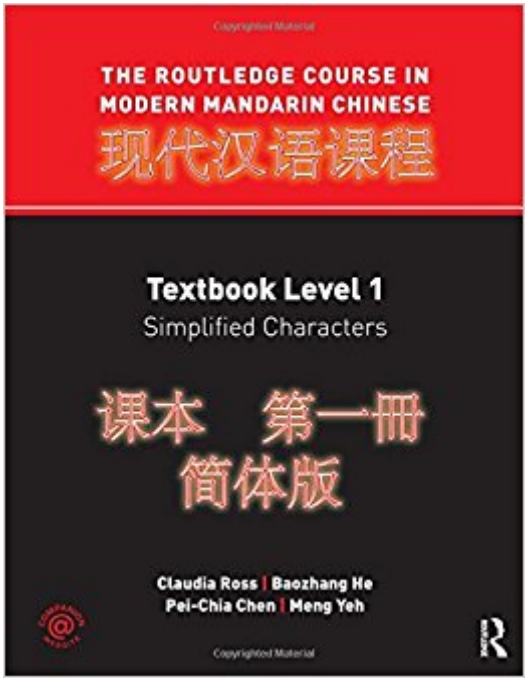
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The Rouledge Course In Modern Mandarin Chinese Level 1, Simplified Characters (Volume 1)



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Synopsis

Ã Â The Routledge Course in Modern Mandarin Chinese is a two-year undergraduate course for students with no prior background in Chinese study which takes students from complete beginner to post-intermediate level. Designed to build a strong foundation in both the spoken and written language it develops all the basic skills such as pronunciation, character writing, word use and structures, while placing strong emphasis on the development of communicative skills. Each level of the course consists of a textbook and workbook, available separately in simplified or traditional character editions. Both workbooks include a free CD with all the dialogues from the textbooks and the necessary audio for the listening for information exercises. A companion website will provide expanded listening files and a broad range of resources for students and teachers. The benefits of this course include: focus on the long-term retention of vocabulary, characters and structures by reiterating structures and vocabulary throughout the book series carefully selected and staged introduction of characters with staged removal of pinyin to ensure recognition and use of characters clear and jargon-free explanations of use and structures, that are easy for students and teachers to understand extensive workbook exercises for homework, independent study, and classroom use focusing on all language skills and modalities including a vast inventory of carefully structured exercises focusing on listening comprehension, reading for information, and writing for communication an extensive inventory of classroom activities that guide students to develop a list of communication goals and key structures for each lesson allowing the student to assess progress cultural notes explaining the context of the dialogues language FAQs explaining aspects of Chinese language as they relate to the content and vocabulary in the lesson storyline following a group of students studying in China from Europe, North America and East Asia, making the book attractive to a variety of students and facilitating the introduction of Chinese culture full-color text design for the textbook and carefully matched designs for the traditional and simplified books, allowing for easy cross-reference. The course is also fully supported by an interactive Companion Website. The website contains a wealth of additional resources for both teachers and students. Teachers will find lesson plans in both English and Mandarin, providing a weekly schedule and overall syllabus for fall and spring, as well as activities for each lesson and answer keys. Students will be able to access downloadable character practice worksheets along with interactive pronunciation, vocabulary and character practice exercises.Ã Â All the audio material necessary for the course is also available online and conveniently linked on screenÃ Â to the relevant exercises for ease-of-use. For further details please visit http://www.routledge.com/books/details/9780415472517/ For bundle discounts please visit http://www.routledge.com/books/details/9780415596824/Ã Â

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Customer Reviews

"I am deeply impressed by the pedagogical considerations that Prof. Ross and her team put into the project.The approaches to teaching Mandarin Chinese in this series reflected the authorsÃ¢â ¬â„¢ rich knowledge of the Chinese grammar and their vast experience in teaching the language. The materials developed are pedagogically well conceived and equally well supported by theories of language learning/teaching. A truly innovative and delightful addition to the Chinese teaching field."Ã¢â ¬â œ Cecila Chang, Williams College, USA "This text offers a refreshing approach to learning Chinese that is lacking in the vast majority of learning materials. Each dialogue is contextualized so learners better understand how the language is used in a variety of communicative situations. Students learn not only what to say, but how to use the right language in a given context based on their role, and when and where the situation occurs. Sentence pyramid exercises provide a stepped approach that allows students to actually rehearse and perform the dialogues. The material is presented in manageable units with clear and concise explanations that are understandable to students not familiar with linguistics jargon. Valuable information on the social and cultural implications of the language is also provided. This is one of the few textbooks on the market that delays the introduction of Chinese characters. This insightful approach allows learners to gain a foundation in the spoken language before being inundated with characters to which they have little context in which to place them. Furthermore, these materials use an innovative diglot approach to introduce Chinese characters where newly learned characters are incorporated into

pinyin texts. This effectively eases students into reading without overburdening them. By the end of the text, dialogues and other materials are presented almost entirely in Chinese characters. This approach provides excellent spiraling and reinforcement of characters learned."- Matthew Christensen, Brigham Young University, USA "One of the very few accessible and clearly structured textbooks for the complete beginner in Mandarin, which is absolutely designed with the non-native Chinese speaker in mind. The gradual introduction of the script, together with the clear but not overly simplistic grammatical explanations, will prove particularly useful for beginners."-Frances Weightman, The University of Leeds, UK "An excellent introductory course from a dedicated team. This course serves as a practical guide with the language knowledge and cultural tips you need for daily communication with the Chinese people."- Wei Jin, The School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London, UK

Claudia Ross is Professor of Chinese at the College of the Holy Cross, Massachusetts.Ã Â She has served as President of the Chinese Language Teachers Association and as Director of the CET Chinese Program in Beijing. Baozhang He is Associate Professor of Chinese at the College of the Holy Cross, Massachusetts. He has served as Director of the Chinese Language Program at Harvard University and as Head Instructor in the Princeton in Beijing language program. Pei-Chia Chen is a lecturer in Chinese at UC San Diego and has previously taught at Harvard University. Meng Yeh is Senior Lecturer in Chinese at Rice University. She has served as a Board Member of the Chinese Language Teachers Association and is a founding member of CLTA-TX. She is an AP Chinese consultant for the College Board and a certified Oral Proficiency Interviewer in Chinese for Language Testing International, ACTFL.

A year ago I could not speak any Mandarin. Now thanks to this book I feel I have progressed quite a lot. The Routledge book is so well lain out in format. It starts out with pinyin as pronunciation is one of the most important aspects of Mandarin. The workload is reduced significantly since in the first five lessons pinyin only is taught. The book slowly replaces pinyin with characters as they are learned. After a character is taught you will never again see the pinyin for that word. This process works well as it gets rid of the traditional laziness of always crutching on your native language. It is expected of the learner to have learned all pinyin and characters in the current chapter before moving on to the next. This is a very good book 5/5 by far.ÃƒÂ¤Ã Â¸Ã Å ÃƒÂ¥Ã Â Ã Â´ÃƒÂ|Ã Ë†Ã â ˆÃƒÂ¤Ã Â¸Ã Â•ÃƒÂ¨Ã Æ’Ã Â ÃƒÂ¨Ã Â Ã Â´ÃƒÂ ¤Ã Â»Ã Â»ÃƒÂ¤Ã Â ÃƒÂ â ¢ÃƒÂ|Ã â„¢Ã Â®ÃƒÂ©Ã â ¬Ã Å¡ÃƒÂ¨Ã Â Ã Â•ÃƒÂ£Ã â ¬Ã â ÃƒÂ

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I rented the Kindle version, and even though I do not have a Kindle, I use the cloud reader online. This was by far the cheapest way to get this textbook. It is great, but the only issue I had is that there are no page numbers included because they don’t match up with the page numbers in the book. So if you have homework assignments that refer to certain pages you have to find out ahead of time what material it is so you can locate it in the book.

Many typos, but generally understandable.

I have to say that I have found this resource to be extremely helpful. The book is used frequently in my class as it provides adequate instruction and aid in the learning process.

Good textbook, but it is not displayed well on my kindle.

The book really help with the Chinese Language, it is so explanatory, and with the flash cards make it much easier,thank you very much.

This book is not helpful for beginners. It uses strictly pin yin for the majority of the book. Although it seems like that is easier, it cheats the student of learning Chinese in its entirety. In effect of leaving characters out of lessons completely, students have to then go back and apply characters to words and phrases they’ve already learned. This is redundant & creates confusion. On a positive note though, this book does put emphasis on proper pronunciation of the language.

As a secondary school Chinese teacher for over thirty years, I have used many different textbooks, from "DeFrancis" to "Integrated Chinese". The "Routledge Course in Mandarin Chinese" (RCMC) is one of the best I have ever seen. Criticism of the gradual introduction of characters notwithstanding, I have found this approach to be immensely helpful to students who are, in effect, having to learn two languages at once: spoken and written Chinese. RCMC allows the teacher and student to concentrate on developing speaking and listening skills without being significantly slowed down by

having to memorize lists of characters, whether simplified or traditional (or both). Certainly good arguments can be made for teaching characters for all new vocabulary (pinyin); most texts, in fact, do just that. RCMC, however, recognizes the burden this puts on absolute beginners and does not begin introducing the written characters until Lesson 6. It then proceeds to teach a limited number of characters in each subsequent lesson, though their number is significantly fewer than the total number of vocabulary items. Once introduced, the written character replaces the pinyin in all subsequent environments. This limitation allows students to make relatively rapid progress in spoken Chinese. By the end of Level 1, the student has learned over 500 vocabulary items, compared to the much more modest 180 characters. Still, at this point, the majority of the reading selections are in Chinese characters. The choice of which characters to teach is based on the character's level in frequency of occurrence. This is a very sensible approach for true beginners as they want to be able to communicate orally as quickly as possible. The actual number of characters introduced per lesson increases as the student advances through the text. A great deal of care is taken to explain how to compose characters correctly in the "Stroke Order Flow Charts" and the "Characters Step By Step". I wish somewhat more attention were paid to the radicals (they are referred to, but less often and less directly than they might be). I also wish that the Kaishu font were used throughout the text as it more closely approximates the handwritten characters, but as this font is used in the "Stroke Order Flow Charts" and "Characters Step By Step", this is not a serious flaw.As far as speaking and listening skills are concerned, the extended use of pinyin, as mentioned above, allows the student to concentrate of oral/aural skills as his first goal. The "Communication Goals" are clear, organized, and well thought-out. Translations for all narratives and conversations are given at the end of each lesson, thus (happily) depriving the student of instant access to the English meanings. A wonderful feature, the "Dialogue Practice" after each new conversation, encourages the student to express himself and make use of the vocabulary and structures introduced. The "Use and Structure" sections are clear in explaining the grammar and idioms and are numbered to easily reference back to where they occurred in the narrative or dialogues. Another superior feature of RCMC the ubiquitous "Language FAQs" and "Notes" which shed invaluable light on both linguistic and cultural issues needed by the student for appropriate communication.I confess to not having seen the Level 1 Workbook (it was unavailable at the time I ordered the set of Levels 1 & 2), but I have seen the Workbook for Level 2, which is as thick as the textbook and packed with a large variety of exercises and activities which can be adapted and selected by the instructor. If the Level 1 Workbook is as good as the Level 2 Workbook, it will be a huge benefit to teacher and student alike.Lastly, I was able to check out the website for RCMC. Contrary to some criticism I

read, I had no trouble locating a great deal of useful material, including PowerPoint presentations, available to the teacher. Since the audio/video (?) CD comes with the Workbook, I have not previewed that. I would have wished for both audio and video to be available on the RCMC website in addition to the CD which comes with the Workbook. It seems not a great deal to ask that the authors/publishers add this to the website, if for no other reason than convenience.All things considered, this is an excellent course in introductory Standard Chinese, and I see no reason why it would not work as well for self-study as in a classroom.

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