

CET Syllabus of Record



Program: Chinese Studies and Internship in Beijing

Course Title: The Rise of China

Course Code: CS251

Total Hours: 16

Recommended Credits: 1

Suggested Cross Listings: Chinese Studies, Cultural Studies

Language of Instruction: English

Prerequisites/Requirements: Open in the summer term to students who enroll in an internship

Description

This is a broad survey course designed to provide students with an essential framework for understanding the complex economic and social forces shaping contemporary China, as seen through the lens of Beijing as both the historical imperial capital and the modern urban center of governance. Topics touched on include: the demographic and architectural evolution of Beijing from dynastic times to the present; problems of urban destruction/reconstruction and social migration; the path of reform and opening up; the control mechanisms of the Chinese mass media and how the Internet is transforming China; global trade and the Chinese economy in the 21st century; and problems and possibilities for China in the 21st century. The course offers excursions to various historical and socially significant sites in Beijing, as well as interaction with local Chinese and expatriate experts and scholars.

Objectives

During this course, students:

- Acquire a basic historical knowledge of the history and development of Beijing as a city.
- Understand the major historical events and personalities that shaped Chinese politics, economy and society in the 19th and 20th centuries.
- Understand how China's incredible path of modernization is affecting both the Chinese and the global economy.
- See first-hand the effects of China's modernization, both positive and negative, and to understand how it is affecting the lives of Chinese citizens.
- Establish useful contacts with local experts, entrepreneurs and scholars.

Course Requirements

Students are expected to attend class having thoroughly read all assignments. They should be prepared to actively discuss issues and ask questions. Participation is a significant portion of the final grade. There are three written assignments for this course. They build upon each other, with the goal that at the end of the term students have a long-form piece of writing about their experience in Beijing—something that can be taken home and shared with families, friends and professors.

The assignments are as follows:

CET Syllabus of Record

1. Weekly short essays on a topic of the student's choice, with the approval of the instructor. The essay can be in the form of a blog entry, an academic report, or a first-person account of an experience or event in Beijing.
2. A midterm and final exam.
3. A long-form essay (minimum 1500 words) on a topic related to the student's major or focus of interest, with the approval of the teacher.

Methods of Evaluation

The final grade is determined as follows:

Weekly essays	25%
Midterm exam	25%
Final exam	25%
Final paper	25%

Primary Texts

- Broudhoux, Anne-Marie. *The Making and Selling of Post-Mao Beijing*. New York: Routledge, 2004.
- Jacques, Martin. *When China Rules the World: The Rise of the Middle Kingdom and the End of the Western World*. London: Penguin Books, 2009.
- Li, Lillian M. et al. *Beijing: From Imperial Capital to Olympic City*. New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2007.
- Meyer, Michael. *The Last Days of Old Beijing: Life in the Vanishing Backstreets of a City Transformed*. New York: Walker & Company, 2008.
- Naughton, Barry. *The Chinese Economy: Transitions and Growth*. Cambridge: MIT Press, 2007.
- Shapiro, Judith. *China's Environmental Challenges*. Cambridge: Polity Press, 2012.
- Sweitzer, H. Frederick. King, Mary A. *The Successful Internship: Personal, Professional, and Civic Development*. Cengage Learning, 2008.
- Wasserstrom, Jeffrey. *China in the 21st Century: What Everyone Needs to Know*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2010.

Supplementary Materials

- Economy, Elizabeth. "China's Internal Dilemmas", Testimony before the U.S. China Economic and Security Review Commission, Feb. 2011.
- Fallows, James. *Postcards from Tomorrow Square: Reports from China*. New York: Vintage, 2008.
- Lin, Justin Yifu. *Demystifying the Chinese Economy*. London: Cambridge University Press, 2011.
- McGregor, Richard. *The Party: the Secret World of China's Communist Rulers*. New York: Harper Perennial, 2012.
- Shirk, Susan. *China: Fragile Superpower: How China's Internal Politics Could Derail its Peaceful Rise*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2008.

Outline of Course Content

Note: This course is offered in the summer term only. Students cover approximately one topic per week.

Topic 1 Beijing as historical, cultural and political nexus

CET Syllabus of Record

Topic 2 China's shock of opening up to the West: Opium Wars to 1949

Topic 3 Mao: Change and upheaval in the new China

Topic 4 Deng: Reform and Opening Up; the legacy of Tiananmen 1989

Topic 5 The 90s: The new economic miracle and its problems

Topic 6 The Chinese economy in a 21st century global context

Topic 7 The Chinese mass media: structure and control

Topic 8 The environmental crisis