

Course Syllabus

Social Changes in Contemporary China

Course Description:

The course is to illustrate cultural and social mainstream of contemporary China, to familiarize students with the underlying values and practices that shape modern Chinese, with presentations, film clips and analysis on various historic events, legends, traditions, ancient philosophies, religions and social norms in a sociological and economic perspective.

This course has been listed in “Model Courses for International Students” by Shanghai Municipal Education Commission in 2015.

Expected Student Outcomes:

Through the series of lectures and field-trips, students are expected to have general knowledge of the history, modern Chinese culture and society evolution of China. It is also a good chance for students to experience the diversity of China, in the encounter between the contemporary transformation of China’s socialist state and global capitalism. Also through the lectures, the students are expected to analyze China culture and society holistically and to see the interaction between Chinese culture and society.

Course Requirements

This course requires students to complete the following:

Attendance and participation 25%

Fieldtrip Homework 15%

Project I (Group presentation) 20%

Quiz (Open-book) 10%

Final paper 30%

About classroom participation: While the grade cannot be based on attendance *per se*, students should plan to be in class and ready to discuss the readings/ lectures. Students will be divided into small discussion groups at the beginning of the term, and topics for presentation will be assigned to each of group members.

About in-class group presentation: Each student group will conduct a 30-minute PPT presentation (the list for signup will be passed out on the first week) and also provide the questions for a 10- minute discussion on the topic provided. The presentation should be informative on the topic, and creativity is more than welcomed. Students must send their PPT to the course instructor for evaluation after the presentation, and use a minimum of 3 academic sources (students may use Wikipedia and other online sources as well, but they do not count toward the 3 academic sources). Please include the bibliographic references at the end of PPT presentation).

About Fieldtrip homework: A fieldtrip will be arranged by the instructor and specific requirements on the homework will be explained in the class.

About Quiz: There will be an open-book quiz held and the instructor will hand out the related reading materials in advance.

About Final Paper: The length of the paper is about 4 to 5 pages. Students are required to make connections between the book knowledge and the real practice.

Policy on late assignments and missed exam: It will be marked down by 0.1 each day for a late turning in an assignment without making prior arrangements. It will be marked zero for a missed exam.

CLASS SCHEDULE

Lecture 1: Introduction

Lecture 2: (1) Chinese Politics (2) The “Chinese Dream”

Lecture 3: (1) Economic Development (2) Shanghai Legend

Lecture 4: China’s Environmental Issues

Lecture 5: Population and Urbanization

Lecture 6: Field Trip & Homework

Lecture 7: Education in China

Lecture 8: International Relations

Lecture 9: Family, Kinship and Marriage

Lecture 10: Philosophy and Religion