Syllabus for CHT 3502—CHINESE CULTURE AND SOCIETY

Section: U01A (55766) | Time: Tuesdays + Online Sessions, Summer A 2014 | Room: DM193
Instructor: Dr. Shenggao Wang | Office: DM 488-B
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Office Hours: TBA

COURSE TEXTBOOKS

1. Contemporary China
   --An Introduction
   Author: Michael Dillon (2008)
   ISBN: 0415343194

2. The Cambridge Companion to Modern Chinese Culture
   Author: Kam Louie (2008)
   ISBN: 0521681901

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This is a hybrid course with alternation of face-to-face meetings and online sessions. The course is designed to provide information and knowledge about Chinese culture, religions, societal life, politics, and economic development. Six major themes and an overarching goal frame course activities. The major themes include: 1) Chinese achievement culture and behavior culture, including Chinese traditional festivals, traditional costumes, food, and eating & drinking culture; 2) Chinese religions (Confucianism, Taoism, Buddhism & other religions) and Chinese calligraphy; 3) socialism and social change (China’s mixture of socialism, communism & capitalism); 4) Chinese media & Internet in China; 5) ethnicity, identity and linguistic diversity in China; 5) education in China; and 6) Chinese government and politics. The overarching goal is to develop an understanding of those aspects of Chinese culture and society and how such an understanding can be applied to real life academic, professional (e.g. business, law, and medical sciences), religious and daily life situations.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

Students who do not have background in Chinese language will gain a basic understanding of contemporary China from different perspective and will deepen their understanding of the diversity of human experience by understanding Chinese culture and society from the
perspective of the Chinese worldview. Students who already have some background in Chinese language will improve their ability to interact with Chinese counterparts by gaining a more sophisticated understanding of the culture and society. For example, students will be able to identify key social figures, events, themes, and trends associated with China. Students will be able to use their newly developing understanding of Chinese culture and society to assess and analyze current events from different perspectives and will be able to articulate their views on these events in a manner that facilitates sustained interaction with people from China or with people in China. Course activities will enable students to develop an ability to assess what core social issues are important to Chinese people so that they can then engage in informed discussion of those topics with Chinese counterparts. Upon completion of the course, students will have formed a rudimentary understanding of Chinese culture and social development in contemporary China and how that development shapes contemporary Chinese society. Students will gain a knowledge base for analyzing current Chinese social affairs.

COURSE ASSIGNMENTS

a) On-line Quizzes

On-line quizzes will be conducted on a weekly basis. The quiz questions will be related to that week’s reading materials.

b) Current Events Journal

Each student will produce a Current Events Journal to tie the knowledge obtained from this course with the actual world. The purpose of this journal is to have students engage the issues related to China and apply their knowledge to analyze those issues. The Current Events Journal will consist of five journal entries. Each journal entry should be at least one page (single-spaced) and come from a legitimate news source. Please include the source of the article on your paper.

c) Reflection Paper

Students will write responses to the issues discussed in each class. The responses should reflect the student’s perspectives on the issues concerned about China. There will be six reflection papers altogether. Each paper is at least one-page and single-spaced long.

d) Final Exam

The final exam will be given in short answer and essay form. Each student is required to bring in “Exam Blue Book” the day of the test. Study guides will be provided prior to the exam. Students are encouraged to point out key elements within each question asked. The Study Guide will contain six short answer questions and five essay questions. On the day of the test, students will be asked to answer four short-answer questions and three essay questions. The questions will be at the discretion of the instructor.
COURSE GRADING DISTRIBUTION

Online Quizzes 20%
Current Events Journal 20%
Reflection Paper 20%
Final Exam 40%

**Extra credit opportunities may come up during the semester (Example: Lectures, seminars, or events pertaining to China)

GRADING CRITERIA

- All assignments must be completed ON TIME for full credit to be given.
- Late submissions of assignments will result in LOSING one letter grade for each.
- Final grades will be assigned using the following standard:

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<th>Grade</th>
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<tr>
<td>A+</td>
<td>100-97%</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>96-93%</td>
<td>A-</td>
<td>92-90%</td>
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<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>89-87%</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>86-83%</td>
<td>B-</td>
<td>82-80%</td>
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<td>C+</td>
<td>79-77%</td>
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<td>76-73%</td>
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<td>D+</td>
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<td>66-63%</td>
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CLASS POLICIES

➤ Attendance & Class Participation

It is essential for every student to attend classes in order to be successful. Class participation is also required and is necessary to achieve an “A” in this course. In a class learning community, everyone should be present to contribute their knowledge to this learning community so that everyone could learn from each other. Therefore, everyone is expected to be an active participant in all class discussions and class activities. The premise of active participation is to complete all required readings prior to attending each class. If coming to the class unprepared, the student will lose points.

Any excusable absences should be proved with appropriate documentation. However, if a student is continuously absent for four (4) times or accumulatively absent for six (6) times during the semester, no matter for what reasons, the student will have to withdraw from the class.
Otherwise, the student will fail the course. In addition, if a student arrives late or leaves early, it is disruptive to both the instructor and the other students as well. To prevent this from happening, the instructor will count ONE absence for every TWO late arrivals or early departures.

➢ Classroom Etiquette

In our increasingly technological world, the classroom is becoming more versatile and interactive. However, some technological advances pose a threat to the classroom environment and therefore special rules need to be applied to them. If you have a laptop and plan to bring it to class for any reason, you must be using the laptop ONLY for class room note-taking purpose or to help facilitate the class discussion. Using the laptop for other purposes is NOT allowed in the class. Using cell phones is also NOT allowed in the classroom. This would include text messaging, receiving phone calls, browsing internet, and gaming. Please SILENT all phones prior to entering the classroom.

In addition it will be appreciated if students refrain from eating and drinking during class.

➢ Plagiarism

Plagiarism is defined as “literally theft,” and will NOT be tolerated. Plagiarism, in forms some students may not be aware of may include:

1. A written work that is ENTIRELY copied and pasted from another source
2. Using quotations from source without proper citation
3. Paraphrasing from a source without proper citation

Students are expected to UNDERSTAND the definition of plagiarism. To view the University Code of Academic Integrity please visit http://www.fiu.edu/~oabp/misconductweb/2codeofacainteg.htm

When all else fails, ASK the instructor for help. If you are found guilty you could receive a failing grade for the course which in some cases leads to dismissal from the course and in severe cases from the university.

**IF A STUDENT IS CAUGHT PLAGIARIZING PUBLISHED OR UNPUBLISHED MATERIALS (INCLUDING THE WORK OF CLASSMATES OR FRIENDS) YOU WILL RECEIVE A ZERO (0) FOR THE ASSIGNMENT.

➢ Late Assignments

Late papers will be downgraded at the discretion of the instructor and is therefore, highly discouraged. Students will not be given an opportunity to make up in-class quizzes or exams. If the excuse for a missed class is due to an emergency (proved by the appropriate documentation), the instructor will make a decision on a case-by-case basis. If a student has to
go out of town for any reason, please notify the instructor in a written form before the trip. Do not tell the instructor after the fact and expect any make-up opportunities.

The instructor reserves the right to make any necessary changes to this syllabus with prior notice to the class.

RESOURCES

Official Chinese media in English:


South China Morning Post: [http://www.scmp.com/frontpage/international](http://www.scmp.com/frontpage/international)


# Tentative Class Schedule

## Week 1
### Introduction & China’s Economy

**T 5/13 On-campus**

Course orientation & basic information about China

- Obtain the textbooks
- Read the course syllabus and schedule
- Read Chapters 1-3 (Dillon)

**R 5/15 On-line**

China’s Reform and Opening-up policy & China’s economic achievements

- Read Chapters 5-7 (Dillon)
- Listen to the podcast and watch related videos
- Online Quiz #1
- Reflection Paper #1 & Current Event Journal #1

## Week 2
### Chinese Culture

**T 5/20 On-campus**

Overview of Chinese culture & Chinese achievement culture

- Read Chapters 1 & 4 (Louie)
- Read Chapter 13 (Dillon)

**R 5/22 On-line**

Chinese folk and behavior culture (Chinese traditional festivals, traditional costumes, food, and eating & drinking culture)

- Read Chapters 5-6, 13-15 (Louie)
- Listen to the podcast and watch related videos
- Online Quiz #2
- Reflection Paper #2 & Current Event Journal #2

## Week 3
### Chinese Religion & Chinese Calligraphy

**T 5/27 On-campus**

Confucianism, Taoism, Buddhism, & other religions

- Read Chapters 7 & 9 (Louie)
- Read Chapter 12 (Dillon)

**R 5/29 On-line**

Chinese Calligraphy

- Read online materials
- Watch related videos
- Online Quiz #3
- Reflection Paper #3 & Current Event Journal #3
## WEEK 4

### Chinese Society

**T 6/3**

**On-campus**

Socialism and social change

**Assignments**

- Read Chapter 8 (Dillon)
- Read Chapters 2 & 8 (Louie)

**R 6/5**

**On-line**

Chinese media & Internet in China

**Assignments**

- Read Chapter 11 (Dillon)
- Read Chapter 16 (Louie)
- Listen to the podcast and watch related videos
- Online Quiz #3
- Reflection Paper #4 & Current Event Journal #4

## WEEK 5

### Chinese Society (Cont’d)

**T 6/10**

**On-campus**

Ethnicity, identity and linguistic diversity

**Assignments**

- Read Chapter 10 (Louie) and
- Read supplementary materials

**R 6/12**

**On-line**

Education in China

**Assignments**

- Read Chapter 9 (Dillon)
- Online Quiz #4
- Reflection Paper #5 & Current Event Journal #5

## WEEK 6

### Chinese Government and Politics

**T 6/17**

**On-campus**

Chinese political system

**Assignments**

- Read Chapters 15 & 16 (Dillon)

**R 6/19**

**On-line**

Final review and preparation for the final exam

> The instructor reserves the right to make changes when necessary.