



CIEE Nanjing, China

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| Course title: | Contemporary Chinese Studies |
| Course code: | EAST 3001 NACH |
| Programs offering course: | Summer Chinese Studies, Intensive Chinese Language and Culture |
| Language of instruction: | English |
| U.S. semester credits: | 3 |
| Contact hours: | 45 |
| Term: | Fall 2020 |

Course Description

The chief objective of this course is to engage students in meaningful, inquiry-based explorations of contemporary China. The course is intentionally designed to offer students an opportunity to deepen their understandings of the relationship between state-initiated reforms and Chinese lives in a way that only students living and studying in Nanjing can: through engaging with Chinese in their host city and University and following the latest sociopolitical and cultural events in China. The course is structured to support students in successfully designing, researching and producing a final project that will deepen each student's understanding of the complex ways in which specific aspects of the reform agenda and resulting development have affected the lives of identifiable sub-populations of people living in China. Students are expected to identify their projects early in the course and then utilize the series of course assignments, field trips, films and readings to enrich their understanding of the cultural and historical context that frames their chosen topics. Discussions, presentations and collaborations are critical instructional methods of this course, as students will be expected to draw connections between their own inquiries and evolving understandings and those of their peers.

Learning Objectives

By completing this course, students will:

- seek and appreciate the complex, multi-causal origins of China's present economic, social, cultural and political worlds.
- Articulate and contextualize specific ways in which the reform agenda and development have impacted the lives of those living in Nanjing. Appreciate the complex ways in which Chinese resist, accommodate, stimulate and even shape the party-state's reform agenda.
- Appreciate the monumental changes in Chinese lives in the course of one, two and three generations.
- Conceptualize and carry out an inquiry-based final project that includes research and analysis of a specific topic of interest to the student concerning the relationship between state and society in present-day China.
- Appreciate and distinguish different genres of academic, political, artistic and cultural production as tools for cultural and historical understanding.
- Organize and present one's original photos and research in interesting and meaningful ways.
- Contextualize and deepen the analysis of one's own research topic by active and collaborative engagement in discussions and presentations of one's peers' inquiry-based projects.

Course Prerequisites

None

Methods of Instruction



Active engagement in specific cultural and social settings in Nanjing using direct and participant observation; photography and visual presentations; lectures with PowerPoint, small and large group discussions, in-class document and film analysis; fieldtrips with accompanying assignments; student presentations; peer feedback and peer reviews of presentations and projects.

Assessment and Final Grade

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| 1. | Presentations | 15% |
| 2. | Observation paper | 10% |
| 3. | Interview paper | 15% |
| 4. | Final Essay | 25% |
| 5. | Final Examination | 25% |
| 6. | Class Participation | 10% |
| | TOTAL | 100% |

Course Requirements

Presentations

Students are expected to read all assigned materials before coming to class. In each class the instructor will choose several students by random to give separate presentations on their readings—each one should focus on one or two articles, summarizing their main points and asking questions for further discussions. Each student may have more than one chance to give such presentations throughout the semester.

Observation paper

Students are encouraged to take a walk around Nanjing and other areas, and to take pictures and notes of anything they find interesting or confusing. Everyone will have a chance to share his/her findings in class. You also need to choose one thing that impresses you the most as the topic of your research project.

Interview paper

After choosing a topic, interview several Chinese people to find out how they think of the subjects you are interested in. Compare their viewpoints and bring more questions for further research.

Final Essay

Collect more data and information on the problems of your research. Explore the topic in a broad framework and analyze how these problems reveal the characteristics of contemporary China. Write an essay based on your observation, interview and analysis. The final essay should be 10-15 pages, double-spaced, 12-point font, Times New Roman, Chicago Manual Style, with a bibliography.

Final Examination

Class Participation

You are expected to be an active learner in this course, along with the Instructor and your fellow classmates. Informed discussion is an important instructional method in this class and you are



expected to have completed the course readings by the first class meeting of the week to be fully prepared for both lecture and discussions. Your participation grade will include your active engagement in class discussions, constructive peer feedback on presentations, preparation of any discussion questions Professor Liu distributes prior to class meetings, and active engagement in all in-class exercises and field trips.

Academic integrity: You may only submit your own work (either visual or written) for credit, and must use social science or historical citation methods when utilizing the research, data, language or ideas of others. Failure to cite the work of others is considered plagiarism and will result in failure of the assignment and may result in failure of the course. If you are working collaboratively on your final projects you must meet as a group with Professor Liu to discuss how you will be differentiating your research, writing and final production and will be graded accordingly. Any violation of your home institution's policies for academic integrity will result in a failing grade and notification of the violation to your home institution. If you are confused about when and how to cite sources, please see Professor Liu. For proper historical citations please consult the Chicago Manual of Style online citation guide at: http://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools_citationguide.html

Late assignments: All assignments must be completed in order to receive a passing grade in the course. No course work (except for the final project) will be accepted after the last day of class. No final projects will be accepted after the due date as specified on the syllabus. Late papers will be marked down 5% after the first day and 1% every day afterwards.

Attendance

Weekly Schedule

Week 1

Class Introduction

Readings:

Howard W. French, "China's Quest to End Its Century of Shame"

Week 2

Class Education

Readings:

Keju (Civil Service Examinations), the road to Gaokao (College Entrance Examination), overseas Chinese students

Javier C. Hernández, "Study Finds Chinese Students Excel in Critical Thinking. Until College."

Li Yuan, "A Generation Grows Up in China Without Google, Facebook or Twitter"

T.K.Chu, "150 Years of Chinese Students in America"



Helen Gao, "Chinese, Studying in America, and Struggling"

Field Trip: City Planning Museum (date subjected to change)

Week 3

Class

Family

Content: One-Child Policy, Second-Child Policy, Aging problem, labor shortage, marriage

Readings:

Brook Larmer, "The Long Shadow of China's One-Child Policy"

Steven Lee Myers and Olivia Mitchell Ryan, "Burying 'One Child' Limits, China Pushes Women to Have More Babies"

Leta Hong Fincher, "China Dropped Its One-Child Policy. So Why Aren't Chinese Women Having More Babies?"

Javier C. Hernández and Amy Qin, "End of China's One-Child Policy Stings Its 'Loneliest Generation'"

Observation paper 1

Week 4

Class

Health and Safety

Content: Food safety, medical care system, environmental pollutions

Readings:

Edward Wong, "Milk Scandal Pushes China to Set Limits on Melamine"

Chris Buckley, "Rat Meat Sold as Lamb Highlights Fear in China"

Tiffany May, "In China, Salmon is Salmon, Even if It's Trout"

Javier C. Hernández, "In China, Vaccine Scandal Infuriates Parents and Tests Government"

Chris Buckley, "China's Vaccine Scandal Threatens Public Faith in Immunizations"

Austin Ramzy, "China Investigates Baidu After Student's Death From Cancer"

Emily Baumgaertner, "China Has Withheld Samples of a Dangerous Flu Virus"

Chris Buckley and Karoline Kan, "Beijing Kindergarten Is Accused of Abuse, and Internet Erupts in Fury"

Yanzhong Huang, "Why China's Good Environmental Policies Have Gone Wrong"

Chris Buckley and Vanessa Piao, "Rural Water, Not City Smog, May Be China's Pollution Nightmare"

Observation paper 2

Week 5

Class

The Youth

Content: post-90s generation, depression problem, young suicide, fangnu (mortgage slaves)

Readings:

Li Yuan, "China's Consumption Downgrade: Skip Avocados, Cocktails and Kids"

Mike Ives and Zoe Mou, "China's Introverts Find a Kindred Spirit: A Stick Figure From Finland"

Jianan Qian, "The Bitter Regrets of a Useless Chinese Daughter"

Sui-Lee Wee, "Their Son Vanished in Central China. Times Journalists Joined the Search"

Guest Lecture: China Economic and Business Relations (date subjected to change)

Week 6

Class

Gender

Content: gay, sexism, MeToo in China

Readings:

Javier C. Hernández and Zoe Mou, "I Am Gay, Not a Pervert': Furor in China as Sina Weibo Bans Gay Content"

Lijia Zhang, "Chinese Tech Companies' Dirty Secret"

Sui-Lee Wee, "Wanted at Chinese Start-Ups: Attractive Women to Ease Coders' Stress"

Javier C. Hernández, "China's #MeToo: How a 20-Year-Old Rape Case Became a Rallying Cry"

Javier C. Hernández and Iris Zhao, "Students Defiant as Chinese University Warns #MeToo Activist"

Li Yuan, "Customers Died. Will That Be a Wake-Up Call for China's Tech Scene?"



Javier C. Hernández “Chinese Spiritual Leader Is Accused of Harassing Female Followers”

Javier C. Hernández and Zoe Mou, “‘Me Too,’ Chinese Women Say. Not So Fast, Say the Censors”

Audrey Jiajia Li, “The Price of Saying ‘Me Too’ in China”

Observation paper 3

Week 7

Class

Politics I

Content: one party system, CCP, Maoism, nationalism, ideological indoctrination

Readings:

Chris Buckley, “China Gives Communist Party More Control Over Policy and Media”

Javier C. Hernández, “Mao 101: Inside a Chinese Classroom Training the Communists of Tomorrow”

Chris Buckley, “On This Chinese TV Show, Participants Have Nothing to Lose but Their Chains”

Stephanie Saul, “On Campuses Far From China, Still Under Beijing’s Watchful Eye”

Xiuzhong Xu, “Chinese Nationalism Jostles With Academic Freedom in Australia”

Mike Ives, “Chinese Student in Maryland Is Criticized at Home for Praising U.S. ”

Woyu Liu, “Anti-Colonialism and Modern History Education in China”

Interview paper 1

Field Trip: Massacre Museum and Brocade Museum (date subjected to change)

Week 8

Class

Excursion to the Silk Road

no class

Week 9

Class

Politics II

Content: Internet censorship, cult of personality, information control



Readings:

Chris Buckley, "Xi Jinping Thought Explained: A New Ideology for a New Era"

Chris Buckley, "How Xi Jinping Made His Power Grab: With Stealth, Speed and Guile"

Steven Lee Myers and Amy Cheng, "68 Things You Cannot Say on China's Internet"

Tiffany May and Olivia Mitchell Ryan, "After John Oliver's Jokes About Xi Jinping, China Blocks HBO Website"

Javier C. Hernández, "China's Censors Ban Winnie the Pooh and the Letter 'N' After Xi's Power Grab"

Raymond Zhong and Paul Mozur, "Tech Giants Feel the Squeeze as Xi Jinping Tightens His Grip"

Christina Larson, "Who Needs Democracy when You Have Data?"

Paul Mozur, "Inside China's Dystopian Dreams: A.I., Shame and Lots of Cameras"

Farhad Manjoo, "Google Tried to Change China. China May End Up Changing Google."

Interview paper 2

Week 10

Class

Human Rights I

Content: Tibet, Xinjiang, border disputes

Readings:

Chris Buckley, "A Tibetan Tried to Save His Language. China Handed Him 5 Years in Prison."

Nick Cumming-Bruce, "U.N. Panel Confronts China Over Reports That It Holds a Million Uighur's in Camps"

Rian Thum, "What Really Happens in China's 'Re-education' Camps"

Austin Ramzy and Edward Wong, "China Forces Out BuzzFeed Journalist"

Steven Lee Myers, "China Won't Let Liu Xiaobo, Nobel Laureate, Get Cancer Treatment Abroad"

Interview paper 3

Week 11

Class

Human Rights II

Content: migrant workers, workers' union, rural poverty

Readings:

Harvey Thomlinson, "China's Communist Party Is Abandoning Workers"

Reuters, "Student Activists Disappear in Southern China After Police Raid"

Javier C. Hernández, "'Frost Boy' in China Warms Up the Internet, and Stirs Poverty Debate"

Javier C. Hernández and Iris Zhao, "One Target in Beijing's Migrant Crackdown: Schoolchildren"

Javier C. Hernández, "Mother's Killing of Children in Rural China Spurs Debate About Inequality"

Week 12

Class

International Relations

Content: Belt and Road, trade war, Confucius Institute

Readings:

Brook Larmer. "Is China the World's New Colonial Power?"

James A. Millward, "Is China a Colonial Power?"

Alexandra Stevenson and Cao Li, "China's Plan to Win Friends and Influence Includes Ski Slopes and Spas"

Didi Kirsten Tatlow, "University of Chicago's Relations With Confucius Institute Sour"

Andrew Jacobs and Jess Macy Yu, "Another U.S. University Severs Ties to Confucius Institute"

Guest Lecture: China Politics and International Relations (date subjected to change)

Week 14

Class

China Dream?

Content: new Constitution, China dream

Readings:

Edward Wong, "A Chinese Empire Reborn"

Ian Johnson, "Xi Jinping and China's New Era of Glory"



The NYT Editorial Board, "Xi Jinping Dreams of World Power for Himself and China"

Roderick MacFarquhar, "How Mao Molded Communism to Create a New China"

Class Final Project

Course Materials

Readings

Baumgaertner, Emily, "China Has Withheld Samples of a Dangerous Flu Virus"

Buckley, Chris, "Xi Jinping Thought Explained: A New Ideology for a New Era"

————— "How Xi Jinping Made His Power Grab: With Stealth, Speed and Guile"

————— "Rat Meat Sold as Lamb Highlights Fear in China"

————— "China's Vaccine Scandal Threatens Public Faith in Immunizations"

————— "China Gives Communist Party More Control Over Policy and Media"

————— "On This Chinese TV Show, Participants Have Nothing to Lose but Their Chains"

————— "A Tibetan Tried to Save His Language. China Handed Him 5 Years in Prison."

Buckley, Chris and Kan, Karoline, "Beijing Kindergarten Is Accused of Abuse, and Internet Erupts in Fury"

Buckley, Chris and Piao, Vanessa, "Rural Water, Not City Smog, May Be China's Pollution Nightmare"

Chu, T.K., "150 Years of Chinese Students in America"

Fincher, Leta Hong, "China Dropped Its One-Child Policy. So Why Aren't Chinese Women Having More Babies?"

Cumming-Bruce, Nick, "U.N. Panel Confronts China Over Reports That It Holds a Million Uighur's in Camps"

French, Howard W., "China's Quest to End Its Century of Shame"

Gao, Helen, "Chinese, Studying in America, and Struggling"

Hernández, Javier C., "Study Finds Chinese Students Excel in Critical Thinking. Until College."

————— "China's Censors Ban Winnie the Pooh and the Letter 'N' After Xi's Power Grab"

————— "In China, Vaccine Scandal Infuriates Parents and Tests Government"

————— "China's #MeToo: How a 20-Year-Old Rape Case Became a Rallying Cry"

_____ “Chinese Spiritual Leader Is Accused of Harassing Female Followers”

_____ “Mao 101: Inside a Chinese Classroom Training the Communists of Tomorrow”

Hernández, Javier C. and Qin, Amy, “End of China’s One-Child Policy Stings Its ‘Loneliest Generation”

Hernández, Javier C. and Zhao, Iris, “Students Defiant as Chinese University Warns #MeToo Activist”

Hernández, Javier C. and Zoe Mou, “‘I Am Gay, Not a Pervert’: Furor in China as Sina Weibo Bans Gay Content”

_____ “‘Me Too,’ Chinese Women Say. Not So Fast, Say the Censors”

Huang, Yanzhong, “Why China’s Good Environmental Policies Have Gone Wrong”

Ives, Mike, “Chinese Student in Maryland Is Criticized at Home for Praising U.S. ”

Ives, Mike Ives and Mou, Zoe, “China’s Introverts Find a Kindred Spirit: A Stick Figure From Finland”

Jacobs, Andrew and Yu, Jess Macy, “Another U.S. University Severs Ties to Confucius Institute”

Johnson, Ian, “Xi Jinping and China’s New Era of Glory”

Larmer, Brook, “The Long Shadow of China’s One-Child Policy”

_____ “Is China the World’s New Colonial Power?”

Larson, Christina, “Who Needs Democracy when You Have Data?”

Li, Audrey Jiajia, “The Price of Saying ‘Me Too’ in China”

Liu, Woyu, “Anti-Colonialism and Modern History Education in China”

Manjoo, Farad, “Google Tried to Change China. China May End Up Changing Google.”

MacFarquhar, Roderick “How Mao Molded Communism to Create a New China”

May, Tiffany, “In China, Salmon is Salmon, Even if It’s Trout”

May, Tiffany and Ryan, Olivia Mitchell, “After John Oliver’s Jokes About Xi Jinping, China Blocks HBO Website”

Millward, James A. , “Is China a Colonial Power?”

Mozur, Paul, “Inside China’s Dystopian Dreams: A.I., Shame and Lots of Cameras”

Myers, Steven Lee, “China Won’t Let Liu Xiaobo, Nobel Laureate, Get Cancer Treatment Abroad”

Myers, Steven Lee and Ryan, Olivia Mitchell, “Burying ‘One Child’ Limits, China Pushes Women to Have More Babies”



Myers, Steven Lee and Cheng, Amy, "68 Things You Cannot Say on China's Internet"

NYT Editorial Board, "Xi Jinping Dreams of World Power for Himself and China"

Qian, Jianan, "The Bitter Regrets of a Useless Chinese Daughter"

Ramzy, Austin, "China Investigates Baidu After Student's Death From Cancer"

Ramzy, Austin and Wong, Edward, "China Forces Out BuzzFeed Journalist"

Saul, Stephanie, "On Campuses Far From China, Still Under Beijing's Watchful Eye"

Stevenson, Alexandra and Li, Cao, "China's Plan to Win Friends and Influence Includes Ski Slopes and Spas"

Tatlow, Didi Kirsten, "University of Chicago's Relations With Confucius Institute Sour"

Thum, Rian, "What Really Happens in China's 'Re-education' Camps"

Wee, Sui-Lee, "Their Son Vanished in Central China. Times Journalists Joined the Search"

————— "Wanted at Chinese Start-Ups: Attractive Women to Ease Coders' Stress"

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Zhang, Lijia, "Chinese Tech Companies' Dirty Secret"

Zhong, Raymond and Mozur, Paul, "Tech Giants Feel the Squeeze as Xi Jinping Tightens His Grip"