

Chinese 3260: Chinese Culture Today

Course Description:

This course examines forms of popular culture and processes of social change in urban China and Chinese-speaking societies. In this course, we will explore the diversity, history, and creativity of modern Chinese culture and develop innovative approaches to the understanding of Chinese culture today. Topics of discussion include the cultural industry, commodity fetishism, youth cult, sexuality and gender, postmodernity, the changing meanings of labor and leisure in the contemporary world. In addition to the textbook, readings, viewings, and listening include popular music, film clips, photography, visual arts, television dramas, and web-based publication. Students are encouraged to augment the readings with their own projects. Taught in Chinese.

Required Textbook:

Chih-ping Chou et al, *Anything Goes: An Advanced Reader of Modern Chinese*. (Revised Edition) (Princeton University Press, 2011)

Additional audio-visual materials will be available on course website.

The textbook could be purchased at UConn Co-Op Bookstore.

Recommended:

Pocket Oxford Chinese Dictionary. 4 edition. Oxford University Press, USA, 2009.

Requirements:

1. Be on time. A quiz is generally given at the beginning of a class meeting. If you are late for class, you might miss a quiz.
2. Make sure to preview the course materials before the class.
3. Regular attendance and active participation in class activities.
4. Cell phones or laptops in class are not allowed except for taking notes.
5. Homework must be turned in on the due date. Late homework is not accepted unless accompanied with a doctor's or academic advisor's note.
6. No make-up quizzes or exams unless a doctor's or academic advisor's note is provided.

Speaking Exercises: You will be graded on your fluency, pronunciation and tones. You have the option to do presentations, conversations, performances or debates for these exercises.

Writing Assignments: Please post your writing on our Facebook group page under the weekly topic I post. You are encouraged to comment on one another's writings.

Grading:

1. Participation: 20%
2. Writing Assignments: 15%
3. Speaking Exercises: 10%
4. Quizzes: 20%
5. Mid-term Exam: 15%
6. Final Project: 20%

Grading Scale:

A = 95-100 A- = 90-94 B+ = 87-89 B = 84-86 B- = 80-83
C+ = 77-79 C = 74-76 C- = 70-73 D+ = 67-69 D = 64-66 D- = 60-63
F = anything below 60

Course Schedule:

Week 1: New Concepts in Chinese Culture

Week 2: Chapter 1: Cell Phone Culture

Film clip: *Cell Phone* (Feng Xiaogang, 2003)

Quiz 1 (vocabulary and grammar); Writing Assignment 1

Week 3: Chapter 2: Internet Addiction

Popular Chinese-language websites

Audio-visual: Zhou Xuan's songs.

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t_q2OuOvoHE

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=auB5ZWuHrjE&feature=related>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=akuE6d1to4M&feature=related>

Quiz 2 (vocabulary and grammar); Speaking Exercise 2

Week 4: Chapter 3: Gender Imbalance

Screening: *Super, Girls!* (Jian Yi, 2008)

Audio: "Jian Yi on gender-shifting in Chinese culture."

http://www.npr.org/blogs/bryantpark/2008/05/super_girls_in_china_holy_gend.html

Quiz 3 (vocabulary and grammar); Writing Assignment 2

Week 5: Chapter 4: Love and Marriage

Screening: Excerpts from *Chinese-Style Divorce* (Chen Yan, 2005)

Quiz 4 (vocabulary and grammar); Speaking Exercise 2

Week 6: Chapter 5: Chinese Media

Ai Weiwei blog

Quiz 5 (vocabulary and grammar); Writing Assignment 3

Week 7: review and midterm exam

Week 8: Chapter 6: College Education

Websites of Chinese Universities

Quiz 6 (vocabulary and grammar); Speaking Exercise 3

Week 9: Chapter 7: Urban Development and Cultural Heritage

Film Clip: Jia Zhangke: *The World*

Quiz 7 (vocabulary and grammar); Writing Assignment 4

Week 10: Chapter 8: Housing in China

Clip: Cui Jian "I Have Nothing to Give you" and other songs

Quiz 8 (vocabulary and grammar); Speaking Exercise 4

Week 11: Chapter 9: Environmental Protection
Documentary: *Beijing Besieged by Waste* (Wang Jiuliang, 2011)
Quiz 9 (vocabulary and grammar); Writing Assignment 5

Week 12: Chapter 10: One Country, Two systems
Youtube Videos

Week 13: Chapter 11: A New Journey to the West
Film Clip: *American Dreams in China* (Peter Chan, 2013)

Week 14: Final Project presentation