

## CHIN 3100: Reading Contemporary Chinese Culture

Fall 2013  
Syllabus

Instructor: Li Guo  
Office Hrs: TR 10:30-11:45, 002B Old Main  
Class: MF 11:30 am - 12:45 pm, Old Main 201  
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*"No two languages are ever sufficiently similar to be considered as representing the same social reality. The worlds in which different societies live are distinct worlds, not merely the same world with different labels attached."---Amy Tan.*

### **Course Description:**

With an aim to motivate students' cultural integration in language learning, this course hopes to expose students to contemporary Chinese cultures through an introduction to China's popular culture and social changes in the recent decades. By reading stories about ordinary Chinese people and topics of their shared interest, we will discuss pivotal and contingent social issues in contemporary Chinese speaking communities, and probe into key concepts of cultural identity, individualism, impact of material culture, and conflict and interaction between the past and present, tradition and modern. Through full immersion in target language materials, we will gain insights about China's social and cultural transformation in the contemporary era, and discuss key topics including population explosion, housing, education and employment, marriage and family. Supplementary to the selected texts, we will also discuss abundant authentic materials such as anime, jokes, music, news, short video and film clips. Students will work in pairs and develop an oral presentation project of their self-chosen topics. Students are particularly encouraged to explore their interested topics by creative rendering of the authentic material, such as role-play, singing, storytelling, or various forms of performance.

### **Textbook:**

*Reading Into A New China. 变化中的中国. Vol.1. Cheng&Tsui.*  
The textbook is available at the University Bookstore in TSC.  
Additional material will be available through blackboard.

### **Course Requirements:**

Attendance 10%  
Homework 15%  
Quizzes (1% each, instructor will take the best 5 out of 6) 5%  
Weekly Journal (2% each, 10 journals total) 20%  
Oral Presentation 15%  
1 midterm 15%  
Portfolio 5%  
1 Final 15%

### ***Grading system and percentage***

As you can see the total number of points is 100%. Your final grade for the course will be calculated as follows:

100-98% ... A+ 89-87%...B+ 79-77%...C+ 69-67%...D+ Below 60%...F

97-94% ... A 86-84%...B 76-74%...C 66-64%...D 93-90% ... A- 83-80%...B- 73-70%...C- 63-60%...D-

*Students with ADA-documented impairments may be eligible for reasonable accommodations. Veterans may also be eligible for services. Accommodations are coordinated through DRC in Rm 101 of the University Inn, 7-2444 voice, 7-0740 TTY, or toll free at 1-800-259-2966. Please contact DRC as early as possible. Alternate format materials (Braille, large print or digital) are available with advance notice.*

**Attendance:** Regular attendance of the class is important and highly related to a student's performance in class. You are allowed 3 unexcused absences in this class. If you have more than 3 absences in total, you will suffer a loss of 2% of each additional absence. In case of illness, emergency, or university activities, please notify me by email in advance, and submit an official university excused absence sheet when you return to class.

### ***Quizzes:***

In total, there will be 6 quizzes. Students will be informed of the dates of the quizzes, and have the chance to drop the lowest two grades. I will count the best 5 quizzes for your 10% grade for quizzes in total.

There is **NO make-up quiz** in this course. If a student misses a quiz and receives a zero for the grade, he or she may drop that grade and make up the points by a good performance for the upcoming quizzes.

### ***Weekly Journal:***

Weekly journals are open-topic, and may include the following aspects: reflections on learning process; reflections on current events from newspapers, magazine and website; any topic related to your personal experience or area of interest in study. The journal is **150-200** characters.

### ***Oral Presentation:***

Students will work in pairs. Each pair will prepare a 10-minute presentation in the classroom. The content of this presentation may cover a certain topic related to Chinese language, culture, history, tradition, or any topic that is provocative or of related interest to you. Along with the oral presentation, the student is expected to write down the content of the presentation in a paper of **500** characters, describing the content of the presentation. (You may each contribute 250 characters) The paper is due on the same day of the presentation. The presentation and the paper together is 15% of the student's total grade. *Students are strongly recommended to sign up to meet with the instructor to discuss the presentation topic.*

### ***Portfolio 5%:***

Your portfolio, essentially, is a collection of records of your study in this class throughout the semester. Each student should create his or her individual portfolio, containing the following items in order:

- Quizzes, 6 total;
- Journals, 10 total;
- Oral presentation paper.
- Midterm exam
- Dated answers for the homework assignments.
- Handouts for instructor's in-class exercises.
- A self-reflection essay in Chinese summarizing your performance over the semester, 300 words.

The portfolio is due on **December 9, Monday, at 11:30**, right before the Final Exam.

**Extra points:** Students who attend the Moon Festival Celebration will receive 2 extra points each. Students who volunteer for performance at the Moon Festival will receive 4 extra points each (1 performance, can involve 3 people at most, 5-8 minutes).

***Participation:***

Class participation includes attendance, timely submission of assignments, active involvement in classroom activities. Be sure not to schedule appointments and the like during class time to insure that you do not miss any classes.

***Meeting with the Instructor:***

Students are encouraged to meet with the instructor to discuss their individual interests and concerns. For instance, for the oral presentation assignment, students are strongly recommended to meet with the instructor about their interested topics. A sign-sheet will be circulated beforehand. In the meantime, you can always sign up for meetings during my office hours. (Check the sign-sheet on my office door, 002 B Old Main.) If you cannot make for my office hours, please email me to set up an appointment.

***Classroom etiquette:***

The relationship between the students and the instructor is one of dual respect. Please pay particular attention to the following rules. 1) Be punctual for the class. 2) Set your cell phone on vibration before the class. 3) Internet surfing during class times is not allowed. 4) If you need to leave the classroom shortly during the class time, ask permission from the instructor first.

***Late Work:***

Usually late work is not accepted. If you know that you will miss class ahead of time due to a school-sponsored activity, please talk with me ASAP. Usually this will mean turning in assignments ahead of the deadline. Please give me an official copy of your team/ group's schedule during the first week of the class.

***Plagiarism***

Plagiarism includes knowingly "representing, by paraphrase or direct quotation, the published or unpublished work of another person as one's own in any academic exercise or activity without full and clear acknowledgment. It also includes the unacknowledged used of materials prepared by another person or agency engaged in the selling of term papers or other academic materials." The penalties for plagiarism are severe. They include warning or reprimand, grade adjustment, probation, suspension, expulsion, withholding of transcripts, denial or revocation of degrees, and referral to psychological counseling.

Day	Contents	Assignments
8/26	介绍, 小游戏。 L1 人口大爆炸.	
8/30	L1 continued. Mock Quiz.	Enclosed exercises.
9/6	L1 continued. L2第13个小公民	
9/9	L2 continued. Quiz 1.	Journal 1.
9/13	L3住房	Presentation 1.
9/16	L3 continued. Quiz 2.	Journal 2
9/20	L4: 教育	Enclosed exercises.
9/23	L4 continued.	Journal 3
9/27	Film appreciation ☺ Quiz 3: take home	Enclosed exercises.
9/30	L5 一个初三毕业生的星期天	Journal 4
10/4	L5 continued.	Presentation 2. 2.1 (p147)
10/7	Midterm.	Journal 5
10/11	L6大学生就业全新变化 Quiz 4	Presentation 3.
10/14	L6 continued.	Journal 6
10/17	Cultural workshop 1. ☺	Presentation 4.
10/21	L7大学生与快餐中转站	Journal 7 Supplementary exercise.
10/25	L7 continued. Quiz 5	Presentation 5.
10/28	L8 恋爱婚姻	Journal 8
11/1	L8 continued.	Enclosed exercises.
11/4	Cultural workshop 2. Filmscreening.	Journal 9
11/8	L9 征婚启示	Presentation 6.

	Quiz 6	
11/11	L9 continued.	Journal 10.
11/15	L10 家庭, 妇女	Presentation 7.
11/18	L10 continued	Enclosed exercises.
11/25	Cultural workshop 3.	Preliminary check on Portfolio.
12/2	Film appreciation and analysis 3.	Enclosed exercises
12/6	Review for Final	Enclosed exercises
12/9	<b>Final 11:30-1:20</b>	Portfolio due.