Chinese 150
Introduction to
Chinese Culture, Society, and Language
Course Description/ Syllabus

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This course surveys Chinese cultural norms and values through an examination of the people, land, history, philosophy, religion, politics, society, economy, customs, literature and art, and language of China. The purpose of this course is to provide students with substantial knowledge about China and facilitate an appreciation of the Chinese culture and related issues. The format of the course is lectures and discussions (including presentations).

Course Requirements

1. Completion of required readings and active participation in class discussion and presentation. (Readings are crucial because it is impossible to cover all the relevant aspects of Chinese culture during the class time. It is expected that the participants will make a diligent effort to finish all the readings in a timely fashion and join the class discussion and presentation actively).
2. Two quizzes. The quizzes will be "objective", data-oriented.
3. Presentations on selected topics.
4. Midterm exam and a term paper. The exam will include both data-oriented tests and essay questions in a broad, interpretive nature. The term paper will be on your most interested topics on China, which can be extended as your senior thesis in the future. (Requirements to be announced)
5. Class attendance and participation in discussion.

Meeting Time and Place

TR: 1:00-2:15 Root 202

Office Hours:

MW: 11:00-12:00, CJ 219

Textbooks:

c. Judith Stacey, 1990, **Heritage of China--Contemporary Perspectives on Chinese Civilization** (HC) (recommended)
d. Hugh D.R. Baker, **Chinese Family and Kinship** (CFK) (recommended)
e. R. Keith Schoppa, 2005, Revolution and Its Past: Identities and Change in Modern Chinese History (RAP) (recommended)

**Topics to Cover:**

The course is divided into the following major topics and each of them is allocated to an approximate time (subject to change). Students are urged to read ahead following the study guide and be prepared for class discussions and presentations.

1. **Week 1-2:** *General Introduction, Land and People:* Geography and ethnic diversity.

2. **Week 2-4:** *History:* Feudal society and social change, Chin unification, Han civilization, Tang civilization, Ming, Qing society and civilization, and modern China.

**PRESENTATIONS** is during week 2-4.

**QUIZ I**

3. **Week 5-6:** *Politics:* ideology, organization, and political traditions.

**MIDTERM EXAMINATION**

4. **Week 7-9:** *Society:* class and gender (women issues), Chinese family and kinship, and social organizations.

5. **Week 10:** *Economy:* agriculture, industry, and trade.

6. **Week 11:** *Customs:* birth and childhood, betrothal and marriage, death and burial, and food.

**QUIZ II**

7. **Week 12-13:** Literature and Art: famous prose, poetry, Beijing opera plays, selected readings of modern Chinese literature, and art works at different periods.

**PRESENTATIONS (POSSIBLE)**

8. **Week 14:** Language, Dialects, and Communication: Chinese sound system, writing system, local dialects and their distribution, and cultural norms embedded in the language.

9. **Additional topics-Future Trends:**
The evolutionary changes in China in the 21st century, the impact of economic reform and open door policy on Chinese culture, society, and everyday life, China’s future

**TERM PAPER DUE**
Grading System:

- Class presentations: 20%
- Two quizzes: 20%
- Midterm and a term paper: 40%
- Class discussion: 10%
- Class attendance: 10% (3 time limit)

1. Land and People (week 1-2)

   c. Dru C. Gladney, The Uniting of China, in CAPCF, pp. 31-40.
   Video-tape: Heart of the Dragon: Eating; Amazing Marriage Customs.

2. History (week 2-4)

   Fairbank and Goldman, 2006, China-A New History (CNH), Intro. And Chap. 1
   PRESENTATIONS
   Video-tape: Heart of the Dragon: Remembering and Understanding

3. Politics (week 5-6)

   CAPCF, pp. 103-201
   Video-tape: Heart of the Dragon: Believing and Correcting

4. Society (week 7-9)

   CAPCF, pp. 207-320
   Video-tape: Heart of the Dragon: Caring, Living and Marrying

5. Economy (week 10)

   CAPCF, pp. 329-389
   Video-tape: Heart of the Dragon: Working and Trading

6. Customs (week 11)

   d. * E. Croll, (1981), The politics of marriage in contemporary China (Chapters 2,3,4,5,6)
f. Video-tape: Lantern Festival in China; Customs of Marriage
g. Movie: To Live

7. Literature and Art (week 12-13)


e. Film: the Red Sorghum or To Live, or Hero
f. Video-tape: Heart of Dragon: Creating
g. Movie: To Live

8. Language, Dialects and Communication (week 14)


9. Future Trends (week 14 if possible)

CAPCF, pp. 547-618