



Survey of China

Course Teacher: WANG Huan
Students: SEM students
Inside Class Credit Hours: 34
Prerequisite: None

Language: English
Number of students : ≤ 55
Extracurricular class hours: 0
Credit: 2

1. Profile and Contact way of the Teacher

WANG, HUAN is M.A., lecturer, faculty member of Department of English Education, School of Foreign Languages, Tongji University. She has been giving language and culture courses to undergraduate and postgraduate students at Tongji since 2003, including College English, English Debating, Intercultural Communication and Survey of China. She is the co-author of five kinds of textbooks for college students in these areas.

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2. Course Description

This course is to present a brief yet systematic account of Chinese culture in both historical and contemporary contexts. Originally, the course as a compulsory course for all exchange students at Tongji University has been intended as a facilitator to their cultural adaptation living on or off the campus in the city of Shanghai. Now, with the physical barrier caused by an unprecedented pandemic, the course, still compulsory for exchange students, is meaningful to give students a perspective to learn about some Chinese stories told by the Chinese people, intellectually and critically, so that the students will be given a chance to understand what China has been like, is like, and may be like in the near future. Hopefully, students' soft power such as intercultural competence and leadership skills in a globalized context, can be enhanced after they have taken and learned from this course.

To begin with, basic facts about its geographical conditions, historical periods and major philosophical schools and religions are introduced. It then goes on further to cover some major areas of Chinese people's social life that are relevant to a general understanding of the cultural environment in China: education, sports, science and technology. Chinese cuisine, traditional festivals, arts, literature, fashion and architecture are also covered so that students can have a 3-dimensional understanding of the cultural life of Chinese people and the implications of the cultural



values to their study in business and management.

3. Course Objectives and Requirements

1. Course Objectives: On completing the course, students are supposed to get an overview of Chinese culture, familiar with some of the specific cultural traditions, and comfortable to apply what they learn from the course to their personal life, to develop some facility to communicate with people of Chinese cultural background, and to digest facts and opinions related with Chinese culture in general.

2. Requirements: Students are expected to study the MOOC chapters assigned weekly, get prepared for online webinars if their time zone allows or watch recorded webinars if they cannot attend them, join online discussions, finish and submit in-class and after-class assignments as expected.

4. Course Arrangement

Sessions	Credit hours	Contents
1.	2 45-minute periods	Course orientation and a general overview
2.	2 45-minute periods	MOOC study: introduction and pre-course study notes
3.	2 45-minute periods	MOOC study: Chapter 0 Overview of China
4.	2 45-minute periods	MOOC study: Chapter 7 Traditional Festivals
5.	2 45-minute periods	Online research: Nontraditional holidays and festivals
6.	2 45-minute periods	MOOC study: Chapter 8 Culinary culture
7.	2 45-minute periods	MOOC study: Chapter 1 Philosophy and Religions
8.	2 45-minute periods	MOOC study: Chapter 4 Chinese Education
9.	2 45-minute periods	MOOC study: Chapter 6 Sports
10.	2 45-minute periods	MOOC study: Chapter 5 Science and Technology
11.	2 45-minute periods	MOOC study: Chapter 9 Costumes and Adornment
12.	2 45-minute periods	MOOC study: Chapter 3 Chinese Arts
13.	2 45-minute periods	MOOC study: Chapter 2 Literature



14.	2 45-minute periods	MOOC study: Chapter 10 Architecture
15.	2 45-minute periods	MOOC study: Chapter 11 Travel in China
16.	2 45-minute periods	Revision
17.	2 45-minute periods	Final Exam

5. Teaching Methods

Weekly autonomous MOOC learning (A Glimpse of Chinese Culture on Umooocs.cn), students presentations in the format of a video and a final open-book exam.

6. Learning Outcomes Expected

Category	Learning Outcomes
Mastery of Knowledge	An overall understanding of Chinese culture from the chosen aspects.
Intellectual abilities learned	Use different theories and approaches to analyze Chinese culture critically, and make an informed judgment of its traditions, common practices and beliefs.
Practical skills learned	Have some cultural, historical or philosophical explanations for what's going on in China.
Personal competences and characters Cultivated	Be a more open-minded and well-adapted cross-cultural communicator

7. Performance Evaluation: Means & Ratio

Evaluation Means	Ratio (%)	Link with learning outcomes expected
Autonomous study on MOOC platform	30	Students will watch the video lectures from the MOOC A Glimpse of Chinese culture (https://umooocs.unipus.cn/my/course/1283), and do the homework assignments on the platform.
Groupwork	30	Students will work in groups to deliver a video presentation on one of the cultural topics in one of the weeks, and respond to



		related questions from the teacher and fellow students.
General involvement	10	Students who are actively involved, responsive and contributive with original and critical ideas are appreciated.
Final Exam	30	Students will be given an open-book exam on the factual knowledge they have been exposed to throughout the whole semester. (70 points to be standard test questions and 30 points to be short essay questions asking them to share their own reflections on some of the questions related to the cultural topics covered in the course.

8. Textbook , References and Reading Materials

1. Liao Huaying, A Glimpse of Chinese Culture, Foreign Language Teaching and Research Press, 2015
2. J. A. G. Roberts. A Concise History of China. Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1999.
3. Patrica Buckley Ebrey. The Cambridge Illustrated History of China. Cambridge, New York and Melbourne: Cambridge University Press, 1996.
4. Fung Yulan. A Short History of Chinese Philosophy. Tianjin: Tianjin Academy of Social Sciences Press, 2008.
5. Mente, Boye De. The Chinese Have a Word for it: The Complete Guide to Chinese Thought and Culture. McGraw-Hill Professional, 2000.
6. Zheng enbo, Zhengqiulei. Chinese Literature. Beijing: Culture and Art Publishing House, 1999.
7. Xiao Mo. Chinese Architecture. Beijing: Culture and Art Publishing House, 1999.
8. Deng Fuxing, Huang Lan. Chinese Fine Arts. Beijing: Culture and Art Publishing House, 1999.
9. Zhang Yihe. Chinese Theatre. Beijing: Culture and Art Publishing House, 1999.
10. Kong, FoongLing. The Food of Asia. Tuttle Publishing, 2002.

9. Assignment Requirements

The criteria of presentation evaluation (100 points)

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|--------------------------------------|-----------|
| 1) In-depth research and analysis | 30 points |
| 2) Originality of ideas and opinions | 30 points |
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| 3) All points of view well-structured | 25 points |
| 4) Effective visual presentation | 15 points |

Accessories:

1. PowerPoint slides from the lecturer.
2. Additional reading materials related to the course content.
3. Films, documentaries and video links related to the on-going discussions in the course.

All course files will be retrievable from the website for international students at SEM:

<http://semhr.tongji.edu.cn/sema/student>