

Elementary Uyghur A
Fall Term 2013
2 Divinity Ave, Room 214
MWF 9:07-10:00 AM

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Course Description

Welcome to Elementary Uyghur! Over the course of this semester, the first of two, we will learn the basics of speaking, understanding, reading, and writing Modern Uyghur.

Uyghur is a language of surprising richness, a gateway both to a thousand years of literature and history and to life in today's China and Central Asia. Uyghur is spoken by over 9 million people in China's Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region (or East Turkestan) and millions more in Central Asia, Turkey, Europe, and around the world.

Many people are drawn to Uyghur and the Uyghurs by their unique place in a post-9/11, post-Soviet world: Because they are Muslims living in China and speaking a Turkic language, they are often thought of as a Central Asian people without a "Stan" of their own, and the media often portrays them as "moderate" Muslims engaged in "extremist" terrorist plots. Today's Uyghurs talk and write about all kinds of things, from postmodern poetry to arid-land agriculture and everything in between. This is your chance to join in those conversations, on the street, on the Web, and in homes and classrooms.

Modern Uyghur is shaped by a rich literary heritage and by a long Islamic history. As such, it shows strong influences from Persian and Arabic, as well as Chinese and Russian. Studying Uyghur also positions you to learn other Turkic languages, such as Turkish, Uzbek, and Kazakh, with ease. By the end of the year, you will be able to get around in Uyghur, make requests properly, and express yourself and your opinions.

Textbook

Required textbooks:

Tarjei Engesæth, Mahire Yakup, and Arienne Dwyer, *Teklimakandin Salam: hazirqi zaman Uyghur tili qollanmisi / Greetings from the Teklimakan: a handbook of Modern Uyghur*, (Lawrence: University of Kansas Scholarworks, 2009).

ISBN 978-1-936153-03-9 (textbook), ISBN 978-1-936153-04-6 (audio)

Online at: <http://hdl.handle.net/1808/5624>

NB: Download the latest version of the textbook

CeLCAR Uyghur listening modules (multimedia CD, available at the Harvard COOP for \$20) (I will provide further supplementary materials in packets for each lesson.)

Supplementary materials available at the Harvard-Yenching Library:

Gül'nisa Nazarova and Kurban Niyaz, *Uyghur: an elementary textbook*, (Bloomington, IN: CeLCAR, 2008).

Recommended:

Frederick De Jong, *A grammar of Modern Uyghur*, (Utrecht: Houtsma, 2007).

Online resources:

Yulghun Uyghur-English-Chinese dictionary <http://dict.yulghun.com/>

Listening exercises for *Teklimakandin Salam*:

http://kuscholarworks.ku.edu/dspace/bitstream/1808/5624/8/EngYakDwy2009_Uyg1audio_10.html

Grading

Weekly quizzes	10%
Attendance and participation	25%
Weekly writing assignments	10%
Homework	10%
Oral presentations	20%
Midterm examination	10%
Final examination	15%

Weekly quizzes

Every week, I will give you a short quiz to test your knowledge of vocabulary and command of the week's grammar. I see quizzes primarily as an aid to teaching and learning.

Attendance and participation

Because we only meet three times a week, it is *very, very important* that you come to class prepared and ready to use what you have studied at home. When you speak, you do not necessarily have to speak correctly! – after all, I am here to help you fix your mistakes and get better. So, go ahead and try out the new grammar, even if you do not feel certain about it. Participation is graded on a point system. Put simply, as long as you make an effort to talk in class (in Uyghur, please!), your participation grade will be just fine.

You are allowed only two (2) unexcused absences over the duration of the semester. I will require a doctor's note in order to excuse any further absences. If you get sick, I will work with you to make up the lost classroom time. **If you are ill and there is any chance that you will make others sick, please do not come to class.** I will treat any other special circumstances on a case-by-case basis.

Finally, our course depends on building a community of learners. I ask you to respect your classmates in what you say and what you do. If you disrupt other students' learning, I will ask you to leave.

Weekly writing assignments

From pretty early on in the semester, you will use the week's vocabulary and grammar to produce your own sentences and paragraphs and hand them in. I will give them back to you with

comments and corrections. You will get a “check-plus” for good, correct sentences, a “check” for using the vocabulary and grammar, and a “check-minus” for failing to use the vocabulary and grammar. This helps me to understand what you are learning or having trouble with.

Homework

You will regularly have to do little worksheets and structured exercises to practice your grammar on paper. Like the weekly writing assignments, these will be graded on a “check” system.

Oral presentations

Speaking is at the core of this class. For this semester, your “presentations” will rarely be more than a minute or two in length. I will grade you according to your pronunciation, fluency, use of new vocabulary and grammar, appropriateness, and preparation.

Midterm examination

We will have one midterm examination. It will have an oral component, which will be separate from a listening comprehension and written component, as well as a take-home composition component. The midterm will really be just like a weekly quiz, but it will cover material from the whole first half of the semester.

Final examination

Like the midterm examination, this will include an oral component, as well as listening comprehension and written exercises and a short take-home essay.

How the class works

Teaching and learning

Everyone learns languages differently. Nevertheless, there are two things that help people learn them the most: First, they have to use the language. Even if you speak Uyghur imperfectly, producing the words and grammar you have studied will help you learn them, and getting comfortable with its sounds and rhythms will build your fluency. This practice has to be undergirded by a solid foundation in a language’s grammar. I do not believe in rote memorization, but I do know that it is important to see and understand a language’s rules and to practice those patterns. So, the second component of this class is studying “grammar patterns” and the other rules of Modern Uyghur.

Class schedule

This semester, we will go through the first eight chapters of the textbook *Teklimakandin salam*, as well as a series of supplementary modules. We will meet three times a week for an hour each time. Each class will include time for structured free talk and experimenting with what you have studied at home, as well as time for questions about the material. On Mondays, we will introduce and work with the new grammar and review the previous week’s material. Every Wednesday, we will have a quiz, as described above. Your oral presentations will be on Fridays. If this schedule is interrupted by Harvard’s frequent Monday and Friday holidays, I will change it appropriately. On Fridays, I will also give you a schedule for the following week.

Preparation

You must come to class with your homework done and ready to hand in at the beginning of class. On Mondays, you will turn in written work involving new material. For Wednesdays, you will do more of the same, as well as come with the lesson's dialogues memorized and prepared for recitation in pairs or small groups. For Fridays, you will prepare your short presentations. On weekends, you will often have a short media assignment involving watching a video or listening to an extra audio file.

Accommodations for students with disabilities

Students needing academic adjustments or accommodations because of a documented disability must present their Faculty Letter from the [Accessible Education Office](#) (AEO) and speak with the professor by the end of the second week of the term, **13 September 2013**. Failure to do so may result in the Course Head's inability to respond in a timely manner. All discussions will remain confidential, although Faculty are invited to contact AEO to discuss appropriate implementation.

Academic Honesty and Integrity

You are expected to be familiar with and abide by all laws and University regulations concerning academic honesty and integrity. Put plainly, do not cheat. Cheating on any quiz, test, examination, assessment, or other assignment will result in a failing grade on that assignment with no opportunity to repeat it. A second instance of cheating will result in your expulsion from the course and the implementation of appropriate University procedures. You may not turn in anyone else's work as your own, even with that person's permission. Nor may you allow someone else to turn your work in as their own. If you adapt content from any source, you must cite that source, though this should not be necessary in an introductory language course. If you need assistance in understanding correct citation procedures, I will be happy to help.