

CHN260 Chinese Listening

3rd and 4th quarters, Sophomore

Instructor	NAGAI TAKAHIRO
Style of Class	Lecture, seminar
Number of Credits	2
Day and Period	Wednesday, period 2

Course Description

In this class, students will build upon the basic pronunciation, basic grammar, and basic vocabulary that they learned in Chinese I and II in a course that emphasizes listening, a skill that is difficult to acquire when one is studying in a Japanese-speaking environment. We will begin with an overall review of the basics of pronunciation learned in Chinese I and II and provide knowledge about Chinese phonology as it relates to syllable structure. Then we will proceed from this foundation to listening exercises that involve short passages, including conversations, so that the students gradually work their way up to simulated problems from the *Hanyu Shuiping Kaoshi* (HSK), Levels 1 and 2 and improve their listening ability in Chinese (*Putonghua* or Mandarin). The goals of the class include making the students able to write correctly in *pinyin* sentences that they hear spoken and to understand their meaning. In order to ensure understanding the meanings of the Chinese passages, the instructor will explain grammar points when appropriate. In specific terms, this class aims to bring the students' listening ability to Level 4 (low) on the Chinese Language Proficiency Test (Chuken) and to Level 2 (low) on the HSK.

Course Objectives

- (1) Acquiring accurate knowledge about Chinese syllable structures and the elements that comprise them (initials, vowels [glides, initial vowels, final consonants], tones)
- (2) Learning to write accurately in *pinyin* short Chinese phrases that you hear
- (3) Learning to understand the meaning of simple Chinese sentences that you hear
- (4) Discovering what aspects of Chinese pronunciation are difficult for you and correcting them
- (5) Learning the vocabulary and grammar items equivalent to that on the HSK, Level 2 (low)

Prerequisites

Chinese I, II

Class Materials

Textbook

Printouts will be distributed

Dictionary

Kuraishi Takeshiro (1990) *Iwanami Chuugokugo jiten (Iwanami Chinese Dictionary)* Iwanami Shoten.

Reference books:

Qian Nairong (2001) *Xiandai Hanyu, (xiuding ben) (Modern Chinese (revised))*. Jiangsu Jiaoyu Chubanshe

Shen Xiaolong (2005) *Yuyanxue gangyao (Outline of Linguistics)* Fudan University Press

Chen Changlai (2005) *Duiwai Hanyu jiaoyu gailun (Survey of Chinese Language Education for Foreigners)* Fudan University Press

Kusaka Tsuneo (2007) *Atama de shiri, karada de oboeru Chuugokugo no hatsuon (Chinese Pronunciation, Learned with Your Mind, Memorized with Your Body)* Kabushiki Gaisha ALC

Yoshijima Shigeru and Ohashi Rie (2008) *Gaikokugo no gakushuu, Kyouju, hyouka no tame no Yooroppa kyoutsuu shouwaku (Common European Framework for Foreign Language Learning, Education, and Evaluation)*, Asahi Shuppansha

Furukawa Yutaka, supervising editor (2010) *Shin HSK (Hanyu shuiping kaoshi) juken gaido (New HSK Test Taking Guide)* Kabushiki Gaisha ALC

Yang Kairong and Zhang Liqun (2012) *Chuugokugo e no apuroochi II: Shokyuu-chuukyuu hen (An Approach to Chinese II, Elementary to Intermediate)* Asahi Shuppansha

Course Method

This class will be conducted in a seminar/recitation format. The students will prepare passages before they come to class, as directed by the instructor. During class, they will redo the homework problems and check their answers. The instructor will then explain the phonology and grammar of the places where students made mistakes or were likely to make mistakes in an effort to improve the students' Chinese language ability.

Evaluation/Assessment

Grading and evaluation in this class will be based on a combination of (1) Pre-class homework, (2) Class participation, and (3) Final homework.

(1) Pre-class homework:

Students will receive pre-class homework from the instructor each time and will be expected to finish it on their own before the next class. They should make a note of any difficult or problematic parts of the homework. This homework will be corrected and discussed in class.

(2) Class participation:

During class, we will mainly work on simulated problems from the HSK, but in the course of correcting and explaining the problems, the instructor will ask questions about the relevant pinyin, phonology, grammar, vocabulary, and content to confirm that the students understand.

(3) Final homework

Students will be given a final assignment that requires them to take a passage of spoken Chinese comparable to Level 2 of the HSK, transcribe it in *pinyin*, convert it to Chinese characters, and then translate it into Japanese before handing it in. The audio for this exercise will be distributed as a CD or MP3 file.

Grading

- 20% Pre-class homework
- 30% Class participation
- 50% Final homework

Course Schedule

Week 1: Explanation of the Course (Including Evaluation Methods), About the HSK (Major Reference Materials: Chen (2005), Furukawa (2010))

At the beginning of the class, the instructor will confirm the progression and content of the class, evaluation methods, things to bring to class, and how to do the homework. In addition, the instructor will explain the objectives and procedures of the *Hanyu shuiping kaoshi* (HSK), the content of each level, and how the levels of the HSK correspond to and can be converted to the levels on other proficiency tests.

Week 2: The Characteristics of Chinese (Major Reference Materials: Qian [2001], pp. 12-18), Chinese Syllable Structure and Its Characteristics (Major Reference Materials: Shen (2005), pp. 74-83)

Students will learn about the characteristics of modern Chinese, especially in comparison with the Indo-European languages so that they can understand what kind of a language they have been studying up till now. They will improve their understanding of the syllable, the smallest meaningful unit, the elements that comprise it (initials, finals [medials, primary vowels, and final consonants], and tones, as well as of the notation system of *pinyin*, how it arose, and what its features are. These are the foundations of listening practice.

Week 3: Writing Chinese Syllables in *Pinyin* (Warming up) :

(1) We will discuss what Chinese syllables look like and practice hearing tones, simple vowels, compound vowels, nasals, and consonant, and writing the audio material in *pinyin* so that students can identify and overcome their individual weaknesses.

(2) We will practice hearing syllables with one, two, three, or four elements and short sentences. In addition to writing the audio material in *pinyin*, we will use a dictionary to convert the words to Chinese characters and learn their meanings. Thoroughly mastering this process will prepare students for Week 4 and beyond.

Week 4: Practice in Understanding Everyday Conversation (Self-Introduction, Asking for Directions, About Regional Accents, Taxis)

Students will listen to audio material and be asked simple questions about its content in Chinese. Then they will convert it to *pinyin* and characters.

Week 5: The New *Hanyu Shuiping Kaoshi* (HSK) : Simulated Problems for Level 1 (Listening Exercises, Problem 1)

We will correct the pre-class homework and check the content of the homework passage, its *pinyin* transcription, its grammar, and vocabulary, as well as learning about new grammar and vocabulary.

Week 6: The New *Hanyu Shuiping Kaoshi* (HSK) : Simulated Problems for Level 1 (Listening Exercises, Problem 2)

We will correct the pre-class homework and check the content of the homework passage, its *pinyin* transcription, its grammar, and vocabulary, as well as learning about new grammar and vocabulary.

Week 7: The New *Hanyu Shuiping Kaoshi* (HSK) : Simulated Problems for Level 1 (Listening Exercises, Problem 3)

We will correct the pre-class homework and check the content of the homework passage, its *pinyin* transcription, its grammar, and vocabulary, as well as learning about new grammar and vocabulary.

Week 8: The New *Hanyu Shuiping Kaoshi* (HSK) : Simulated Problems for Level 1 (Listening Exercises, Problem 4)

We will correct the pre-class homework and check the content of the homework passage, its *pinyin* transcription, its grammar, and vocabulary, as well as learning about new grammar and vocabulary.

Week 9: The New *Hanyu Shuiping Kaoshi* (HSK) : Simulated Problems for Level 2 (Listening Exercises, Problem 1)

We will correct the pre-class homework and check the content of the homework passage, its *pinyin* transcription, its grammar, and vocabulary, as well as learning about new grammar and vocabulary.
(Part 1 and Part 2)

Week 10: The New *Hanyu Shuiping Kaoshi* (HSK) : Simulated Problems for Level 2 (Listening Exercises, Problem 1)

We will correct the pre-class homework and check the content of the homework passage, its *pinyin* transcription, its grammar, and vocabulary, as well as learning about new grammar and vocabulary.
(Part 3)

Week 11: The New *Hanyu Shuiping Kaoshi* (HSK) : Simulated Problems for Level 2 (Listening Exercises, Problem 1)

We will correct the pre-class homework and check the content of the homework passage, its *pinyin* transcription, its grammar, and vocabulary, as well as learning about new grammar and vocabulary.
(Part 4)

Week 12: The New *Hanyu Shuiping Kaoshi* (HSK) : Simulated Problems for Level 2 (Listening Exercises, Problems 2)

We will correct the pre-class homework and check the content of the homework passage, its *pinyin* transcription, its grammar, and vocabulary, as well as learning about new grammar and vocabulary. (Part 1 and Part 2)

Week 13: The New *Hanyu Shuiping Kaoshi* (HSK) : Simulated Problems for Level 2 (Listening Exercises, Problem 2)

We will correct the pre-class homework and check the content of the homework passage, its *pinyin* transcription, its grammar, and vocabulary, as well as learning about new grammar and vocabulary.
(Part 3 and Part 4)

Week 14: The New *Hanyu Shuiping Kaoshi* (HSK) : Simulated Problems for Level 2 (Listening Exercises, Problem 3)

We will correct the pre-class homework and check the content of the homework passage, its *pinyin* transcription, its grammar, and vocabulary, as well as learning about new grammar and vocabulary.
(Part 1 and Part 2)

Week 15: The New *Hanyu Shuiping Kaoshi* (HSK) : Simulated Problems for Level 2 (Listening Exercises, Problem 3)

We will correct the pre-class homework and check the content of the homework passage, its *pinyin* transcription, its grammar, and vocabulary, as well as learning about new grammar and vocabulary.
(Part 3 and Part 4)

Preparation and Follow-up

Prepare by solving the problems that your instructor designates ahead of time as well as noting any areas that you are not sure of. After class, retry any homework problems that were marked “wrong” during class so that you don’t miss anything. If there are still things that you don’t understand, be sure to ask about them during the next class.