



East China Normal University, Shanghai, China

Course Name: Chinese Civilization: An Introduction

Language of Instruction: English

Instructor: Dr. Tao Jianmin

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Dept.: International School of Chinese Studies

Course Description

This is an introductory course to multiple sociocultural aspects of China as an old civilized country which is undergoing a critical economic and political transition. With the understanding that contemporary Chinese sociocultural issues might be better interpreted and comprehended in the background of China's tradition, the course mainly covers the part of tradition and its association with some aspects of modernity. It starts from a general introduction to some basics of China, with a highlight on the brief depiction of China's history, and is followed by the elaborations on several important topics of China's tradition and culture.

Course Objective

The course aims to present a diversified vision about China's development, selectively raising some key topics concerning China's change in both ideological and material spheres, in the hope of helping students acquire some basic understanding about China and develop some fields to their own interest. Students are required to bring one or two questions about the analyzed topics of China into the class discussion. The Lecture-Discussion method is applied to provide a better understanding of Chinese people and society.

Course Hours:

48 course hours. One course hour equals to 45 mins.

Recommended Textbook:

- Sun Xiaoyu. 2009. A Chinese History Reader, Cengage Learning Asia

http://www.amazon.com/Chinese-History-Reader-Sun-Xiaoyu/dp/9814281700/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1406781196&sr=8-1&keywords=A+Chinese+History+Reader

Course Requirements and Grading

All required work must be completed to pass the course. The final grade will be calculated as follows:

Attendance: 20%

Participation (group discussion and presentation included): 30%

Final individual presentation: 10%

Final research paper: 40%

Attendance Policy

- Students are required to get permission from the ECNU-ISO Office and your instructor.
- Late or leave early consistently without the permission is taken as an absence from class.
- For each unexcused absence you will be deducted 1 point from your final grade.
- Absences over one third of the semester for one course, no matter what reasons you have (sickness, travel, etc.), will result in failing that course;
- On days that you are sick, you are required to present a slip with approval of your teaching secretary to note your absence.

Academic Integrity Policies

Plagiarism, cheating, fabricating, facilitating academic dishonesty, and other behaviors will not be tolerated and will result in failing of the assignment.

Sanctions could include: written warning, deducting or failing grades, expulsion from the program, and letter of reprimand to students' origin institutions.

Participation

Participation of each member of the class is of utmost importance to the success of the course, and will constitute a part of your final grade. Unexcused and unexplained absence will have a negative influence on your final grade.

It is essential that you participate actively in class discussion. Each of you should bring to class one or two intelligent question(s) or comment(s) to facilitate class discussion.

Each member of the class is expected to finish a 15-min long presentation on China historical culture in this semester.

Essay

An essay is due in class on _____. Students may choose any topic related to the course's main content. The paper should be around 3,000 words in length, typed in 12-point font Arial and double-spaced. The final version of the paper should be well written and edited. Only Hard-Copy Accepted, No Late Paper Accepted.

Weekly Schedule

Week One

- China in brief: core concepts of China
- Chinese Cultural History I:

Ancient history of China: from the rise of Chinese civilization to the medieval age of China (I)

- The Mythical and Legendary Times

Ancient history of China: from the rise of Chinese civilization to the medieval age of China (II)

- Pre-Qin times: Chinese characters and the Three Perfections

Week Two

- Chinese Cultural History I:

Ancient history of China: from the rise of Chinese civilization to the medieval age of China

- Early Chinese religions and philosophical Schools (I)& (II)
- Qin & Han times: Filial Piety and Wuxing
- Wei & Jin times: Neo-Confucianism and arrival of Buddhism

Week Three

- Chinese Cultural History II:

Ancient history of China: from the medieval age to Qing Dynasty(I)

- Sui & Tang times: the Silk Road and Tang Poems
- Song times: the Chinese Landscape Paintings and Neo-Confucianism
- Topic: Nature within Walls: Chinese classical garden culture
Or topic: Symbols in traditional Chinese art

Week Four

- Chinese Cultural History II:

Ancient history of China: from the medieval age to Qing Dynasty(III)

- Yuan & Ming: the Mongol interruption and the restoration and consolidation of Ming
- Qing times: summit and decline of the empire under the impact of the West
- Student presentation (Essay due)

**Note: All schedules are subject to change in the time of need.*