



江西財經大學

JIANGXI UNIVERSITY OF FINANCE & ECONOMICS

Course Title:

Introduction to China

Course Code: FS201
Credits: 2
Teaching hours: 32
Prerequisites: no
Semester: Fall and Spring Semester

Lecturer's Information:

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Course Description

China is one of the four ancient civilizations of the world, which possesses vast territory, 5000 years' history as well as rich and profound Chinese culture. As the fast development of economic globalization, China is attracting numerous visitors from all over the world, who are eager to explore the mysterious oriental country.

In order to broaden views and increase knowledge about China, this course is designed to provide a brief and clear introduction to the history, geography, population, religion, beliefs, politics, traditional medicine, literature, and world heritage sites of China, and an objective and practical presentation of the hot issues in the development of modern China. Hot issues topics include the present real estate situation, currency inflation, Chinese migrant workers and left-behind children, food safety, China's space technology, Shanghai World Expo, etc.

This course is a foundational course for overseas students at all levels without prior Chinese study, and it is also designed to serve the needs of those students who will come to China for study abroad, inhabitancy or teaching.

Aims and Objectives:

The primary learning goal for this course is to obtain a general acquaintance with the history, society and cultural heritage of China. A second goal of this course is to have a correct and

profounder understanding of Chinese characteristics in its particular cultural, social and political environment. The final goal of the course is to prepare students a good knowledge for their Chinese language course study and a good foundation for their future related research work on China.

Learning Outcomes:

On completion of the course a student will be able to:

A. Knowledge and understanding

- gain a general idea about the society, history and cultural heritage of China
- acquire a correct and profounder understanding of the Chinese characteristics in its particular context.

B. Intellectual Skills:

- Reasonably and objectively view the facts of China
- work independently by gathering information and collaboratively by completing the group work with high efficiency.
- demonstrate the analytical, synthetical and communication skills by presenting group reports and course paper concisely and effectively according to appropriate understanding of China.

C. Discipline Specific Skills:

- perceive the differences between China and your country on various aspects.
- make contact with Chinese people effectively with a better understanding of China's society, history, politics, religion and beliefs.

D. Transferable Skills:

- Develop analytical, synthetical, written and spoken skills
- Develop an objective and reasonable perspective on China's issues.
- Develop computer skills by making effective presentations, searching and gathering information efficiently.

Teaching Methods:

Teaching methods will involve a combination of lecture, discussion, role-play, group work, video appreciation and presentation.

Students will be encouraged to think and explore the social, historical and cultural facts of China, and make a comparison between China and their own countries on those aspects.

Assessment:

Final Paper	60%
Class performance and presentation	30%
Class attendance	10%
Total	100%

To achieve a pass grade in this course, students have to obtain 60% or more as a total mark on the

assessment.

Final Paper:

After the completion of the course, students are expected to submit a course paper with no less than 2500 words on contrasting and comparing the history, society, politics, population or cultural heritage between China and those of their own countries and presenting individual perception of China's characteristics from their own viewpoints.

Presentation:

It is a piece of collaborative work in the form of group report to be presented in PowerPoint in class. Group members are responsible for allocating and organizing the group report work among themselves and produce a joint report together. Each group member will be marked with a grade for presentation quality.

Class Performance:

Students are expected to be fully engaged in class activities by raising and responding to questions regarding lectures and readings and airing your views on the discussing topics.

Students' Input

Apart from time spent in lectures or classes, students are expected to spend some time consolidating what you learned. You will be expected:

- to review your lecture notes and follow up references on each lecture topic;
- to be ready for each class in advance by reading reference materials and preparing your question and report on the topic;
- to read your lecture notes and other reference materials regularly to check what you learned, and put forward your study difficulties to your class teacher when in need;
- to make a comparison and contrast between China and your country on the aspects that was taught by the teacher.
- to work efficiently and complete your group work on time in line with the requirements of the teacher.
- to develop your individual perspective on the society, history, politics and cultural heritage of China to broaden the horizon of understanding the big world.

Course Outline

Part One: The Culture of China

1 Ways of communication

2 Guest-entertaining manners

3 Etiquette on dinner tables

3.1 seating

3.2 toasting

3.2 types of alcohol & drinking occasions

4 Wedding culture

- 4.1 Parents' role and responsibility
- 4.2 Different social expectations on bride and bridegroom

5 Funeral culture

- 5.1 filial piety
- 5.2 commemorations

6 Love values & marriage values

- 6.1 love concept
- 6.2 marriage modes
- 6.3 value orientation for husbands and wives

7 Social values & life values

- 7.1 social morality values
- 7.2 life attitudes and concepts
- 7.3 life styles and aims

8 Gift-giving culture

- 8.1 gifts taboos
- 8.2 usual types of gifts
- 8.3 gift-giving occasions

9 Special phenomena in China

- 9.1 The Spring Festival transportation
- 9.2 Migrant workers & left-behind children of China
- 9.3 Hot words (naked marriage; house slave; leftover men/women)

10 Traditional Chinese games

- 10.1 Mahjong
- 10.2 Chinese chess

11 Calligraphy Culture

Part Two: The General Facts of China

1 JUFE & Nanchang

2 An Overview of China

- 2.1 Basic Information
- 2.2 Geography
- 2.3 Climate
- 2.4 Administrative Division
- 2.5 Five Thousand Years' History and Civilization

3 World Heritage Sites in China

- 3.1 Great Wall
- 3.2 Forbidden City
- 3.3 Mausoleum of the First Qin Emperor
- 3.4 Mogao Cave
- 3.5 Potala Palace
- 3.6 Huangshan Mountain
- 3.7 Jiuzhaigou Valley
- 3.8 Classical Gardens of Suzhou

- 3.9 Shaolin Temple
- 3.10 Lushan National Park
- 4 Politics of the Socialism Country with Chinese Characteristics**
- 4.1 General Introduction
- 4.2 The Chinese Communist Party
- 4.3 Reform and Opening to the Outside World
- 4.4 Policies towards Hong Kong, Macao, and Taiwan
- 4.5 Political Controversies and Problems
- 5 Population and Family Planning Policy**
- 5.1 Population Information
- 5.2 Ethnic Groups
- 5.3 Family Planning Policy
- 5.4 Unbalanced Gender Ratio Phenomena and Traditional Chinese Ideas
- 6 Religion and Beliefs**
- 6.1 Buddhism
- 6.2 Taoism
- 6.3 Confucianism
- 7 Education**
- 7.1 Introduction
- 7.2 Educational Mode
- 7.3 Current Situation
- 8 Traditional Chinese Medicine**
- 8.1 Introduction
- 8.2 Chinese Herbal Medicine
- 8.3 Effective TCM Therapies
 - 8.3.1 Acupuncture and Moxibustion
 - 8.3.2 Cupping Therapy
 - 8.3.3 Chinese Massage (Tui na)
 - 8.3.4 Gua Sha
- 9 Chinese Literature**
- 10 Chinese Art**
- 10.1 Chinese Movie
- 10.2 Chinese Soap Opera
- 10.3 Chinese Music
- 10.4 Chinese Garments

Text Books and Indicative Reading List:

- Sun Yan, Xiong Ying, and Gao Xia, 2007, *The Outline of China*, Ocean Press
- Liao Huaying, 2007, *A Glimpse of Chinese Culture*, Foreign Language Teaching and Research Press
- Gamer, R.E. ed., 2008, *Understanding Contemporary China*, 3rd Edition, Lynne Rienner Publishers, Inc.
- Albert M. Craig, 2001, *The Heritage of Chinese Civilization*, Prentice-Hall

Calendar of Teaching Activities

	Activities	Content
Week 1	Discussion, Role-play, experiencing China, Lecture	Discussion/role-play: 1. Ways of communication Presentation: 1 JUFE & Nanchang
Week 2	Discussion, Role-play, experiencing China, Lecture,	Discussion/role-play: 2 Guest-entertaining manners Presentation: 2 An Overview of China
Week 3	Discussion, Role-play, experiencing China, Lecture,	Discussion/role-play: 3 Etiquette on dinner tables Presentation: 2 An Overview of China
Week 4	Discussion, Role-play, experiencing China, Lecture,	Discussion, presentation: 4 Wedding culture Presentation: 3 World Heritage Sites in China
Week 5	Discussion, Role-play, experiencing China, Lecture,	Discussion, presentation: 5 Funeral culture Presentation: 4 Politics of the Socialism Country with Chinese Characteristics
Week 6	Discussion, Role-play, experiencing China, Lecture,	Discussion: 6 Love values & marriage values Presentation & debate: 4 Politics of the Socialism Country with Chinese Characteristics
Week 7	Discussion, Role-play, experiencing China, Lecture,	Discussion: 7 Social values & life values Presentation: 5 Population and Family Planning Policy
Week 8	Discussion, Role-play, experiencing China, Lecture,	Discussion/role-play: 8 Gift-giving culture Presentation: Introduction to our lives 5 Population and Family Planning Policy
Week 9	Discussion, Role-play, experiencing China, Lecture,	Discussion/role-play: 9 Special phenomena in China Presentation: 6 Religion and Beliefs
Week 10	Discussion, Role-play, experiencing China, Lecture,	Discussion/role-play: 9 Special phenomena in China Presentation: 7 Education
Week 11	Discussion, Role-play, experiencing China, Lecture,	Discussion/role-play: 10 Traditional Chinese games Presentation: 8 Traditional Chinese Medicine
Week 12	Discussion, Role-play, experiencing China, Lecture,	Experiencing: 10 Traditional Chinese games Presentation: 9 Chinese Literature
Week 13	Movie Play	Watch a Movie with Chinese Culture

Week 14	Discussion, Role-play, experiencing China, Lecture,	Experiencing: 11 Calligraphy culture Presentation: 10 Chinese Art
Week 15	Discussion, Role-play, experiencing China, Lecture,	Experiencing: Chinese songs Presentation: 10 Chinese Art
Week 16	Presentation	Group Presentation & Final paper