

Contemporary China

102 Building 6
13:30-16:00, Monday

Instructor: Prof. Zhunmin Chen

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Office hours: by appointment

I. Course Description

- 1) As a foundation course for China related studies, the course is designed to help international students better understand the most essential components of contemporary China. It covers major issues in the demography, politics, economy, national defense, foreign relations, legal system, social policies, education, ethnic policies, religions and other related areas of China.
- 2) While the emphasis is on the contemporary issues, how China's future might look like will also be discussed.
- 3) The course consists of lectures, discussions, field trip, student team presentations and other activities designed to enhance student learning experience.
- 4) To make the class more interactive and better satisfy student interest in particular issues about China, discussions will be held on topics suggested by students.

II. Course Objectives

After taking this course, the students should be able to:

- 1) have a better understand of contemporary China as a whole;
- 2) learn about the most essential components of contemporary China;
- 3) appreciate the similarities and differences between China and student home countries in the issues covered in class;
- 4) do research on issues related with contemporary China.

In order to reach the above objectives, students should:

- 1) attend the classes;
- 2) read the handouts and other materials recommended by the instructor;
- 3) follow major issues in contemporary China;
- 4) participate in class discussion;
- 5) do research on related issues in teams and present the results to the class;
- 6) write a term paper focusing on one of the issues discussed in class.

III. Course materials

- 1) Handouts, to be sent via email and WeChat from the instructor;
- 2) *Charting China's Future*, edited by David Shambaugh (Routhledge, 2011)
- 3) Additional readings: *China Daily*, *South China Morning Post*, *LA Times*

4) Student Evaluation

Students are evaluated on their attendance, involvement in class discussion, the quality of the presentation and the term paper. The final grade is calculated as follows:

- 1) attendance 10%
- 2) class discussion 30%
- 3) term paper (individual work) 30%
Text: font: times new roman 12, single-spaced
3-5 pages long, cover and references excluded
- 4) presentation (as a team) 30%

Below is the scoring scale for course grade:

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)	

5) Academic Integrity

Students must uphold academic integrity by refraining from plagiarism, fabrication or cheating on assignments or term papers. Failure to do so may lead to suspension or disqualification from further study at the University of International Business and Economics.

6) Class Schedule

Week 1	Introduction to the course; Demography of China
Week 2	Political System
Week 3	Economy
Week 4	Foreign Relations
Week 5	Legal System
Week 6	Education
Week 7	Field Trip
Week 8	Religion
Week 9	Ethnic Groups
Week 10	National Defense
Week 11	Discussion on Student-suggested Topics
Week 12	Discussion on Student-suggested Topics
Week 13	Student Presentations