

Course: Politics and Cultural Studies

## Course Syllabus

### I. Course Description

This course aims to introduce Chinese government and politics in contemporary China from multiple perspectives and different aspects of Chinese culture. It will cover a broad range of topics, from Social Policies in China, Urban Management, and Citizenship Practices in China to Chinese Customs and Festivals, Chinese Landscape, Chinese Medicine, Chinese Opera and Pop Music, with a focus on the changes in the process of modernization.

### II. Course Objectives

The purposes of this course include:

- A. Help students understand the Chinese political institutions and government system and analyze the challenges and implications of China's political, social, and economic development;
- B. To enable students to have a basic understanding of Chinese thinking and cultural traditions.

### III. Course Learning Outcomes

On completion of this course, students should be able to:

- A. Develop an extensive understanding about China's political and social policies;
- B. Demonstrate knowledge of the origin, development and approaches of Chinese governance;
- C. Have a basic understanding of different aspects of Chinese thinking and cultural traditions and understand the changes that are taking place in contemporary China and the impact of modernization on traditional culture.

### IV. Course Requirements and Materials

## **A. Attendance**

- a. Students should sign in the Attendance Form for record of every lecture;
- b. Students should arrive in class on time with uninterrupted attendance for the duration; if they need to take a leave of absence from class, they should let the Teaching Assistant (TA) know in advance and submit written leave request;
- c. Students who are absent from classes for more than 1/4 of the total contact hours (including leave request) will not be allowed to take the final assessment of this course and will not be awarded the Certificate of Completion at the end of the program.

## **B. Academic honesty**

A student who commits scholastic dishonesty will receive an “F” for the course. Scholastic dishonesty may involve, but is not limited to, one or more of the following acts: cheating, plagiarism, and/or the submission as one’s own work material that is not one’s own.

## **C. Definition of plagiarism and its punishments**

Plagiarism is the use of an author’s words or ideas as if they were one’s own without giving credit to the source. A student who plagiarizes will receive an “F” for the course.

## **D. Course materials:**

- a. Textbook(s)-strongly recommended: none
- b. Articles-strongly recommended: none

## **V. Process and Scheme for Assessment**

### **A. Grading formula**

Participation	40%
Paper	60%

### **B. Grading criteria**

#### **a. In-class participation (40%)**

1. Attend classes
2. Participate in class discussions:

- 1) Answer the instructor's questions
- 2) Contribution to the topics

**b. Paper (60%)**

1. Students must write a research paper at the end of the course. The paper can be individual work or group work of 2 students;
2. The paper should address an issue of China's politics or cultural studies, which may be a case study, a study report, or an analytic article;
3. Students can do the research by using library resources, the Internet, or conducting personal interviews, questionnaire, surveys, etc.;
4. Students must submit a hard copy and an electronic copy to International Summer Program (ISP) office before the deadline:
  - 1) Late submission within one week is accepted but 10 points will be deducted from the final score;
  - 2) Late submission more than one week is refused;
5. The minimum length is 5 pages of A4 sized papers, double-spaced (12 point font) of text, not including tables, appendices, pictures, etc;
6. The paper will be evaluated based on the following standards:
  - 1) Topic and theme (20%): Clearly identified the issue of China's politics or cultural studies;
  - 2) Structure (20%): Well organized contents with sections and subtitles;
  - 3) Analysis (30%): Focused discussion with personal perspectives and related theories;
  - 4) Suggestions (20%): Specific implications of the study and business suggestions;
  - 5) Language and Format (10%): Good English and documented sources of data and references;
7. The score of the paper will account for 60% of the final total.

**VI. Course Outline (2 credits)**

Notes: A. 1 contact hour equals to 1 hour (60 minutes) in this course;

B. 1 class hour equals to 45 minutes.

Date	Lecture Topics	Contact Hours	Instructors
<b>Module 1 Cultural Studies</b>			
July 1	Chinese Landscape and Scenery	2	Fan DAI
July 2	Chinese Dialects	2	Jing ZHAO
July 3	City tour, no course arranged	/	/
July 4	Chinese Customs and Festivals	2	Chenguang CHANG
July 5	Company Visit	3	
July 8	Introduction to Chinese Medicine	2	Dairong LV
July 9	Chinese Opera	2	Xinping CHANG
July 10	Self-directed study	2	
<b>Module 2 Politics Studies</b>			
July 11	Government and Politics in China	2	Zhonghua GUO
July 12	Company Visit	3	
July 15	Social Policies in China	2	Wing Kit CHAN
July 16	Citizenship Practices in Contemporary China: An Introduction of Several Cases of “Rightful Resistance”	2	Ying XIA
July 17	Regional Policies	2	Lin YE
July 18	Self-directed study	2	
July 19	Submit paper	/	/
<b>Total contact hours</b>		<b>28</b>	<b>= 37 class hours</b>

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## **VII. Lecture Description and Speaker Introduction**

### **Module 1 Cultural Studies**

#### **Lecture 1: Chinese Landscape and Scenery**

Lecture Description: This lecture gives a brief introduction to China's territory with a focus on its tourism resources. Major tourist destinations presented include historical cities such as Beijing, Xi'an, scenic places such as Guilin, Yellow Mountain, and minority areas such as Lijiang, Dali and Xishuangbanna in Yunnan Province.

Speaker: Fan DAI

Speaker Introduction: Fan DAI is Professor of English in the Department of English, School of Foreign Languages, Sun Yat-sen University (SYSU). She holds a Ph.D. degree in Linguistics, a Master degree of Fine Arts in creative writing, a Master's degree in English and American Language and Literature, and another Master's degree in Human Geography. Her research interests include stylistics and discourse analysis. She is also interested in tourism studies, cultural studies and creative writing in both Chinese and English. She has traveled extensively both in China and abroad.

#### **Lecture 2: Chinese Dialects**

Lecture Description: Despite the very successful government-initiated language standardization of Mandarin, varieties of Chinese spoken languages (dialects) still flourish across the country. This lecture covers features of major Chinese dialects, demonstrates distinctions between dialects (w video and audio aids), and leads to discussions on:

- A. the interaction between Mandarin and different dialects;
- B. the preservation of dialects; and
- C. the revelation of social status and/or identity through dialects.

Speaker: Jing ZHAO

Speaker Introduction: Jing ZHAO is Lecturer of English in the Department of

English, School of Foreign Languages, SYSU. She earned her doctoral degree in Curriculum and Instruction, specializing in English as a Second Language, from Texas A&M University, USA. Dr. ZHAO's research interests include differences in literacy development between L2 (second language) learners of English and L1 (first language) English speakers, as well as the influence of children's L1 and other internal and external factors on their L2 literacy development. As a native of Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region, she grew up with a variety of dialects and languages around her.

### **Lecture 3: Chinese Customs and Festivals**

Lecture Description: This lecture gives a brief introduction to the major festivals in China (including the Spring Festival, the Lantern Festival, the Mid-Autumn Festival, the Qingming Festival and the Dragon Boat Festival), with a focus on the customs related to these festivals. Discussions and references will also be made to the traditional Chinese values reflected in the celebration of these festivals.

Speaker: Chenguang CHANG

Speaker Introduction: Chenguang CHANG is Professor of English at the English Department, School of Foreign Languages, SYSU. His research interests include functional linguistics, applied linguistics, English education, and intercultural communication.

### **Lecture 4: Introduction to Chinese Medicine**

Lecture Description: This lecture gives a brief introduction to the basic concepts and theories of traditional Chinese medicine, including the theory of Yin and Yang, the theory of the five elements, and Qi energy, etc. It also gives an overview of acupuncture, Chinese massage and cupping, and the dietary therapy.

Speaker: Dairong Lü

Speaker introduction: Dairong Lü began her undergraduate studies at Sun Yat-sen

University, China in 1997 and received her Ph.D. in Systemic Functional Linguistics from the same university in 2007. She is currently Lecturer at the School of Foreign Languages, SYSU. Her research interests include Systemic Functional Linguistics, Discourse Analysis and Computer-Mediated Communication. She is also interested in traditional Chinese medicine.

### **Lecture 5: Chinese Opera**

Lecture Description: This lecture gives a brief introduction to the major schools of Chinese opera, such as Peking Opera, Ping Opera, Yu Opera, etc. with a focus on the local opera Yu Opera which is popular in central and northern part of China. Discussions will cover the cultural values reflected in the performance and the stories of Chinese opera.

Speaker: Xinping CHANG

Speaker Introduction: Xinping CHANG received her Ph.D. degree in Applied Linguistics in 1996 in Guangdong University of Foreign Studies. She is now Associate Professor of Linguistics in the Department of English, School of Foreign Languages, SYSU. Her research interests include second language acquisition, language testing, discourse analysis and cross-cultural communication.

## **Module 2 Politics**

### **Lecture 1: Government and Politics in China**

Lecture Description: This course is designed for undergraduates as a general introduction to the politics of the People's Republic of China (P.R.C.). The course's theme is China's ongoing quest for modernity, which has its roots in the 19th century and continues to shape Chinese politics today. The turbulent and often tragic history of P.R.C. can be viewed as a succession of efforts to make China modernized. The basic objective of this course is to provide students with the general knowledge of China's developmental paradigm. The ultimate goal is that by critically evaluating China's politics, the students can have a better

understanding and reflection of China's modernity process.

Speaker: Zhonghua GUO

Speaker Introduction: Prof. Zhonghua GUO is Head of Department of Political Sciences, School of Government, SYSU, who received his Ph.D. in Fudan University. He was a visiting scholar of Sheffield University in 2009. His research focuses mainly in political science theory, citizenship, Chinese government and politics.

### **Lecture 2: Social Policies in China**

Lecture Description: This lecture aims at introducing social policy areas concerning the well-being of ordinary Chinese people in China, including social security, employment, education, health and housing. The lecture focuses mainly on discussing the paradigm shift of social policies taking place before and after the economic reform and how new social issues and challenges unfolded as a result. Students are expected to have some basic knowledge of the modern history of China and preferably from social sciences backgrounds.

Speaker: Wing Kit CHAN

Speaker Introduction: Dr. Chan is Lecturer of social policy in the Chinese Center for Public Management Research. He is also acting as the director for International Collaboration Office of the School of Government. Dr. CHAN finished his Ph.D. in Social Policy at the University of York, England, and, has been very keen in researching higher education policies and social assistance policies in China.

### **Lecture 3: Citizenship Practices in Contemporary China: An Introduction of Several Cases of “Rightful Resistance”**

Lecture Description: This is an introductory lecture on the current state of citizenship practices by the ordinary citizens in China. It is done by surveying several most prominent cases of people's “rightful resistance” to the misbehaviors of the government which happened in the past two decades. These cases

provoked heated discussion among the public as well as within the academic community. Scholars have come to see these cases of resistance as a sign that a new era that is shaped by the image of active citizens is about to come and transform the old one characterized with the authoritarian regime and passive subjects. What are the possible implications of these recent dynamics of civil society development to the overall political development in China? Whether they will lead to further democratization in China, or they are just some inconsistent episodes which are well controlled by the authoritarian power? These are uneasy questions and worth serious discussion.

Speaker: Ying XIA

Speaker Introduction: Dr. Ying XIA is Lecturer in Department of Political Science, School of Government, SYSU. She received her Ph.D. from the Chinese University of Hong Kong. She's interested in citizenship study, political participation, political culture and civil society.

#### **Lecture 4: Regional Policies**

Lecture Description: Mega regions have become a leading pattern of urban development in the era of global economy. China has adopted regional development as a top national policy to better plan its economic and social development. This course will introduce the theory of regional development and its implication in China. Historical development and latest cases of regional development in China will be analyzed. Opportunities and challenges will be addressed.

Speaker: Lin YE

Speaker Introduction: Dr. Lin YE is Associate Professor in Department of Public Administration, School of Government, SYSU. He received his Ph.D. in University of Louisville. His research interests are public administration, urban management, statistics and comparative urban development.