

CEU Chinese Language Course – Beginner Level (Winter Term)

Course Title: Mandarin Chinese for Beginners

Duration: 10 weeks

Location: Central European University (CEU)

Instructor: Li Yiyang

Textbook: 《來學華語》 (Let's Learn Chinese), Book 1

Course Description

This course is designed for absolute beginners who wish to start learning Mandarin Chinese. Students will develop basic skills in listening, speaking, reading, and writing, with a focus on practical communication in everyday contexts. The course also introduces elements of Chinese and Taiwanese culture to enhance language learning and cross-cultural understanding.

By the end of the fall term, students will be able to:

- Use Pinyin for accurate pronunciation.
- Introduce themselves and exchange basic personal information.
- Use essential daily expressions in greetings, shopping, transportation, and food.
- Recognize and write around 120–150 Chinese characters.
- Develop basic sentence structures and simple dialogues for real-life situations.

Learning Outcomes

By the end of this course, students will:

- Have a solid foundation in Mandarin pronunciation and tones.
- Be able to conduct short conversations in everyday scenarios.
- Gain an understanding of Chinese and Taiwanese cultural practices relevant to language use.
- Be prepared to continue in **Mandarin Chinese for Beginners II (Winter Term)**.

Assessment

- **Participation & Homework** – 30%
- **Quizzes (listening, speaking, characters)** – 20%
- **Oral Presentation (Week 10)** – 20%
- **Final Test (Week 10)** – 30%

Website introduction

Li Yiyiing – Chinese Teacher

Li Yiyiing earned her M.A. in Teaching Chinese as a Foreign Language from National Kaohsiung Normal University, Taiwan, in 2016. She has extensive experience teaching Mandarin and Taiwanese culture to international students in both Europe and Taiwan and has led calligraphy workshops in Poland, Austria and Hungary.

She enjoys working in multicultural environments and, in 2022, founded Hungary's first officially certified Taiwan Center for Mandarin Learning (TCML).

Li Yiyiing can be contacted at LiY@ceu.edu