

University of International Business and Economics

Insights into Chinese Culture

Course Description

Following the main directions of research and interpretations on the studies of Chinese culture and society this course intends to provide an introduction to the Spirit of Chinese Culture. The topics will cover the scope of the Chinese society in historical, geographical and ethnic terms; the distinction between rural and urban society in China; the relationship of individual, group and society in Chinese culture; family as the core of Chinese society; the main structures of economic and political power in Chinese society; the restructuring of social power since the open-door policy; and the changing class structure and patterns of inequality in Chinese society. Students attending the course are encouraged to make comparative studies between different cultures and societies in fields he/she is interested in with a purpose of promoting understanding between different peoples in today's world. The aim of the course is a keener sensitivity to different cultural identities and a more understanding approach to cross-cultural affairs in this globalizing age.

Course Book

Lin, Yutang, My Country and My People, FLTRP

Spence Jonathan D., The Search for Modern China

Boye Lafayette De Mente, The Chinese Mind: Understanding Traditional Chinese Beliefs and their Influence on Contemporary Culture, Tuttle Publishing, 2009

Web-sites

There are many useful Internet web-sites with information on China. The following are just some to provide access to a wide range of detailed home pages:

<http://www.chineseculture.about.com/culture/chineseculture>

<http://acc6.its.brooklyn.cuny.edu/~phalsall/images.html>

<http://www.interculturalrelations.com/>

<http://www.library.wvu.edu/ref/subjects/anthro/cultural.htm>

Course Schedule

Week 1	Introduction to the Course
Week 2	The scope of the Chinese society in historical, geographical and ethnic terms
Week 3	The distinction between rural and urban society in China
Week 4-5	The relationship of individual, group and society in Chinese culture
Week 6	Family, the core of Chinese society

Week 7-8	The main structures of economic and political power in Chinese society
Week 9-10	The restructuring of social power
Week 11-12	The changing class structure and patterns of inequality in Chinese society and students' presentations
Week 13	Students' presentations

Course Requirements

1. Participation (10%)
2. Insightful input in class discussions. (20%)
3. Research and presentation to the class. (70%)

<The final presentation will be prepared and presented in pairs or small groups. Consult the instructor about your topic and get yourself prepared.)

Grading Scale

The work of students is evaluated and reported in terms of the following scoring scale:

A= 92-100	A ⁻ =89-91	B ⁺ = 85-88	B=81-84	B ⁻ =77-80;
C ⁺ = 73-76	C=70-72	C ⁻ = 60-69	F=failure (below 60)	