Chin 431 (Advanced Conversation)                      Spring 2015

Time: MWF, 12:00-12:50pm;

Instructor: Dr. Zheng-sheng Zhang
Office: Storm Hall West 218;
Office hours: MTWTh: 1:00-2:00 and by appointment
Phone: 594-1912 (w/voice mail); Fax: 594-4877 (attn. Zhang);
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Language Lab (for doing assignments): Storm Hall 204/205 (PC/Mac)

Requirements:
Presentations/assignments: 56% (7 in all, 8% each)
Mid-term take-home project: 10%
Final take-home project: 14%
Attendance: 20%

Assignments will be done with ppts, with typed pinyin (characters) and recorded audio.

Grading criteria:
Quantity and quality
Fluency and accuracy
Coherence and organization
Effectiveness of expression

Procedure (input→output):
input/modeling
  youtube clips
  online text
practice
  describing pictures
  Q&A; pair conversation/interviews
  group discussion
  individual presentation
presenting/recording
evaluation/feedback

Topics:
Description of people (appearance, personality, likes and dislikes, experiences).
  Ex. describing photos, “me and my family”, “name that person”

Description of object/space (size, shape, color, spatial relationship)
  Ex. “my place”, “my partner’s hometown”, “my favorite city”

Description of procedures (how to do something)
Ex. “how to mix a Margarita”; “how get to a place”, “how to set up your phone”

Accent reduction.
Ex. Tone twisters, tongue twisters, “guess where he/she is from”

Telling stories/jokes
Ex. Telling a ghost story, retelling movie plot, describing a traffic accident

Comparisons and contrasts.
Ex. “me and my friend”, “cultural differences”, “Italians and Europeans”

Presenting/countering views.
Ex. gender equality, assisted suicide, legalization of drugs/gambling, same sex marriage

**Day to day Calendar (subject to change)**

**Week 1:**
- **January 21** Wednesday, introduction of course
- **January 23** Friday, describing someone

**Week 2:**
- **January 26** Monday, describing someone
- **January 28** Wednesday, describing someone
- **January 30** Friday, presentations; **Assignment 1 due**

**Week 3:**
- **February 2** Monday, Description of object/space
- **February 4** Wednesday, Description of object/space
- **February 6** Friday, Description of object/space

**Week 4:**
- **February 9** Monday, Description of object/space
- **February 11** Wednesday, Description of object/space
- **February 13** Friday, presentations; **Assignment 2 due**

**Week 5:**
- **February 16** Monday, Description of procedures
- **February 18** Wednesday, Description of procedures
- **February 20** Friday, Description of procedures

**Week 6:**
- **February 23** Monday, Description of procedures
- **February 25** Wednesday, Description of procedures
- **February 27** Friday, presentations; **Assignment 3 due**
Week 7:
March 2   Monday, Accent reduction.
March 4   Wednesday, Accent reduction.
March 6   Friday, Accent reduction.

Week 8:
March 9   Monday, Accent reduction.
March 11  Wednesday, Accent reduction
March 13  Friday, Assignment 4 due

Week 9:
March 16  Monday, Telling stories
March 18  Wednesday, Telling stories
March 20  Friday, Telling stories, Mid-term project due

Week 10:
March 23  Monday, Telling stories
March 25  Wednesday, Telling stories
March 27  Friday, presentations; Assignment 5 due

Week 11: Spring Recess

Week 12:
April 6   Monday, Comparisons and contrasts.
April 8   Wednesday, Comparisons and contrasts.
April 10  Friday, Comparisons and contrasts.

Week 13:
April 13  Monday, Comparisons and contrasts.
April 15  Wednesday, Comparisons and contrasts.
April 17  Friday, presentations; Assignment 6 due

Week 14:
April 20  Monday, Presenting/countering views
April 22  Wednesday, Presenting/countering views
April 24  Friday, Presenting/countering views

Week 15:
April 27  Monday, Presenting/countering views
April 29  Wednesday, Presenting/countering views
May 1     Friday, presentations; Assignment 7 due

Week 16:
May 4     Monday, Final presentations start;
May 6     Wednesday, Final project due