

## Syllabus of MandarinX: **MX901x** Pre-arrival series- First steps in Chinese

### Prerequisite

This is a **beginner's level course**. That means, we suppose you have no background or a little bit background.

### Learning objectives - What is my goal and objectives of taking this course?

This course is your first crucial strides to Mandarin Chinese. Establish a solid foundation of your Chinese journey. Switching from Latin alphabet or other phonogram languages to Chinese could be intimidating and frustrating. This prerequisite course breaks down all basic characteristics of Chinese language, ensuring you have a solid foundation to be a competent speaker.

### Course Description

In each lesson, we introduce one Chinese characteristic with practices and related dialogues. By the end of this course, you will be ready to further your knowledge in Chinese. You will learn five essential characteristics of Mandarin Chinese: tones, pinyin, Chinese characters, one character one syllable, basic Chinese structures.

### Pacing - How should I plan my learning schedule?

This is a **instructor-led** course that starts at **August 28, 2017**. It will **run for 5 weeks and end at October 2, 2017**. This course has **5 lessons**. For each lesson, the average time commitment is **2 hours**. One course content is released every week. However, we highly recommend you to **keep your own pace** of learning. For example, you can take lessons every two weeks. After all, language learning is a slow but ongoing process.

Any **unexpected changes** to released content will be communicated to students through course info, discussion forum, and newsletter. Feel free to let us know how to satisfy your needs through email or on Facebook!

### Deadline and due dates

The deadlines of quizzes and final exam are:

Quiz1	September 4, 2017
Quiz2	September 11, 2017
Quiz3	September 18, 2017
Quiz4	September 25, 2017

For time zone information, please visit <http://www.timeanddate.com/worldclock/converter.html>

### Academic policy - Assessment and Certificate

You need to get a **score above 80** to get a certificate. Each quiz takes 20 points.

If you pay for the course and get a final score above 80, you will get a **verified certificate**. The Verified Upgrade Deadline is **September 25, 2017**. Your certificate will be delivered online through **edx.org**. So be sure to check your email in the weeks following the final grading – you will be able to download and print your certificate.

Only quizzes will be graded. You **MUST** finish them **by the due date**. If you miss the deadline, you will not be able to write the quiz. You can take the quiz only when the course is re-run.

### Forum Discussion Etiquette

For forum discussion, we highly recommend you to join the discussion. Your involvement will motivate Chinese language learners from around the world! You will see discussion board under each lesson as well as a general discussion forum. We expect you to post **at least one post** for each lesson.

Also, please be nice to other students. Offensive words will be removed by the forum admin.

If you have any questions regarding the quiz answer, please send a screenshot to [info@mandarinx.com](mailto:info@mandarinx.com). Revealing answer is not allowed by edX.

### Help Seeking - TA

TA will help you with the following things:

- Answer the questions on the discussion board.
- Reply your email.
- Provide feedback in the peer assessment session on a lottery basis.
- Online tutoring for 3 hours (half an hour for each lesson) if you enroll for “MandarinX online tutoring service”.

### Contact Us

Email: [info@mandarinx.com](mailto:info@mandarinx.com)

Facebook: MandarinX

## Accessibility

We follow Accessibility Best Practices Guidance for Content Providers by edX (<http://edx.readthedocs.org/projects/edx-partner-course-staff/en/latest/accessibility/index.html>). If you have any accessibility needs, please contact us.

## Content – What and where are learning materials?

**News:** under “Course Info”. Keep an eye on the news and updates.

**Syllabus:** under “Courseware” -> “Overview”. When you meet problem regarding this course, the syllabus is the first place to find the answer.

### Lesson 1-5:

1. **Videos:** the introduction of one Chinese characteristic and Dialogue.
2. **Quiz.** Testing vocabulary, grammar, dialogues in context, and tone recognition.
3. **Textbook.** Textbook corresponds to videos of dialogues.

Note: For the videos, only Simplified Chinese version is provided. For the textbook, both Traditional Chinese version and Simplified Chinese version are provided.

## Learning Activities - How can I make the most of this course?

All learning activities are listed in this section. As for how to make a study plan, please continue to read the next section.

1. **Read the syllabus.** It is the start of taking this course.
2. **Watch** the videos.
3. **Read** the textbook.
4. **Take** the quiz. Don't miss them. They help you have a comprehensive understanding of Chinese. **Quiz** helps you see what you have learned and what you need to learn. Don't panic. You are given some opportunities to submit your answer. Quiz **FAQ** is as below.
5. **Discuss** on the forum. Feel free to post any questions. The most you ask, the more you learn. Also, your question might have been raised by other learners, so searching before posting always saves your time!
6. **Talk** with Estella and TA. You can meet Estella virtually and practice Chinese with her!
7. **Contact** us if you have more questions.

## Make your own study plan - How can I keep track of my learning activities?

This is a template of a study plan. You might want to write it down on a piece of paper or in a Word document file.

1. What is my learning objective? Perhaps:
  - a. To get the certificate?

- b. How much score on average do I want to get?
  - c. Do I want to make friends with Chinese speakers? Do I do business with Chinese speakers? Do I travel there?
  - d. For vocabulary, how many characters do I want to remember after taking this course?
  - e. Do I want to learn how to write Chinese characters?
2. What is my time chart of taking this course? Research shows setting a fixed time schedule helps you better take a MOOC!
  3. My learning schedule

Level and lesson	Learning activities	Done?
Level 1, lesson 1	Watch video	Done
Level 1, lesson 1	Take quiz (deadline: xx)	Done
Level 1, lesson 1	Ask question	5
Level 1, lesson 1	Speaking group	9/7/2017
Level 1, lesson 1	Other...	

4. Reflection
  - a. What did I know before?
  - b. What did I learn in this course? Any interesting findings?
  - c. What do I want to know?
  - d. What great question did I ask?
  - e. How do I feel about learning Chinese?

**FAQ about quiz (will not show up in the syllabus but in the quiz)**

1. Hit “check” to submit the answer.
2. After hitting “submit”, you get the grade. Then there is no need to hit “save”.
3. For drag and drop
  - a. There might be more than one drags that target the same box;
  - b. Drags needs to be placed precisely within the box so that you can get the score;
  - c. One word may appear twice since we are testing different characters in that word. The unwanted character is quoted with bracket;
  - d. The mobile phone apps are not assessment compatible. edX tech fellows are working on that. Now, please use your desktop or laptop to do the quiz;
  - e. Partial credit is not available on this platform, sorry.