



Chinese Culture SYLLABUS

Course instructor: Prof. Zeng Guie, Dr. Huang Bei, etc.

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Please feel free to e-mail me at any time. You can typically expect a reply within 24 hours during Monday to Friday. If you would like to meet with me outside of class time, appointments are available by request.

ABOUT THE COURSE

Course Description

The course is an introduction to Chinese culture. It is designed for all overseas students who are interested in China, in Chinese culture and who want to know more about China. The course provides students with an understanding of the cultural, social, ideological, educational, economic, and political environments in China. The course is to be conducted in a research based approach, through lectures, readings, and particularly, presentations and discussions, students will learn the fundamental knowledge of the Chinese culture from a historical and global perspective, and achieve a better understanding of China.

This course has been listed in “Model Courses for International Students” by Shanghai Municipal Education Commission in 2014.

Course Objectives

This English-taught course aims to enhance international students' understanding of China's history and culture by outlining the historical development and cultural expressions of China from the past to the present. The students are expected to better understand the social behaviors and core values of the Chinese people through lectures, classroom discussions, cultural performances and etc.

By the end of this course, a successful learner will be able to:

- Get the basic knowledge of Chinese culture and could tell some typical characteristics;
- Discuss and compare Chinese culture and society;
- Discuss and evaluate Chinese political and religious concepts;
- Discuss and evaluate Chinese ordinary life and custom;
- Know the difference between Chinese and their own country's culture and make further efforts to explore the causes.

Course Requirements

Participation: 10%

Presentation: 30%

Paper writing: 60%

- System of Grading:
A – (100-90); B – (89-75); C – (74-60); D – (59-)

- **About classroom participation:**

While it cannot be based on attendance *per se*, students should plan to be in class and ready to discuss the topics arranged on the course. Topics for presentation will be assigned to each student at the beginning of the term.

- **About in-class presentation:**

Each student or team will give a 30-minute PPT presentation on the topic provided. The presentation should be informative about the topic in question, and creative in format. At least 3 academic sources should be mentioned for the presentation, students may use Wikipedia and other online sources as well, but they do not count toward the 3 academic sources.

- **Paper writing:**

Students will be required to write two reports in the whole semester.

Mid-term paper (30%): Your observation of Chinese culture (3-4 pages long, photos and diary entries are OK)

Academic paper (30%): Focus on one specific topic about Chinese Culture. (5-6 pages long, with at least 5 academic sources.)

COURSE SCHEDULE

This course approaches Chinese culture from 9 aspects. Besides classroom lectures and discussions, it also involves optional activities such as visiting cultural sites, paper cutting, learning Chinese calligraphy, making traditional Chinese foods, etc. The 9 aspects are as follows:

Time	Module
Week 1	Module 1: Overview of Chinese culture
Week 2	Module 2: Chinese Men
Week 3	Module 3: Chinese Women
Week 4	Module 4: Chinese Seniors
Week 5	Module 5: Chinese Youths (Mid-term Paper Due)
Week 6	Module 6: Chinese Clothing
Week 7	Module 7: Chinese Foods
Week 8	Module 8: Chinese Housing
Week 9	Module 9: Chinese Travelling
Week 10	Module 10: Chinese Leisure (Final Paper Due)