

INTRODUCTION TO CHINESE CULTURE (CHIN311)
Spring 2018

Time & Location: T R 10:30 a.m. – 11:50 a.m. (VH 1140)

Instructor: Liulin Zhang 张榴琳

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Office: MC338

Office Hours: Monday/Wednesday/Friday 9:30-12:00, or by appointment

Course Description:

Targeting at students with little or no knowledge of China, this course is an introduction to Chinese culture highlighting the defining characteristics of Chinese civilization in a global context. Theory and practice are integrated in this course. The theoretical introduction is organized into six topics built upon each other: (i) geography and economy, (ii) history of the empire, (iii) philosophy and ideology, (iv) norms, customs and daily life, (v) language, literature and arts, and (vi) modernization. In addition to the theoretical introduction, students will also participate in cultural practices including Chinese paper cutting, calligraphy and movie appreciation.

Student Learning Outcomes:

At the end of this course, students will:

- **(In the spatial dimension)** situate China in a global context, recognize the geographical, ecological features of China and the corresponding economic forms, and further understand the material basis of Chinese civilization.
- **(In the temporal dimension)** be able to trace the history of the Chinese Empire, summarize the fundamental features and overall trends of the development of Chinese history, and analyze the interaction between Chinese history and world history.
- **(In depth)** be familiar with representative Chinese cultural products (including food, technologies, inventions, literary works, artistic works, *etc.*) and practices (including customs, rituals, traditions, social life, *etc.*), and analyze underlying perspectives (including philosophy, ideology, beliefs and values).

Text & Materials:

Handouts will be distributed through Blackboard.

Sources for discussion will also include the following:

张岱年. (1994). *中国文化概论*. 北京: 北京师范大学出版社.

Harari, Yuval Noah. (2015). *Sapiens: A brief history of humankind*. New York City, NY: Harper.

Giles, Herbert A. (1911). *The civilization of China*. Available at
<http://www.gutenberg.org/files/2076/2076-h/2076-h.htm>.

- Ebrey, Patricia Buckley. (2009). *Chinese civilization: A sourcebook* (2nd edition). New York City, NY: The Free Press.
- Van Norden, Bryan W. (2011). *Introduction to Classical Chinese Philosophy*. Indianapolis/Cambridge: Hackett Publishing Company.
- Fairbank, John. K. and M. Goldman. (2006). *China: A new history*. Cambridge/London: The Belknap Press of Harvard University Press.

Student Responsibilities:

1. Attendance: Regular attendance is expected. Two initial absences for any reason will be fine: no need to contact me. Subsequently, please do e-mail me about absences due to health issues or University activities. (These will always be excused.) In your e-mail, mention the specific day involved. After your two "free" absences, two unexcused absences will lower your maximum possible course grade to "B", two more will lower your maximum possible course grade to "C", etc.
2. Unit Tests: Five unit tests will be given. Contents will directly come from class readings and discussions. Requests for make-up tests must be made before the originally scheduled time. Please suggest some time slots (ideally during my office hours) for the make-up test in your request. Make-up tests must be conducted within two weeks from the originally scheduled time.
3. Final Project: Teamwork is required for the final project. The final project of each team will be presented in the last class (PowerPoint presentation) and on the final exam day (poster presentation). Suggested topics can be found in the Appendix of this document. Each team must pick one topic and conduct comprehensive research. Detailed instruction and grading rubrics will be available after the Midterm.
4. Cultural Practices: There will be three cultural practices arranged for you, i.e., Chinese paper cutting, calligraphy and movie appreciation. The outcomes of at least two cultural practices need to be submitted to receive full credit.
5. Extra Credit: Options will be announced in class.

Grading:

Final course grades will be based on:

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| 1. Unit Tests (5*14%) | 70% |
| 2. Final Project | 20% |
| 3. Cultural Practices | 10% |
| 4. Extra Credit | up to 5% |

Final grade: 100-90=A, 89-80=B, 79-70=C, 69-60=D, 59 and below=F

Academic Integrity Policy:

Grades for an exam or paper not in compliance with normal standards of academic integrity will

revert to zero (see *Truman State University General Catalog: Policies*).

Students with Disabilities:

The university is committed to making every possible effort to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). If you have a disability for which you are or may be requesting an accommodation, you are encouraged to contact both me and the Disability Services office (x. 4478) as soon as possible.

Title IX and Student Sexual Misconduct:

Truman State University and its faculty are committed to supporting our students and fostering an environment that is free from bias, discrimination, and harassment. If you have encountered any form of sexual misconduct (e.g., sexual assault, sexual harassment, stalking, domestic or dating violence), we encourage you report this to the University. If you speak with a faculty member about an incident of misconduct, that faculty member is a “mandated reporter” and must notify Truman State University’s Title IX Coordinator, Jamie Ball (McClain Hall, 101, jball@truman.edu, 785-4354) and share the basic facts of your experience with her. The Title IX Coordinator will then be available to assist you in understanding all your options and in connecting you with resources both on and off campus.

If you would prefer to have a confidential conversation about an experience, the counselors at University Counseling Services are NOT mandated reporters and they can be reached at 660-785-4014. For after-hours crisis counseling, call 660-665-5621.

For more information regarding Truman’s policies and procedures relating to any form of gender discrimination, please see <http://eoaa.truman.edu/university-non-discrimination-policy/> and <http://eoaa.truman.edu/complaint-reporting-resolution-procedure/>.

Emergency Procedures:

In each classroom on campus, there is a poster of emergency procedures explaining best practices in the event of an active shooter/hostile intruder, fire, severe weather, bomb threat, power outage, and medical emergency. This poster is also available as a PDF on the Blackboard course for this class or at this link: <http://police.truman.edu/files/2015/12/Emergency-Procedures.pdf>. Students should be aware of the classroom environment and note the exits for the room and building.

For more detailed information about emergency procedures, please consult the Emergency Guide for Academic Buildings: <http://police.truman.edu/emergency-procedures/academic-buildings/>

This six-minute video provides some basic information on how to react in the event there is an active shooter in your location: <http://police.truman.edu/emergency-procedures/active-shooter/active-shooter-preparedness-video/>

Truman students, faculty, and staff can sign up for the TruAlert emergency text messaging service via TruView. TruAlert sends a text message to all enrolled cell phones in the event of an emergency at the University. To register, sign in to TruView and click on the “Truman” tab. Click on the registration link in the lower right of the page under the “Update and View My Personal Information” channel on the “Emergency Text Messaging” or “Update Emergency Text Messaging Information” link.

During a campus emergency, information will also be posted on the TruAlert website <http://trualert.truman.edu/>.

COURSE SCHEDULE

Week		Tuesday	Thursday
1	1/15-1/19	Orientation	<u>Unit 1: Geography and Economy</u> All Under Heaven Borders of Land and Sea
2	1/22-1/26	Mountains and Water Resources, Ecology and Climate Provinces and Peoples	Small-scale Peasant Economy Traditional Handicraft Industry Commerce and Business
3	1/29-2/2	<u>Unit Test 1</u>	Cultural Practice 1: Dumpling Making
4	2/5-2/9	<u>Unit 2: History of the Empire</u> Unity and Separation	Centralization of Power Physiocracy and Restriction of Business Development of Cultural Tyranny
5	2/12-2/16	Ethnic Amalgamation Foreign Affairs	<u>Unit Test 2</u>
6	2/19-2/23	Cultural Practice 2: Chinese Calligraphy	<u>Unit 3: Philosophy and Ideology</u> Confucianism Taoism
7	2/26-3/2	Buddhism The Integration of Confucianism, Taoism and Buddhism	Oneness of Man and Nature Integrate & Dialectical Thinking Pragmatism
8	3/5-3/9	<u>Unit Test 3</u>	Cultural Practice 3: Chinese Papercutting
9	3/12-3/16	Spring Break	
10	3/19-3/23	<u>Unit 4: Norms, Customs and Daily Life</u> Patriarchal System Family-nation Structure	Etiquette & Rituals Festivals
11	3/26-3/30	Basic Necessities of Life Social Life	<u>Unit Test 4</u>
12	4/2-4/6	<u>Unit 5: Language, Literature and Arts</u> Language	Literature- Poems Vernacular Literature
13	4/9-4/13	Arts- Painting & Music Others	<u>Unit Test 5</u>
14	4/16-4/20	<u>Final Project Topic Decision Due</u> Chinese Movie: To Live (Part 1)	Chinese Movie: To Live (Part 2)
15	4/23-4/27	<u>Classroom Discussion of Final Project</u> <u>(Powerpoint Presentation)</u>	<u>Unit 6: Modernization</u> Fight for Liberation 1840-1949
16	4/30-5/4	Class Struggle 1949-1978	The Reform and Opening-up Since 1978 Bring a device (smartphone, computer, etc.) for the course evaluation.
<u>Presentation of Final Project: 5/7 (Monday) 9:30 - 11:20am</u>			

APPENDIX: Suggested Topics for the Final Project

1. The Great Wall	2. The Silk Road
3. Filial Piety	4. Men's Superior Position with Women's Inferior Position
5. Fengshui	6. Foot-binding
7. Acupuncture and Chinese Medicine	8. Neo-Confucianism
9. Monkey King	10. <i>Peony Pavillion</i>
11. <i>The Plum in the Golden Vase (Jin Ping Mei)</i>	12. <i>Strange Stories from a Chinese Studio (Liaozhai Zhiyi)</i>
13. <i>Dream of the Red Chamber</i>	14. The Weaver Girl and the Cowherd
15. Legend of the White Snake	16. <i>Farewell, My Concubine</i>
17. May Fourth Movement	18. The Cultural Revolution
19. One-child Policy	20. Three Gorges Dam
21. Taiwan and P.R. China	22. Wuxia ('Martial Heroes') Culture and Jin Yong
23. The Great Firewall	24. Digital Currency
Other	