

It used to be the case that students of Chinese needed to immediately acquire a bunch of dictionaries, and learn the somewhat arcane system(s) of using them. I'm happy to say that nowadays, all you really need to start out is the pleco app, which will probably hold you for quite a while. It's a free app, and the free version includes Wiseman's Chinese medical terminology. There's a paid add-on if you want the Practical Dictionary (see below), but it's not really needed for this course, although it certainly doesn't hurt! Here are two tutorials on using it, one for iPhone users, one for android. Make sure you're comfortable looking up words by entering pinyin, and using the handwriting feature to look for characters. You'll want to get comfortable with the latter, because when you're reading a Chinese text after this course, it won't have the pinyin! You might need to practice a bit to have it recognize your handwriting, but start with simple characters of only a few strokes and work up. Make sure to use proper stroke order, as mentioned in the lessons and in the Van Norden book, this will help a lot!

<https://iphone.pleco.com/manual/30200/basiclut.html>

<https://android.pleco.com/manual/240/basiclut.html>

All the vocabulary in this course will be in pinyin, the modern standard, but for those with an interest in history and philosophy, it's still worthwhile sometimes to be able to convert back and forth between pinyin and the older Wade-Giles system. These links will let you do that:

<https://libraries.indiana.edu/chinese-studies-pinyin-wade-giles-conversion-table>

<https://www.lib.uchicago.edu/about/directory/departments/eastasia/find/wade-giles-pinyin-conversion-table/>

Books:

The only required books for this course are these two:

A) Classical Chinese for Everyone by Bryan Van Norden:

https://www.amazon.com/Classical-Chinese-Everyone-Absolute-Beginners/dp/1624668216/ref=mp_s_a_1_4?crid=1DAKCUUDIH0US&keywords=bryan+van+norden&qid=1660106075&srefix=bryan+van%2Caps%2C109&sr=8-4

B) Statements of Fact in Traditional Chinese Medicine by Bob Flaws:

https://www.amazon.com/Statements-Traditional-Chinese-Medicine-Mandarin/dp/093618552X/ref=sr_1_1?crid=2D1PD6944V93H&keywords=statements+of+fact+in+chinese+medicine&qid=1660107141&srefix=statements+of+f%2Caps%2C81&sr=8-1

Some recommended reading, depending on what path you want to take after completing this course:

Unschuld's Learn to Read Chinese, which works through a book by Qin Bowei, one of the architects of modern TCM:

https://www.amazon.com/Learn-Read-Chinese-Introduction-Literature/dp/0912111461/ref=mp_s_a_1_1?crid=1FEVSM6JT4729&keywords=unschuld+learn+chinese&qid=1660105614&srefix=unschuld+learn+chinese%2Caps%2C85&sr=8-1

The Van Norden book is a wonderful, concise yet precise, gentle yet surprisingly thorough guide to Classical Chinese. But if you're looking for another great book that takes a very different approach, Archie Barnes' Chinese Through Poetry does what the name describes, teaching you Chinese through the poetry of (mostly) the Tang and Song eras. This can be used after the Van Norden book, or alongside it. Van Norden also gives other suggestions for further reading and study that are quite helpful.

If you want to focus on classical medical Chinese in particular, Craig Mitchell's edition of the Shang Han Lun is incredibly helpful, both in its overall layout, its vocabulary section, and especially its Appendix 2 "Language Study", which functions as a mini-textbook of classical medical Chinese, assuming no previous background, and using only Shang Han Lun examples.

https://www.amazon.com/Shang-Han-Lun-Translation-Commentaries/dp/0912111577/ref=mp_s_a_1_1?crid=8TZ6E2AEKGV&keywords=craig+mitchell+shang+han&qid=1660105535&srefix=craig+mitchell+shang+han%2Caps%2C91&sr=8-1

Finally, this trio of Wiseman books is worth a look: Fundamentals will help explain theory more rigorously than most learn it in school, while giving lots of examples of terminology and sentences. The Practical Dictionary (also available as a paid add-on on the Pleco app) goes into a lot more detail on meaning of terms, and if you want to expand your Chinese medical vocabulary in particular, Wiseman's word list is a great resource, very logically arranged for learning and reference.

https://www.amazon.com/Fundamentals-Chinese-Medicine-Zhong-Paradigm/dp/0912111445/ref=mp_s_a_1_1?crid=2G37SLXEB09FN&keywords=wiseman+fundamentals&qid=1660106113&srefix=wiseman+fundamentals%2Caps%2C95&sr=8-1

https://www.amazon.com/Practical-Dictionary-Chinese-Medicine/dp/0990869806/ref=mp_s_a_1_1?crid=3DDTPQBB9MEZK&keywords=wiseman+practical+dictionary&qid=1660106154&srefix=wiseman+practical+dictionary%2Caps%2C78&sr=8-1

https://www.amazon.com/Chinese-Medical-Grammar-Vocabulary/dp/0912111658/ref=mp_s_a_1_4?crid=1FAR79NNPS8QC&keywords=wiseman+medical+chinese&qid=1660106184&srefix=wiseman+medical+chinese%2Caps%2C80&sr=8-4