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

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

TTh: 1:00-2:15 Place to be accounced

Office Hours:

To be accounced

Textbooks:

d. Hugh D.R. Baker, Chinese Family and Kinship (CFK) (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.


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


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 Presentation: 20%
Two quizzes 20%
Midterm and Final 40%
Class discussion 10%
Class attendance 10% (3 time limit)