test</u> Big oral presentation	

Week 11	Nov 5 (M) Nov 7 (W) Nov 9 (F)	Lesson 4 Lesson 4: quiz 1 Lesson 4 Final skit: Script draft of the final skit (share with instructor via google doc or onedrive)	Homework 6
Week 12	Nov 12 (M) Nov 14 (W) Nov 16 (F)	Lesson 4 Lesson 4 Lesson 4 chapter test Final skit: Final version of script and start to rehearse or shoot the movie (new deadline is Nov. 27th, midnight)	
Week 13	Nov 19 (M) Nov 21 (W) Nov 23 (F)	Thanksgiving Break!	感恩节  快乐
Week 14	Nov 26 (M) Nov 28 (W) Nov 30 (F)	Extra reading (chap 7 – end): small quiz Lesson 5: Lesson 5: quiz 1	Homework 6
Week 15	Dec 3 (M) Dec 5 (W) Dec 7 (F)	Lesson 5 Final skit showcase Lesson 5 chapter test	
Week 16	No final!		