

Elementary Uyghur B
Spring Term 2012
2 Divinity Ave, Room 214
MWF 10:07-11:00 AM

Instructor: Eric T. Schluessel
9 Kirkland Place, room 305
Office Hours: Thursday 1:00-3:00 and by arrangement
E-mail: eschlues@fas.harvard.edu
Course website: <http://isites.harvard.edu/icb/icb.do?keyword=k82314>

Course Description

Welcome back to Elementary Uyghur! This semester, you will develop the basic language skills you acquired in the fall. By the end of the semester, you will have learned both to keep yourself healthy and safe in Xinjiang and to discuss your own opinions and those of others.

This will complete a survey of the basic grammar of Modern Uyghur. The material will be dense, and the course will proceed at a fairly fast pace. Our goal this semester is not for you to completely mastery every point of the language, but rather to give you the foundation you need to study and practice further. To give you a taste of what lies ahead in the exciting world of Modern Uyghur, we spend part of the semester on independent projects and on more advanced cultural topics.

Textbook

Required textbook:

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>

Supplementary materials available on reserve at the Harvard-Yenching Library:
Gülnisa Nazarova and Kurban Niyaz, *Uyghur: an elementary textbook*, (Bloomington, IN: CeLCAR, 2008). Vols. 1-2. 2 multimedia CDs.

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

Fortnightly oral presentations 25%

Weekly writing/journals	20%
Quizzes	10%
Midterm debate	10%
Final presentation	15%
Homework sheets/exercises	5%
Attendance and participation	15%

Quizzes

I will regularly give you extremely short (5-minute) quizzes to check your mastery of new vocabulary and grammar. These will include dictations and short translations.

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!) and to use what you are meant to have learned, 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.

One-on-one and one-on-two meetings

Every two weeks, we will use class time to hold short one-on-one and one-on-two meetings. This will allow me to help you with specific issues that you have in the language and perhaps have in common with another student. Each meeting will last about 10 minutes.

For the first half of the semester, we will meet in pairs, and you will give short oral presentations. (See *Oral presentations* below.) The rest of the time will be devoted to short exercises.

For the second half of the semester, we will meet individually to work on your final presentation topics. (See *Final presentation* below.) At this point, we will need to arrange some meetings outside of class time.

Writing assignments

This semester, you will keep a Uyghur “journal” (خاتىرە دەپتەر), a notebook in which you will write at least one weekly entry on whatever you want. The only requirements are these:

- 1) Use new grammar and vocabulary
- 2) Write on every other line (double-space!)
- 3) Minimum of 8 sentences, maximum of 25. (No extra credit for length)

I will collect the journals every Wednesday and return them on Friday. They will be graded on the “check” system. I will note corrections using a coding system, which I will provide to you.

Homework

You will regularly have to do little worksheets and structured exercises to practice your grammar on paper. These will usually be part of your packets for modules and lessons.

You are responsible for completing the module and lesson exercises in time for our in-class practice of the associated grammar points. I will provide answer sheets online for you to check your own work. From time to time, I will have you turn them in. Like the writing assignments, these will be graded on a “check” system.

Oral presentations

The most important mechanism for expression, practice, and evaluation this semester will be your oral presentations. For our one-on-two meetings, you will prepare short oral presentations using the grammar and vocabulary that we have learned. These are to be 2-3 minutes long and delivered without notes on hand. Feedback will consist of a check-sheet with comments.

Midterm debate

We have an in-class debate scheduled for **9 March**. The class will divide into two teams and prepare positions on a topic to be determined in advance. Be prepared to express your opinion, cite your sources (“according to...”), tell stories to illustrate your points, and argue against the other side’s specific positions. You will be assessed according to your individual participation and preparation.

Final presentation

All students will give **10-minute presentations** on a topic that they find interesting at the end of the semester. You will prepare a handout to help your classmates follow the presentation and distribute it in advance.

After the midterm, our fortnightly meetings will be dedicated to developing this topic through short readings, special vocabulary and phrases, and one-on-one discussions. Please let me know your topic of choice by **1 March**. (Examples of topics: childhood in Uyghur culture, the Uyghur Twelve Muqam, “how to make *polo*,” Uyghur hip-hop, historical topics, etc.)

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 work through chapters 9-15 of *Teklimakandin Salam*, as well as about 20 smaller grammar modules. Each of these modules covers a single – but crucial – grammar point. This combination of textbook lessons and modules will expose you to all of the fundamental grammar of the Uyghur language.

Over the course of 13 weeks, we will have 30 regular class meetings and 6 one-on-one or one-on-two meetings. These small-group meetings will be on Fridays. The rest of our time will be devoted to working through and practicing the grammar in class.

Every week, you will receive a detailed weekly schedule indicating specific assignments. The course's iSite also has a master schedule for the semester.

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, **3 February 2012**. 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.