

THE UNIVERSITY OF THE WEST INDIES, ST. AUGUSTINE
FACULTY OF HUMANITIES AND EDUCATION
CENTRE FOR LANGUAGE LEARNING

COURSE DOCUMENTATION

COURSE TITLE: Let's Talk Chinese +

NO. OF HOURS: 20 (2.5 hours per week for 8 weeks)

PREREQUISITES: Level 2B Chinese (A2 / A2+ / B1-)

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This 8-week course is designed for students who have completed at least Level 2B in Mandarin Chinese and are looking to expand their language skills. Building on the foundation laid in previous levels, this course aims to enhance students' ability to communicate effectively in everyday situations, while deepening their understanding of Chinese culture. Through interactive, synchronous online sessions, students will focus on refining their speaking, listening, and pronunciation skills, with a particular emphasis on real-world applications such as shopping, ordering food, and engaging in casual conversations. The course will foster both communicative competence and cultural awareness, encouraging students to actively participate in discussions and role-plays.

COURSE RATIONALE:

As Chinese language and culture continue to play an influential role in global communication, students will gain insight into a variety of topics such as travel, social media, food, music, and daily life. The primary objective is to equip students with the essential communicative skills required for navigating everyday situations, while fostering an understanding of Chinese cultural practices and traditions. Through practical exercises and real-world context activities, students will be encouraged to connect with Mandarin speakers both locally and internationally, gaining confidence in speaking, listening, and understanding the language.

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Name of instructor: Ms. Janine Lutchman

Office address: Ground floor, Centre for Language Learning

Email address: Janine.Lutchman@uwi.edu

Office hours: Fridays 4pm - 4.30pm (virtual appointments only)

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

By the end of this course, students will:

- gain the skills to describe personal experiences, preferences, and routine actions.
- work on confidently mastering the complex sounds and tones in Mandarin Chinese.

- demonstrate their understanding of Mandarin in real-world contexts by completing a project (e.g., video presentation) and leading a class discussion using language from multiple course topics.
- evaluate their spoken Chinese skills through feedback from peers, teacher evaluations, and self-reflection, demonstrating growth and areas for improvement in their conversational abilities.
- reflect on their language-learning journey, gaining a deeper understanding of their strengths, challenges, and strategies as adult learners of Mandarin.

ONLINE SESSIONS:

These sessions will consist of a wide range of interactive activities, which include but are not limited to:

- pair and group work
- discussions, interviews, role plays
- vocabulary and grammar drills
- games (e.g. Jeopardy, bingo)

Week	Topic	Objectives
1	Pronunciation boot camp	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Identify and practice initials/finals (e.g. zh/ch/sh/r). 2. Improve tone recognition and production across all 4 tones. 3. Build confidence in minimal pair pronunciation through pronunciation drills and short dialogues.
2	Grocery shopping	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Learn common grocery item names and measure words. 2. Practice asking about prices and quantities. 3. Use polite requests and purchasing phrases.
3	Ordering drinks	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Order common beverages using customization vocabulary. 2. Express likes, dislikes, and preferences (e.g. sugar level, temperature). 3. Role-play ordering drinks with natural sentence patterns.
4	Music & cinema	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Express musical preferences using vocabulary for genres, instruments, and feelings. 2. Talk about a favorite song or artist in simple terms. 3. Understand and discuss basic lyrics from a Chinese pop song. 4. Discuss short clips from Chinese film.
5	Travel	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Use essential travel vocabulary to talk about destinations, transportation, and lodging. 2. Describe a past or dream trip using appropriate time phrases. 3. Ask and answer questions about travel preferences and experiences in a simple dialogue.
6	Social media	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Identify and talk about popular social media apps. 2. Express frequency and habits using adverbs. 3. Describe actions commonly done on social media. 4. Describe routine actions.

7	Describing people	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Use adjectives to describe physical appearance and personality. 2. Compare people using 比 (e.g. 他比我高。). 3. Ask and answer questions about someone's looks and character.
8	Review	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Review vocabulary and structures from all topics. 2. Practice consolidating language in a creative project. <p>Activity: Presentation of video projects: Students will lead the session to present their videos in Chinese, summarizing the topics learned.</p>

Material will be uploaded to the chosen platform.

Tutors will give feedback at appropriate times.

Award of certificates of attendance (Max. 20 hours can be awarded)