

GLS/EAS 304: Diversity of China: History, Culture, and Globalization

June 21th-July 30th, 2010
Fudan University (Shanghai)
& Northwestern University (Xi'an)

Instructors:

Chunling Li, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, Beijing
Ping Wang, East Asian Studies, Princeton University

When speaking of China, one thinks of a large country, with a long history and a large population. What such an image does is conjuring up a false sense of monolithicism about China. For anyone who has been to China, this impression could not be any farther from the truth. Diverse and dynamic in historical and contemporary terms, today's China emerges to be a powerful global agent in the 21st century. This course reflects on the theme of diversity by focusing on contemporary and historical flows of people, images, ideas, and material goods in the vast area that we call China. Many of these will be discussed in a classroom setting in two prestigious Chinese universities, while others will be experienced and explored on weekly visits to some of the most fascinating sites and sights in Shanghai, Xi'an and beyond. Between the Pearl Tower and the Terracotta Warriors, we will discover the truth meaning behind the name China and why it matters to us.

Week 1 Late Imperial Chinese History and the Birth of Shanghai

Last Emperor and collapse of Qing Dynasty. Shanghai and Communist Revolution. Mao Era: Cultural Revolution and Going-to-Countryside Movement. Today's China: Economic reform and open door policy. Rising China and rising Shanghai in the world of globalization.

Readings:

Edwin Moise, *Modern China* (2008)

Jonathan Fenby, *Modern China: The Fall and Rise of a Great Power, 1850-the Present* (2008)

Kate Merkel-Hess and Kenneth L. Pomeranz, *China in 2008: a year of great significance*, (2009)

Yeh Wen-hsin, *Shanghai Splendor: Economic Sentiments and the Making of Modern China, 1843-1949*, (2007)

Site Visits:

Lu Xun Museum, Yuyuan Garden, City God Temple, Lunch at the Famous Nanxiang Soup Bun House, Communist Party Museum, "New Heaven and Earth" Commercial Center

Week 2 Contemporary Chinese Society

Family, Marriage and Women in the contemporary China. Population problem, aging society, and one-child policy. Social classes and inequality. Rural-urban migration and floating workers. The Generation of 1980s and mass culture.

Readings:

Daniel A. Bell, *China's New Confucianism: Politics and Everyday Life in a Changing Society*, (2008)

Duncan Hewitt, *China: Getting Rich First*, (2008)

Rob Gifford, *China Road: A Journey into the Future of a Rising Power*, (2008)

Lionel M. Jensen and Timothy B. Weston, *China's Transformations: the Stories Beyond the Headlines*, (2007)

Site Visits:

Nanjing Massacre Museum, Sun Yat-sen's Mausoleum, Confucius Temple

Week 3 Contemporary Chinese Economy

Booming economy during the marketing reform. State-owned enterprises and public sector. Urbanization, real estate, and local government. Luxury goods consumption and a rising middle class. Foreground of Chinese economy after the financial crisis.

Readings:

John W. Hoffmann and Michael Enright, *China into the Future: Making Sense of the World's Most Dynamic Economy*, (2008)

James Kyngé, *China Shakes the World: A Titan's Rise and Troubled Future--and the Challenge for America*, (2007)

Thomas J. Campanella, *The Concrete Dragon: China's Urban Revolution and What it means for the World*, (2008)

Pamela Yatsko, *New Shanghai: The Rocky Rebirth of China's Legendary City*, (2003)

Site Visits:

The Bund, Pearl Tower, Stock Exchange Market, 2010 World Expo

Week 4 Tradition and Culture

Literati Culture: calligraphy, painting, and poetry. Education and upward social mobility in traditional and contemporary China. Confucianism and its meaning for a post-Confucian Society. Tradition/culture and economic development.

Site Visits:

Forest of Steles, The Big Goose Pagoda, Great Tang Paradise and Serpentine River New Development Zone

Readings:

Wen C. Fong, "Chinese Calligraphy: Theory and History," *The Embodied Image* (1999), 29-84

Stephen Owen, "An Uncreated Universe: Cosmogony, Concepts, and Couplets," *Traditional Chinese Poetry and Poetics*, (1985), 78-104.

Peter Harris, *Three Hundred Tang Poems*, (2009)

Week 5 Religion, Philosophy, and Way of Life

Crossroads of Ideas: the Silk Road. Invasion of Buddhism. Muslim in China. Practice of Religion in Changing China. Return of Indigenous Taoism in everyday life: Qigong, Taiji, and the Food Culture.

Readings:

David Palmer, *Qigong Fever: Body, Science, and Utopia in China*, (2007)

Maris Boyd Gillette, *Between Mecca and Beijing: modernization and consumption among urban Chinese Muslims*, (2000)

Zang Xiaowei, *Ethnicity and urban life in China : a comparative study of Hui Muslims and Han Chinese*, (2007)

Yoshiko Ashiwa and David L. Wank, *Making religion, making the state: the politics of religion in modern China*, (2009)

Site Visits:

The Big Mosque, Muslim Quarter, Lunch at the famous Xi'an Dumpling Restaurant, Famen Temple, Empress Wu's Tomb

Week 6 History Revisited

The Chinese identity and what does history have to do with it? Nationalism and China's Past. Reinventing glorious China. Going west—new direction of economic development and its historical logic.

Readings:

Peter Hays Gries, *China's New Nationalism: Pride, Politics, and Diplomacy*, (2004)

David R. Knechtges, *Court Culture and Literature in Early China*, (2002)

Wu Hung. *Monumentality in Early Chinese Art and Architecture*, (1995)

Lothar Ledderose, "A Magic Army for the Emperor," *Ten Thousand Things: Module and Mass Production* (2000), 51-73

Site Visits:

Terracotta Warriors, Floral Purity (Huaqing) Pool, First Emperor's Mausoleum

Format and Activities

This seminar will run for six weeks between June 21 and July 30, 2010, meeting for four days a week from Monday through Thursday. Basic and advanced Chinese classes are offered.

Fridays are reserved for field trips. This program offers a number of study excursions. These field trips planned for all participants are visits to places of historic and contemporary importance. Excursions are planned according to the course on offering. Students may opt out for two of the six excursions.

Requirements

Students will be required to:

- do community services such as teaching English, volunteering at World Expo in Shanghai, and helping children and senior citizens in rural and urban Xi'an.
- actively participate in class discussion
- complete assigned readings for each week (approximately 150 pages)
- make brief presentations every week

Grading

Class Participation 2 @ 15 % each
Presentations 6 @ 5 % each
Exams 2 @ 20 % each