

University of International Business and Economics

Understanding Chinese Characteristics

Course Description

This course intends to suggest an intellectual method to understand and deal with a few important concepts in the deep-seated and most cherished values in Chinese culture. The concepts selected are: respect for the individual person; human rights; freedom; equality; democracy; and the universal respect of law, which are based on the socio-political definition of modernity. Students are encouraged to make comparative studies for a better understanding of the nuances of their meanings in different cultures. In a world that is deeply interconnected technologically, economically and is often interactive politically the understanding of and respecting for different cultural identities is of great value. We aim at 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	Introduction into Chinese Culture
Week 3	Respect for the Individual Person and Individualism
Week 4-5	Human Rights and Individual Rights
Week 6-7	Freedom from Want and Freedom of Choice
Week 8-9	Equality and Respect for Differences
Week 10-11	Democracy and the Democratic Process
Week 12-13	Law and Order

	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
SEP.					16 (W 1)		
							25 (W 2)
					30 (W 3)		
OCT.					14 (W 4)		
					21 (W 5)		
					28 (W 6)		
NOV					4 (W 7)		
.					11 (W 8)		
					18 (W 9)		
					25 (W10)		
DEC					2 (W11)		
					9 (W12)		
					16 (W13)		

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)