



SO/AS/HS 201 UNDERSTANDING CHINA
IES Abroad Shanghai

DESCRIPTION: The dramatic changes in China over the past thirty years, far from being an aberration, are a continuation of a dynamic past. This course provides the student with a broadest possible overview of Chinese history, politics, and society to prepare you for your future courses, travels, and time in Shanghai. We will explore a range of issues, both contemporary and historical, as we seek a means to grapple with China’s past, present, and future.

CREDITS: 2 credits

CONTACT HOURS: 30 hours

LANGUAGE OF INSTRUCTION: English

PREREQUISITES: None

ADDITIONAL COST: None

METHOD OF PRESENTATION:

Class discussions, lectures, and course-related field trips

REQUIRED WORK AND FORM OF ASSESSMENT:

- Course participation - 15%
- Political and Biophysical Map Quiz - 5%
- Reading Questions/Class Responses - 40%
- Interview Project - 30%
- Documentary Annotation Project - 10%

All assignments must be completed in order to receive a passing grade.

Grades are assigned according to the following point system:

A 93-100	A- 90-92	
B+ 87-89	B 83-86	B- 80-82
C+ 77-79	C 73-76	C- 70-72
D+ 67-69	D 63-66	F 62 or below

Grading criteria:

A	Excellent. Indicates an absolute mastery of the subject matter. The student can apply their knowledge in critical and original ways, and express their ideas in a very clear and persuasive manner while drawing on a variety of sources to support their arguments.
B	Good. Indicates that the student recalls more than just the basic facts and possesses an ability to apply that knowledge in a way that makes connections with the student’s own ideas and observations. The student expresses their ideas and arguments with great clarity and concision.
C	Adequate and satisfactory completion of assignments. Indicates the student’s ability to recall the basic subject matter of the course apply that knowledge in discussions and written assignments and express their ideas and arguments in an intelligible but otherwise undistinguished manner.



Course Participation

Preparation is essential for participation in this course— reading of the required literature is mandatory, and optional readings are highly recommended, as they provide further depth to the course content and class discussions. Students will be expected to demonstrate that they have completed all required reading assignments through active participation in and relevant contributions to class discussions. In addition to the completion of required readings and participation in class discussions, attendance to lectures and course-related field trips heavily contribute to the student’s participation grade. Failure to regularly attend class will have a dramatic impact on the student’s final grade.

Political and Biophysical Map Quiz

This quiz will test student knowledge of China’s geography. A study-sheet will be provided prior to the quiz.

Reading Questions/Class Responses

These short-form, prompted written assignments are designed to encourage students to reflect on the required readings and site visits associated with a given class session. Written responses should be between 500-750 words and show careful thought and consideration of the prompt question, as well as the required readings. Questions will be sent to students following the end of each session, and are due to the instructor via email before the start of the next session.

Interview Project

Students will formulate their own question or set of questions on a relevant topic of their choice, and use these questions to conduct a series of interviews within the local community. Students will then write a report (1500 words) on their findings. This assignment will be due by the last session.

Keeping Current

Besides historical context, student awareness of current events is integral to understanding contemporary China, and it is important that students keep abreast of ongoing news stories and events. The following websites are recommended for this purpose, and the instructor may occasionally refer to stories from these sources. Students may need a VPN to access some of these websites while in China.

- [China Digital Times](#) – Must-read source for China news/translations. Blocked.
- [China Beat](#) – More academic, with contributions from many authors on a wide range of topics.
- [China Dialogue](#) – bilingual site focusing on environmental and development issues in China
- [China Geeks](#) – run by recent college graduates, does translations of interesting/important pieces from the Chinese media and Internet
- [China Law Blog](#) – follows legal and business trends in the PRC
- [China Media Project](#) – tracking news stories, journalism, and censorship in China. Based at Hong Kong University.
- [ChinaSmack](#) – The “Jerry Springer” to ChinaGeeks “PBS.” Always entertaining.
- [Danwei](#) – Tracks Chinese media and culture. Very influential. Blocked.
- [EastSouthWestNorth](#) Tracks and translates the Chinese media and Internet.
- [Forbes China Tracker](#) – Business, politics, and news from Forbes commentators
- [New Yorker Blog: Letter from China](#) – Written by Evan Osnos. Thoughtful and timely commentary on China
- [Sinica Podcast](#) --Also available on iTunes, this weekly roundup of Chinese news and views is required listening.
- [Sinocism](#) – Smart commentary and links from a veteran China watcher.
- [Wall Street Journal China Real Time Report](#) – Good journalist blog on Chinese current events

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

By the end of the course, students will be able to:

- Demonstrate a basic understanding of China’s recent history
- Identify and explain core issues affecting China today by making connections between past and current trends and events



- Draw upon and intellectually debate with a broad range of opinions and theories on historical and contemporary issues in China to formulate an insightful, holistic, and informed view on the current state of China

ATTENDANCE POLICY:

Attendance and punctuality in all IES Abroad courses and course-related field trips is mandatory. Absences may only be excused for valid reasons. Unexcused absences will detrimentally affect students’ grades, and may constitute a final-grade reduction of up to one-third of a letter-grade per unexcused absence (e.g. B to B-). Three (3) tardy or late arrivals to a class without a valid excuse will count as an unexcused absence.

PROJECT AND ASSIGNMENT POLICY:

Deadline extensions must be requested in advance and may only be granted in exceptional cases. If the student is not granted an extension in advance, a project grade will be reduced by one-third of a letter-grade for every 24 hour period after the project due date. Likewise, a homework or general assignment grade will be reduced by one-third of a letter-grade for every 24 hour period after the assignment due date, with a maximum allowance of three (3) days after the due date for late submissions— an assignment that is overdue by more than three (3) days will not be accepted for credit.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY:

Students are expected to adhere to the IES Abroad Academic Integrity Code. Cheating or plagiarism of any kind will not be tolerated and will result in a substantial penalty to the student’s course grade, as well as potentially lead to further administrative sanctions per IES Abroad policy. If a student is unsure what constitutes plagiarism, it is best to check with the instructor before submitting work.

CONTENT:

Topic	Content	Assignments and Readings
Course Introduction	What is Modern China?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mitter, pp. 1-16
Topic 1	<p>“The ‘Dao’ that can be spoken of is not the real ‘Dao’”</p> <p>Field Trip</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wasserstrom, pp. 1-18 • “Confucius” in John E. Wills, Jr. <i>Mountain of Fame: Portraits in Chinese History</i>. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1994. pp. 11-32 • <i>Chinese Civilization: A Sourcebook</i>. Patricia Buckley Ebrey, ed. (New York: The Free Press, 1993) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> “Confucian Teachings,” pp. 17-26 “Daoist Teachings,” pp. 27-31 “Legalist Teachings,” pp. 32-37 • Sam Crane, “<u>The Impossibility of a Confucian Society</u>,” <i>The Useless Tree</i>, November 21, 2010

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ian Johnson, "<u>The Rise of the Tao</u>," <i>The New York Times</i>, November 5, 2010
Topic 2	Imperialism, Patriotism and Chinese Modernities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wasserstrom, pp. 19-36 Mitter, pp. 17-39 Xu Jilin "Historical Memories of May Fourth: Patriotism, but of what kind?" <i>China Heritage Quarterly</i>, March, 2009 Wasserstrom, pp. 36-66 Mitter, pp. 40-73 Lu Xun, "My Old Home" in <i>Lu Xun: The Real Story of Ah-Q and Other Tales of China</i>. Tr. By Julia Lovell, pp. 70-78 <p>Watch one of the following films:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>The Last Emperor</i> <i>Farewell My Concubine</i> <i>To Live</i> <i>Blue Kite</i> <i>Morning Sun</i>
Topic 3	"To Get Rich is Glorious"	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wasserstrom, pp. 67-80 Mitter, pp. 74-117 "China's Challenge to the Global Economic Order," in <i>China's Rise: Challenges and Opportunities</i>, Nicholas Lardy, et. al. (CSIS, 2009), pp. 9-32 Leslie T. Chang, <i>Factory Girls</i>, (2009) pp. 97-119 Philip Pan, "The Rich Lady" in <i>Out of Mao's Shadow: The Struggle for the Soul of New China</i>. (New York: Simon and Schuster, 2008), pp. 147-174
Topic 4	"Grass. Mud. Horse. This blog has been river-crabbed!"	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mitter, 118-138 Wasserstrom, 80-102 "Things Seen and Unseen," <i>China in 2008</i>, pp. 226-237 James Fallows, "The Connection has been reset," <i>Postcards from Tomorrow Square</i> Fang Ning, "China Must Not Have a Western Multi-Party System," <i>The People's Daily</i>, (February 9, 2009) Sun Liping (孙立平): "The Biggest Threat to China is not Social Turmoil but Social Decay", <i>China Digital Times</i>, March 2009 Yu Jianrong: Rigid Stability: an Explanatory Framework for China's Social Situation, May 9, 2009 <u>Ai Weiwei (艾未未)</u> on <u>Citizenship and Freedom</u>, <i>China Digital Times</i>, December 17, 2009 <u>SCIO</u> Internet News Work Training Session, <i>China Digital Times</i>, December, 2009

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Zhao Qiang, “Loss of Control Over Public Opinion: A Catalyst for the Breakdown of the Soviet Union” <i>Seeking Truth (Qiushi)</i>, November 1, 2010 • Rebecca MacKinnon, “China’s Internet White Paper: Networked Authoritarianism in Action,” <i>RConversation</i>, June 15, 2010 • Liao Yiwu, <i>The Corpsewalker</i>, pp. 146-159, 230-241 • Jane Macartney, “One Billion Souls to Save,” <i>London Times</i>, March 28, 2009 <p>Watch one of the following documentaries:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • China From the Inside – Freedom and Justice, • China From the Inside Power and the People • Young and Restless in China
<p>Topic 5</p>	<p>Party and Pessoptimist Nationalism</p> <p>Field Trip</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Richard McGregor, “Five Myths about the Communist Party,” <i>Foreign Policy</i>, January/February 2011 • David Shambaugh, <i>The Communist Party: Atrophy and Adaptation</i>, (2010), pp. 1-11, • Philip Pan, “The Party Boss” in <i>Out of Mao’s Shadow: The Struggle for the Soul of New China</i>. (2008), 175-198 • Richard McGregor, <i>The Party</i>, (2010), “The Red Machine: The Party and the State,” pp. ix-34. • Peter Hessler, <i>Country Driving</i>, (2010), pp. 225-276 • Peter Hays Gries, <i>China’s New Nationalism</i>, pp. 43-53 • William A. Callahan, <i>Pessoptimist Nation</i>, pp. 31-59 • Orville Schell, “China’s Agony of Defeat,” <i>Newsweek</i>, July 26, 2008 • “China Seeks to Stop Paris Sale of Bronzes,” <i>New York Times</i>, February 17, 2009 • “Chinese Reactions to Auction of Stolen Bronze Relics,” <i>ChinaSmack</i> February 26, 2009 • “Chinese Bidder of Looted Sculpture Refuses to Pay,” <i>China Daily</i>, March 2, 2009 • Yuan Weishi, “Modernization and History Textbooks,” <i>China Youth Daily</i>, January 11, 2006
<p>Topic 6</p>	<p>Panda Huggers and Dragon Slayers: Visions of China in the 21st Century</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mitter, 139-141 • Wasserstrom, 116-135 • Susan Shirk, <i>China: A Fragile Superpower</i> (Oxford University Press, 2007), pp. 1-12, 255-269 • David Shambaugh, <i>The Communist Party: Atrophy and Adaptation</i>, (2010), pp. 161-183 • Mark Leonard, “The New Intelligentsia” <i>Prospect</i>, March 28, 2008 • Jim Mann, <i>The China Fantasy</i>, (2008), pp. 1-27 • Qian Gang, “How the next 10 years will decide China’s future,” <i>China Media Project</i>, October 29, 2009

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Zhang Xiaoying, "What the West can Learn from China," <i>The Guardian</i>, October 25, 2010 • Geramie Barmé, "China's Promise," <i>The China Beat</i>, January 20, 2010
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REQUIRED READINGS:

- Rana Mitter, *Modern China: A Very Short Introduction*, (Oxford University Press, 2008)
- Jeffrey Wasserstrom, *China in the 21st Century: What Everyone Needs to Know*, (Oxford University Press, 2010)

RECOMMENDED READINGS:

- "Confucius" in John E. Wills, Jr. *Mountain of Fame: Portraits in Chinese History*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1994
- *Chinese Civilization: A Sourcebook*. Patricia Buckley Ebrey, ed. (New York: The Free Press, 1993)
- Sam Crane, "The Impossibility of a Confucian Society," *The Useless Tree*, November 21, 2010
- Ian Johnson, "The Rise of the Tao," *The New York Times*, November 5, 2010
- Xu Jilin "Historical Memories of May Fourth: Patriotism, but of what kind?" *China Heritage Quarterly*, March, 2009
- Lu Xun, "My Old Home" in *Lu Xun: The Real Story of Ah-Q and Other Tales of China*. Tr. By Julia Lovell
- "China's Challenge to the Global Economic Order," in *China's Rise: Challenges and Opportunities*, Nicholas Lardy, et. al. (CSIS, 2009)
- Leslie T. Chang, *Factory Girls*, (2009)
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- "Things Seen and Unseen," *China in 2008*
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- Fang Ning, "China Must Not Have a Western Multi-Party System," *The People's Daily*, (February 9, 2009)
- Sun Liping (孙立平): "The Biggest Threat to China is not Social Turmoil but Social Decay", China Digital Times, March 2009
- Yu Jianrong: Rigid Stability: an Explanatory Framework for China's Social Situation, May 9, 2009
- Ai Weiwei (艾未未) on Citizenship and Freedom, China Digital Times, December 17, 2009
- SCIO Internet News Work Training Session, China Digital Times, December, 2009
- Zhao Qiang, "Loss of Control Over Public Opinion: A Catalyst for the Breakdown of the Soviet Union" *Seeking Truth (Qishi)*, November 1, 2010
- Rebecca MacKinnon, "China's Internet White Paper: Networked Authoritarianism in Action," RConversation, June 15, 2010
- Liao Yiwu, *The Corpsewalker*, pp. 146-159, 230-241
- Jane Macartney, "One Billion Souls to Save," London Times, March 28, 2009
- Richard McGregor, "Five Myths about the Communist Party," *Foreign Policy*, January/February 2011
- David Shambaugh, *The Communist Party: Atrophy and Adaptation*, (2010)
- Philip Pan, "The Party Boss" in *Out of Mao's Shadow: The Struggle for the Soul of New China*. (2008)
- Richard McGregor, *The Party*, (2010), "The Red Machine: The Party and the State,"
- Peter Hessler, *Country Driving*, (2010)
- Peter Hays Gries, *China's New Nationalism*
- William A. Callahan, *Pessoptimist Nation*
- Orville Schell, "China's Agony of Defeat," *Newsweek*, July 26, 2008
- "China Seeks to Stop Paris Sale of Bronzes," *New York Times*, February 17, 2009
- "Chinese Reactions to Auction of Stolen Bronze Relics," *ChinaSmack* February 26, 2009
- "Chinese Bidder of Looted Sculpture Refuses to Pay," *China Daily*, March 2, 2009
- Yuan Weishi, "Modernization and History Textbooks," *China Youth Daily*, January 11, 2006
- Susan Shirk, *China: A Fragile Superpower* (Oxford University Press, 2007)
- David Shambaugh, *The Communist Party: Atrophy and Adaptation*, (2010)



- Mark Leonard, “The New Intelligentsia” Prospect, March 28, 2008
- Jim Mann, *The China Fantasy*, (2008)
- Qian Gang, “How the next 10 years will decide China’s future,” *China Media Project*, October 29, 2009
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