



COURSE INFORMATION

Course Title:

CHN207 Study of Chinese Culture

Semester:

January Session, 2020

CLASS HOURS: Monday through Friday, 180 minutes each day, for three weeks. At the end of each week there will be a one-hour discussion session; the instructor will also be available by appointment.

Discussion Section : 1 hour each week.

Field Trip: According to professors' teaching plan.

CREDITS(s): 3

OVERVIEW

The course is designed to introduce you to the distinctive elements of China, the preeminent civilization before the 19th century. It will consist largely in the reading and discussion of original texts drawn from this tradition, supplemented by selected writings by modern scholars of Asia. Its aim is to provide students new to the subject with an informed and balanced first impression of some of the fundamental components of Chinese tradition, and to do so in such a way as to demonstrate her differences from Western heritage while also noting their universal human value.

For the purpose of this course, I define “civilization” as: “the totality of a culture’s perception of itself and the world it occupies, and the ways in which that self-perception is expressed in society, politics, religion, philosophy, and the arts.” The content of the course is arranged in thematic units, each unit representing a significant aspect of Chinese civilization. While every unit is placed in the context of a specific historical period, the course is not simply a history survey. Rather, I will be posing a series of variations on the simple but profound question of just what it meant [and what it means] to be a Chinese human being. What definitions of humanity, of the universe, of humanity’s place in the universe, and of the value and perfection of human life have been provided by the Chinese tradition? How do these definitions differ from those formulated in other civilizations? How, despite their many and often quite startling “alien” characteristics, are these cultures and people nevertheless accessible to the understanding of those who were bred in other cultures with other values and other world views? Finally, and perhaps most important, what can we learn and appropriate from these cultures that may enrich our own lives? It is with such questions as these that we will be dealing in the course of what we hope will be a stimulating intellectual adventure beyond the boundaries of our inherited and conventional assumptions about the world and about the varieties of human kind.



Class Outdoor Activities : Visiting National Palace Museum and the Garden of Supreme Goodness and Virtue, Longshan Buddhist Temple, and Zhinan Taoist Temple, etc.

LEARNING OUTCOME

After successfully completing this course you should be able to:

1. Introduce you to the distinctive elements of Chinese civilization before the 19th century.
2. Obtain experience with reading and discussing original texts drawn from the Chinese tradition.
3. Distinguish between the Chinese and the Western civilizations and their unique heritages in humanity.

LEARNING RESOURCES

Suggested textbooks:

Title: China to 1850: A Short History

Author(s): Charles O Hucker

Publisher: Stanford University Press

Year Published: 1978

Title: Heritage of China: Contemporary Perspectives on Chinese Civilization

Author(s): Paul S. Ropp (ed)

Publisher: University of California Press

Year Published: 1990

Supplementary materials utilized during the class:

1. Ray Huang, China: A Macro History, M. E. Sharpe, 1988, revised with epilogue: Reflections on Tiananmen, 1990.
2. John King Fairbank, China: A New History, Harvard University Press, 1992.
3. Patricia Buckley Ebrey, ed., Chinese Civilization and Society: A Sourcebook, The Free Press, 1981.

Supplementary materials to be announced during the course.

Moodle Portal: <http://isee.scu.edu.tw>



WEEKLY SCHEDULE

Week	Day	Topic	Reading
1	1	Introduction to the Course.	Hucker: pp. 1-24; Ropp: pp. ix-xxi
	2	The Chinese View of Their Place in the World.	Ropp: pp. 1-14; Benjamin I. Schwartz, “The Chinese Perception of World Order, Past and Present” (write a 1-2 page summary and response)
	3	Geographical Regions and Unity Out of Diversity.	Film: “What the Ancients Knew: The Chinese” (Produced by Edgework Media for Science Channel, Discovery Channel, 2005) Film: “The Genius That Was China: Rise of the Dragon” Discussion: The Identity of Chineseness.
	4	Chinese Language and Writing System.	Sourcebook: pp. 1, 4-8.
	5	Chinese Calligraphy.	Ropp: pp. 263-293; Sourcebook: pp. 9-20.
2	1	Chinese Painting.	Slides, Sourcebook: pp.21-25. Film: “A City of Cathay”, “The Emperor’s Eyes: Art and Power in Imperial China, Ch’ien-lung Emperor”.
	2	Confucius and the Analects.	Hucker: pp. 334-54; Sourcebook: pp. 26-32; Ropp: 112-128.
	3	Man, Woman, and Society in Traditional China: Classical Confucianism.	
	4	Film: Confucius.	
	5	The First Emperor of China: Behind the Terracotta Army.	Film: The First



			Emperor of China”.
3	1	Man, Woman, and Nature in Traditional China: Taoism.	Sourcebook: pp. 33-52.
	2	Suffering, Liberation, and Compassion: Buddhism in China.	Hucker: pp. 55-76; Ropp: pp. 144-153; Sourcebook: pp. 53-61.
	3	Film: To Taste A Hundred Herbs: Traditional Chinese Medicine.	
	4	Film: “Silk: The Thread Connecting East and West”.	
	5	Final Exam (Papers due in class) .	

ASSESSMENT

Assessment Task	Score Percentage
Attendance and Participation	10%
Group presentation	20%
Two Essays	20%
Final Exam	50%
Total	100%

DETAILS ON GRADE COMPONENTS

Attendance and Participation: Students are required to attend all classes and participate actively. Students should treat their classroom obligations as they would treat any serious professional engagement. Your participation grade will be based on the instructor's assessment of how well you contribute to classroom dynamics relative to your class peers.

NB: In case of an absence, the student is responsible for the materials and assignments for that class; it is the student’s responsibility to inform the instructor regarding absences and assignments that are missed. **Unexcused absence from three or more scheduled class sessions will be grounds for failure in this course.** If you do have to miss class due to a personal emergency, please let the instructor know as soon as possible. Such emergencies will be dealt with on a case-by-case basis.

Participation grades will be based on **quality** (in-class performance that reflects intellectual depth, insightfulness, and contribution to class learning) and **quantity** (consistency and



regularity of performance).

Accordingly, **you are expected to read the related chapters before participating the class.** Be prepared to be called upon to “open” a class discussion by presenting your full analysis and thoughts on the assigned topic at the start of class, or to be asked through a "cold call" for comment during the discussion.

The grading of class participation is necessarily a subjective exercise. However, high-quality comments have one or more of the following characteristics: **(1) insightfulness, (2) appropriate application of course concepts, and (3) advancement of the in-class discussion at hand.**

Some specific criteria for evaluating discussion contributions are:

- Does the student demonstrate an eagerness to participate?
- Is the student a good listener? Does he/she build on others' comments?
- Is the student willing to interact with other class members?
- Are the points made relevant to the discussion? Are they linked to others' comments?
- Do comments demonstrate evidence of in-depth analysis of the case?
- Do comments add to our understanding of the situation?
- Do comments make a substantive contribution to the advancement of our analysis?
- Is there a willingness to test new ideas, or are the comments “safe?”
- Do comments show an understanding of concepts or analytical techniques properly applied to the current situation?
- Is the student presenting insightful quantitative analysis (when required)?
- Is the student demonstrating ethical considerations and insights?

The Essay Topics:

1. The essays are intended to stimulate your thinking about certain kinds of questions as the course progresses. The instructor will provide you with a list of topics for each essay three weeks before the essay is due; and you will have a chance to discuss the topics in class. You are asked to select one topic, and to write an original essay on it. The Sourcebook and textbooks should provide sufficient material for writing your essay. However, you are encouraged to discuss your topic further with instructor; and to make use of additional



readings that instructor recommend.

2. You may also choose to write a book report from the list of the recommended readings or any book of your choice with subject on China. A Guide to writing a book report will be handed out for reference.

Group Presentation:Form a team of 3 or 5, choose a theme you all connect with. Prepare and present in class. The assessment for this is will be based on the approaches the team tak,teamwork ,and quality of presentation .

Examinations:An in-class final examination will be administered at the end of the course. Details of content, exam format, etc. will be announced in class well before the examination dates.

Course Grading

Upon completion of this course, you receive a final grade. A final grade is a letter grade that carries with it a numerical value, as outlined below.

Grade	Mark
A	80-100
B	70-79
C	60-69
D	50-59
E	0-49

To pass this subject, students are required to obtain Grade C or above in order to satisfy all the intended learning outcomes.

Please Note:

All tests and essays must be completed to receive a passing grade in the course. Failure to complete midterm and final exam, and two term papers will mean failure of the course – regardless of the grade you earn. Note the dates of the tests carefully; if you skip a test, you risk failing the course. Your instructors take very seriously the College’s Code of Academic Integrity; in any case of cheating or plagiarism that is proven to our satisfaction, you may receive a failing grade for the course.

“Any student with a disability who needs an accommodation or other assistance in this course should make an appointment to speak with me as soon as possible.”



CLASSROOM ETHICS & COURSE POLICIES

Being respectful of others' opinions, values and culture

Cell phones are only permitted when the usage is related to the course. Absolutely **NO TEXTING** during class will be tolerated. If you have an emergency situation and you must be able to be reached, set the phone to vibrate and leave the room immediately when it goes off.

Any student with a documented disability needing academic adjustments or accommodations should notify the instructor or the program administrator before the start of the program, so such an arrangement will be made accordingly.

Any student who anticipates a schedule conflict because of religious reasons should make arrangements within two weeks of the start of class.

Academic misconduct

Please follow the guideline of the university policy. Academic dishonesty or misconduct will not be tolerated and may result in disciplinary action including a grade F for the course. Work submitted must be the original work of the student. Original work may include the words and ideas of others, but the source of these words and ideas must be indicated in a manner consistent with an academically recognized form, style, and citation manual. Resubmission of work previously presented in another course is prohibited.