

## **IND 210 Global Encounters: China/Ancient and Modern**

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### **Course Description:**

This course provides students an opportunity to interact in person with Chinese culture that is both ancient and modern. It takes them to Beijing, where the Great Wall and Forbidden City is and where the 2017 Belt and Road Forum was recently held, to Hangzhou, where the beautiful West Lake is and where the 2016 G-20 Summit took place, to Shanghai, the most populous metropolitan proper and a global financial center. Students will experience first-hand the rich and colorful cultural tradition and the great achievements as well as problems of ongoing economic reform.

The course has three components. First, students will be introduced to the cultural and business environment of China, and its technology and innovation sector through twelve hours of pre-departure classroom experiences. Second, during the ten-day study tour to China, students will visit cultural sites as well as companies and organizations in Beijing, Hangzhou, and Shanghai. Lastly, the course will conclude with a post-departure meeting where students will discuss their research and reflect on the study tour experience.

### **Learning Objectives**

- Gain an intimate understanding and appreciation of Chinese culture and civilization, its past and present;
- Obtain first-hand experience of the great achievements as well as the problems of China's ongoing economic reform;
- Break away from the stereotypical image of China as a country with an exotic yet monolithic culture, and to deconstruct "the Chinese" as an unproblematic collective identity;
- Foster a cross-cultural sensitivity through personal experience, research and discussions that compare relevant aspects of Chinese and American cultures and civilizations;
- Develop a sense of "self-awareness"—an understanding of different perspectives regarding of students' own culture;
- Develop the critical thinking, writing and speaking skills through the incorporation of reading, writing assignments and oral presentations and discussion.

**Readings :**

1. Kissinger's *On China*
2. Ding Ling's "Miss Sophie's Diary"
3. "Introduction" to Ann Fenwick's *Evaluation China's Special Economic Zones*
4. "Politics of Economy" in Dreyer's *China's Political System*
5. Opium Wars [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Opium\\_Wars](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Opium_Wars)
6. May 4<sup>th</sup> Movement <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/>
7. Shanghai (<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shanghai>)
8. Beijing <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Beijing>
9. Shenzhen
  - Special Economic Zones of China  
([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Special\\_economic\\_zones\\_of\\_China](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Special_economic_zones_of_China))
  - "What Kind Reform: Deng's Southern Tour"  
(Chapter 16 of *On China* by Kissinger)

**Viewings:**

1. China Rises (Documentary Series)
  - Party Games
  - Getting Rich
  - Food Is Heaven
  - City of Dreams
2. The Mao Years (video)
3. Happy Times (Feature Film)
4. Chinese Revolution or China in Revolution (video)

**Mini-Lectures:**

Introduction to core concepts of Confucianism and Daoism  
Introduction to Chinese history

**Class Meetings:****Meeting 1**

- Quick survey of Chinese history
- Traditional Chinese Culture  
(Core concepts of Confucianism, Daoism, Buddhism )
- Modern history:
  - Opium Wars
  - Hong Kong
    - Lease to United Kingdom
    - Chinese take-over in 1997
  - May 4<sup>th</sup> Movement
  - "Miss Sophie's Diary"
  - Modern Chinese ambivalence towards:
    - The West Culture /"Fathers"
    - Mr. D (Democracy) and Mr. S (Science)
    - Traditional Chinese Culture/ "Fathers"

## Kong Zi: Confucianism and Lao Zi: Daoism

### Meeting 2

- WWII (War of Resistance against Japan)
- The Civil War between the National Party and the Communist Party
- Peoples' Republic of China during Mao Era (1949-1976)
- Kissinger's book On China, particularly  
    “What Kind of Reform, Deng's Southern Tour”
- Deng Xiaoping's notions of:
  - a. “No matter White cat or black cat, as long as it catches mouse it is good cat”
  - b. “Carrying the stone while crossing the river”
  - c. “Socialism with Chinese characteristics”  
        Socialism in name but allows for  
        Private ownership vs. Collective ownership  
        Market economy vs. State planned economy

### Meeting 3:

- Dreyer's China's Political System:
  - Chapter 6: PRC Politics in Post-Mao Era
  - Chapter 7: Politics of Economy
- China Rises (Documentary film series about Chinese Economic Reform and its pros and cons), particularly
  - Part 1: City of Dreams
  - Part 3: Getting Rich
  - Part 4: Party Games
- Happy times
- The great changes brought about by the economic reform
  - a. The rapid economic development
  - b. Political liberalization
  - c. Cultural change
- The problems China faces
  - a. The change in value system  
    “Eyes on the future (xiang qian 前 kan)”  
    VS  
    “Eyes on the money (xiang qian 钱 kan)”
  - b. The Gap between rich and poor  
    (The resentment: potential instability)
  - c. Environmental problems (pollution)
  - d. Corruption

### Meeting 4:

- The “third generation” under Jiang Zemin (Dreyer 134-146)
- The “fourth generation” under Hu Jintao
  - a. The “Three Represents”
  - b. Civic Organizations

c. Changing Central-local relationships

- The current “fifth generation” under Xi Jinping
  - a. The notion of “Chinese Dream”
  - b. Road and Belt Project/Forum
  - c. The Anti-corruption campaign
    - 1. Grass-root support
    - 2. A means of “Power struggle”
    - 3. Result
    - 4. Problematic approach
      - Rule of Law vs Campaign
      - Relying on CCDI (Central Commission for Discipline Inspection)
    - 5. Impact on economy reform:
      - Private sectors
      - SOEs (State-Owned Enterprises)

**Assessments**

1. There will be four Discussion Forums posted, one after each of the first three pre-departure classes and a fourth after we return from China. We expect thoughtful participation in all of them. Total quantity of participation should be no less than 2000 words (the equivalent of an eight-page paper, double-spaced, 12-point type).  
**60% of your grade total**
2. A documentary photo or video essay. Meaning that each video or photo needs to be accompanied by a brief narrative/description. **10% of your grade total**
2. Attendance **10 % of your grade total**
3. Your participation in the trip **20% of your grade total**
  - Adherence to the code of conduct
  - Engagement with Faculty and guides in our collaborative learning experience.