



## East China Normal University, Shanghai, China

**Course Name:** Chinese Civilization: An Introduction

**Language of Instruction:** English

### **Course Description**

This is an introductory course to multiple sociocultural aspects of China as an old civilized country undergoing a critical economic and political transition. With the understanding that contemporary Chinese sociocultural issues might be better interpreted and comprehended in the background of China's abundant but complicated tradition, the course mainly covers two parts: the part of tradition and the part of modernity, and tries to build a link between the two through comparison and connection. It starts from a general introduction to some basics of China, with a highlight on the brief depiction of China's history, and is followed by the elaborations on several important topics of China's tradition and culture. In the part of modernity, it focuses on China's political structure and its main function, and a series of social, economic and environmental issues of concern in the process of China's urbanization, with both general discussion and specific case study.

The course is aimed to present a diversified vision about China's development, selectively raising some key topics concerning China's change in both ideological and material spheres, in the hope of helping students acquire some basic understanding about China and develop some fields to their own interest. Students are required to bring one or two questions about the analyzed topics of China into the class discussion. The Lecture-Discussion method is applied to provide a better understanding of Chinese people and society.

### **Course Hours:**

56 course hours. One course hour equals to 45 mins.

### **Recommended Textbook:**

- Sun Xiaoyu. 2009. A Chinese History Reader, Cengage Learning Asia

[http://www.amazon.com/Chinese-History-Reader-Sun-Xiaoyu/dp/9814281700/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1406781196&sr=8-1&keywords=A+Chinese+History+Reader](http://www.amazon.com/Chinese-History-Reader-Sun-Xiaoyu/dp/9814281700/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1406781196&sr=8-1&keywords=A+Chinese+History+Reader)

### **Course Requirements and Grading**

All required work must be completed to pass the course. Your final grade will be calculated as follows:

Attendance: 20%

Participation (group discussion and class presentation included): 30%

Final research paper: 50%

### ***Attendance Policy***

- Students are required to get permission from the ECNU-ISO Office and your instructor.
- late or leave early consistently without the permission is a absent
- For each unexcused absence you will be deducted 1 point from your final grade.
- Absences over one third of the semester for one course, no matter what reasons you have (sickness, travel, etc.), will result in failing that course;
- On days that you are sick, you are required to come to the ECNU-ISO office and pick up a slip noting your absence.

### ***Academic Integrity Policies***

- Plagiarism, cheating, fabricating, facilitating academic dishonesty, and other behaviors will not be tolerated and will result falling of the assignment
- Sanctions could include: written warning, deducting or falling grades, expulsion from the program, and letter of reprimand to students' origin institutions.

### ***Participation***

Participation of each member of the class is of utmost importance to the success of the course, and will constitute a part of your final grade. Unexcused and unexplained absence will have a negative influence on your final grade.

It is essential that you participate actively in class discussion. Each of you should bring to class one or two intelligent question(s) or comment(s) to facilitate class discussion.

Each member of the class is expected to finish a 15-min long presentation on China in this semester.

### ***Essay***

An essay is due in class in week 15. Students may choose any topic related to the course's main content. The paper should be around 3,000 words in length, typed in 12-point font Arial and double-spaced. The final version of the paper should be well written and edited. Only Hard-Copy Accepted, No Late Paper Accepted.

### **Weekly Schedule**

#### **Week One Orientation**

No class

#### **Week Two**

China in brief I: core concepts of China

#### **Week Three**

China in brief II

Chinese Cultural History I:

Ancient history of China: from the rise of Chinese civilization to the medieval age of China (I)  
The Mythical and Legendary Times

#### **Week Four**

Chinese Cultural History I:

Ancient history of China: from the rise of Chinese civilization to the medieval age of China (II)  
Pre-Qin times: Chinese characters and the Three Perfections  
Early Chinese religions and philosophical Schools (I)

#### **Week Five**

Chinese Cultural History I:

Ancient history of China: from the rise of Chinese civilization to the medieval age of China (III)  
Pre-Qin times: Early Chinese religions and philosophical Schools (II)

#### **Week Six**

Chinese Cultural History I:

Ancient history of China: from the rise of Chinese civilization to the medieval age of China (IV)  
Qin & Han times: Filial Piety and Wuxing

#### **Week Seven**

Chinese Cultural History I:

Ancient history of China: from the rise of Chinese civilization to the medieval age of China (V)  
Wei & Jin times: Neo-Daosim and arrival of Buddhism

#### **Week Eight**

Field trip I: Shanghai Museum & Confucius Temple downtown

#### **Week Nine**

Chinese Cultural History II:

The zenith of Chinese civilization: from the medieval age to Qing Dynasty(I)  
Sui & Tang times: the Silk Road and Tang Poems

#### **Week Ten**

Chinese Cultural History II:

The zenith of Chinese civilization: from the medieval age to Qing Dynasty(II)  
Song times: the Chinese Landscape Paintings and Neo-Confucianism

#### **Week Eleven**

(topic 1) Nature within Walls: Chinese classical garden culture  
Or (topic 2) Symbols in traditional Chinese art

#### **Week Twelve**

Field trip II: Suzhou Garden Exploration

### **Week Thirteen**

Chinese Cultural History II:

The zenith of Chinese civilization: from the medieval age to Qing Dynasty(III)

Yuan & Ming: the Mongol interruption and the restoration and consolidation of Ming

### **Week Fourteen**

Chinese Cultural History II:

The contemporary and modern history of China: from Qing Dynasty up to now(IV)

Qing times: summit and decline of the empire under the impact of the West

### **Week Fifteen**

Student presentation (Essay due)

*\*Note: All schedules are subject to change in the time of need.*

### **Recommended Readings**

- John King Fairbank and Merle Goldman. 2006. China: a new history —2nd. enl. ed. Cambridge: Massachusetts, the Belknap Press of Harvard University Press
- W. Scott Morton & Charlton M. Lewis. 2005. China: its history and culture (4<sup>th</sup> Ed). New York. McGraw-Hill, Inc.
- Kam Louis. 2008. The Cambridge Companion to Modern Chinese Culture. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Elizabeth J. Perry & Mark Selden (ed). 2010. Chinese Society: Change, conflict and resistance (3rd ed). New York. Routledge
- Doug Guthrie. 2009. China and Globalization: the Social, Economic and Political Transformation of Chinese Society. (revised edition). New York. Routledge