

Mater Syllabus

1. Course Information

College: College of Liberal Arts
Department: Political Science, History, and Geography
Course Title: Regional Studies: China
Course Designation and Number: RST 262
GE Area(s):

- 2. Cultural-Social Foundations
- 6. College Component

Writing Intensive: **Yes** **No**

For WI Courses: **All sections** **Selected sections are WI**

Method(s) of Instruction: **Lecture**
 Discussion
 Web-enhanced
 Web-only
 Other

Small group activities, PowerPoint, films, cultural immersion experiences in Dayton (Art Institute, Chinese restaurant review)

Prerequisites: none

2. Objectives

GE Program Objectives:

- ... to develop skills and knowledge that will form the basis for lifelong learning.
- ... to learn about the aesthetic, ethical, moral, social, and cultural dimensions of human experience needed for participation in the human community.
- ... sharpen critical thinking, problem solving and communication skills.

GE Area Two Objectives:

- b. describe and analyze historical-social elements of nonwestern culture
- c. describe and analyze the global interdependence of groups and of individuals.

GE Area Six Objectives:

- a. communicate with individuals who are in the student's major, in allied fields, and non-specialists
- b. understand important relationships and interdependencies between the student's major and other academic disciplines, world events or life endeavors.

Course Objectives and GE Learning Outcomes:

RST 262 introduces students to the history, cultural and contemporary issues of the world's most populous country, the People's Republic of China. Students will gain an appreciation of the interdependence of countries, both in explicit acts (joint response to global response), and importantly, in the subtle ways in which life in the 21st century is inter-twined (especially in culture and economics).

Learning outcomes addressed:

GE Area Two:

- b. describe and analyze historical-social elements of nonwestern cultures and peoples – Interprets and analyzes interdependence of cultural, economic, social and political structures
- c. describe and analyze the global interdependence of groups and of individuals.

GE Area Six:

- a. communicate with individuals who are in the student's major, in allied fields, and non-specialists
- b. understand important relationships and interdependencies between the student's major and other academic disciplines, world events or life endeavors – connects real world dilemmas and solutions to students' majors and areas of study

WAC Objectives:

- ... to improve students' writing proficiency
- ... to encourage students to use writing as a learning tool to explore and structure ideas, to articulate thoughts and questions
- ... to demonstrate for students the ways in which writing is integral to all disciplines

Learning Outcomes Addressed:

Students will need to complete two writing assignments to fulfill these objectives: a review of either a Chinese restaurant or Chinese-made film; and a reflective response to the novel that they read in class. These assignments are varied and provide options for students to be creative in the fulfillment of the requirement. Each assignment also requires students to conduct outside research, combining course materials and personal response to understand modern China. I encourage the students to submit drafts to me before the papers are due in order to encourage revision.

3. Suggested Course Materials

Contemporary China, by Alan Hunter and John Sexton (St. Martin's)

Global Studies: China, edited by Suzanne Ogden (Dushkin Group)

A novel conveying first hand experience of life in China (many to choose from)

Students will also be required to follow internet-based English language news publications from China.

4. **Suggested Methods of Evaluation**

Three examinations (multiple choice, short answer and essay)
One review (of either a Chinese-made film or of a Chinese-themed restaurant)
Reflective essay based on the novel

5. **Grading Policy**

Graded A-F
WI component graded Pass/Unsatisfactory

6. **Suggested Weekly Course Outline Including Typical Assignments**

Part One: Introduction to Chinese History and Culture

Wk 1: Overview and Introduction

Contemporary China Ch 2, “Land and People,” pp 45-67
Novel Chapters 1-2

Wk 2: GLOBAL STUDIES #5 (“Scientists find clues”), #9 (“Images of Dynasty”)

GLOBAL STUDIES # 8 (“Imperial Yoke”), GLOBAL STUDIES #19 (“Script Reform”)
Novel Chapters 3-5

Wk 3: *Contemporary China* Ch 5 (“The Social System”)

Contemporary China Ch 6 (“Chinese Culture”) pp 149-175
Novel Chapters 6-7

Wk 4: *Contemporary China* Ch 1 (“History of Modern China) pp 7-22

Contemporary China Ch 1, pp 22-40, GLOBAL STUDIES, “PRC Country Report,” pp. 8-12
Novel Chapters 8-9
Exam #1

Part II: Life in Modern China

Wk 5: GLOBAL STUDIES, “Country Report,” pp 23-39, *Contemporary China* Ch 4 (“Political Life”)

GLOBAL STUDIES, “PRC Country Report,” pp 40-42
Novel Chapters 10-12

Wk 6: GLOBAL STUDIES #12 (“Falun Gong”), GLOBAL STUDIES #11 (“Great Net of China”)

Contemporary China Ch 3 (“Chinese Economy”)
Novel Chapters 12-13

Wk 7: GLOBAL STUDIES #13 (“Consumer Revolution”), GLOBAL STUDIES #14 (“Nowhere to Run”)

GLOBAL STUDIES #10 (“China’s Environment in the Balance”)
Novel Chapters 14-15
Exam #2

Part III: China and the World

- Wk 8: GLOBAL STUDIES, “Hong Kong, Country Report,” pp 78-99; GLOBAL STUDIES, “Taiwan, Country Report,” pp 50-75
GLOBAL STUDIES #20 (“‘One China’ Cocoon”), GLOBAL STUDIES #21 (“Taiwan’s Turnaround”), GLOBAL STUDIES #22 (“The Taiwan Conundrum”)
Novel Chapters 16-17
- Wk 9: GLOBAL STUDIES #18 (“China’s Manifest Destiny in Tibet”)
Contemporary China Ch 7 (“International Relations”)
Novel Chapters 18-19
- Wk 10: GLOBAL STUDIES #2 (“China’s Grand Strategy”), GLOBAL STUDIES #4 (“China Today: The Issues”)
Contemporary China Ch 8 (“China into the 21st Century”) pp 200-210
Novel Chapters 20-21
Exam #3

7. **Other**

Syllabus distributed to students will employ the format approved by UCAP and will include:

- Instructor name, office hours, and contact information
- Office of Disability Services information
- Information on the determination of grades
- Attendance policy