

Course: Chinese Politics and Cultural Studies

Course Syllabus

I. Course Outline (1.5 credits)

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

B.1 class hour equals 45 minutes.

Lecture Topics	Contact Hours	Instructors
Module 1 Cultural Studies		
Chinese Landscape and Scenery	2	Fan DAI
Chinese Dialects	2	Jing ZHAO
Chinese Customs and Festivals	2	Chenguang CHANG
Introduction to Chinese Medicine	2	Dairong Lü
Chinese Opera	2	Xinping CHANG
Module 2 Chinese Politics Studies		
Government and Politics in China	2	Zhonghua GUO
Social Policies in China	2	Wing Kit CHAN
Citizenship Practices in Contemporary China: An Introduction to Several Cases of “Rightful Resistance”	2	Ying XIA
Company Visit I	3	
Company Visit II	3	
Total contact hours	22	=29 class hours

*The actual lectures delivered are subject to change.

II. 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, Urban Management, and Citizenship Practices 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.

III. 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. Enable students to have a basic understanding of Chinese thinking and cultural traditions.

IV. Course Learning Outcomes

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

- A. Demonstrate an extensive understanding of 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.

V. Course Requirements and Materials

A. Attendance

- a. Students should sign-in at every lecture to record their attendance;
- b. Students should arrive to class on time and remain 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 a written leave request;

c. Students who are absent from more than 1/4 of the total contact hours (including requested leaves of absence) will not be allowed to take the final assessment of the course and will not be awarded a certificate of completion at the end of the program.

B. Academic honesty

A student who violates academic integrity will receive an “F” for the course. Violations may include, but is not limited to, one or more of the following acts: cheating, plagiarism, and/or the submission of someone else's work as your 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 a failing grade for the course.

D. Course materials:

- a. Textbook(s)-strongly recommended: none
- b. Articles-strongly recommended: none
- C. The instructors of each lecture will prepare reading materials respectively.

VI. Process and Scheme for Assessment

A. Grading formula

Participation	20%
Paper	80%

B. Grading criteria

a. In-class participation (20%)

- 1. Attendance
- 2. Participate in class discussions:
 - 1)Answer the instructor’s questions
 - 2)Contribution to the topics

b. Paper (80%)

- 1. Students must write a research paper at the end of the course. The paper can

- be done individually or with a partner;
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 use library resources, the Internet, conduct personal interviews, or create a questionnaire, surveys, etc., to complete their research
4. Students must submit a hard copy and an electronic copy to the International Summer Program (ISP) office before the deadline (the last day the program):
 - 1) Late submission within one week will be accepted but 10 points will be deducted from the final score;
 - 2) Late submission beyond one week after the deadline will be refused;
5. The minimum length is 5 A4-sized pages, double-spaced, and text in a 12 point font, not including tables, appendices, pictures, etc;
6. The paper will be evaluated based on the following standards:
 - 1)Topic and Theme (20%): Clearly identifies the issue of China's politics or cultural studies
 - 2)Structure (20%): Well organized content 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%): Proper usage of English and documented sources of data and references
7. The paper will account for 80% of the final course grade.

VII. Lecture Description and Lecturer Introduction

Lecture: Chinese Landscape and Scenery

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.

Lecturer: Fan DAI

Fan DAI is a Professor in the Department of English, School of Foreign Languages, SunYat-sen University (SYSU). She holds a Ph.D. degree in Linguistics, a Master's 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: Chinese Dialects

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
- C.the revelation of social status and/or identity through dialects

Lecturer: Jing ZHAO

Jing ZHAO is a Lecturer 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 EFL (foreign language) learners of English and native (first language) English speakers, as well as the influence of children's native language and other internal and external factors on their second language literacy development. As a native of Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region, she grew up with a variety of dialects and languages around her.

Lecture: Chinese Customs and Festivals

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.

Lecturer: Chenguang CHANG

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

Lecture: Introduction to Chinese Medicine

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, Qi energy, etc. It also gives an overview of acupuncture, Chinese massage and cupping, and dietary therapy.

Lecturer: DairongLü

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: Chinese Opera

This lecture gives an overview of the major schools of Chinese opera, such as Peking Opera, Ping Opera, Yu Opera, etc., with a focus on the local Yu Opera, which is popular in Central and Northern China. Discussions will cover the cultural values reflected in the performance and the stories of Chinese opera.

Lecturer: Xinping CHANG

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.

Lecture: Government and Politics in China

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 the 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 of China's modernity process.

Lecturer: Zhonghua GUO

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 at Sheffield University in 2009. His research focuses mainly in political science theory, citizenship, Chinese government and politics.

Lecture: Social Policies in China

This lecture aims at introducing social policy areas concerning the wellbeing of ordinary Chinese people, 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, preferably from social sciences backgrounds.

Lecturer: Wing Kit CHAN

Dr. Chan is Lecturer of social policy in the Chinese Center for Public Management Research. He is also acting as the acting 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.