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


Readings:
Edwin Moise, Modern China (2008)

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


Readings:

**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:**

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

**Week 5 Religion, Philosophy, and Way of Life**

Readings:


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


Readings:


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