

Guided Research in China: Global and Local (3 credits)

Syllabus

Offered during the Rutgers Summer Study Abroad in China Program

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Class meeting times: by arrangement

Theme: *"Modern and Traditional: where the Global Meets the Local"*

Course goals: This option is designed to allow students to engage with and reflect upon their study abroad experience in China in sufficient depth to demonstrate substantive knowledge of the culture of China and analyze issues concerning East Asia and relate them to other areas in the humanities and social sciences following an interdisciplinary approach. A further goal of the course is to fulfill the 3 credits of the 21st Century Challenges goals of the Core Curriculum. The course is designed to allow students to meet at least two of the goals:

- a. Analyze the degree to which forms of human difference shape a person's experiences of and perspectives on the world.
- b. Analyze a contemporary global issue from a multidisciplinary perspective.
- c. Analyze the relationship that science and technology have to a contemporary social issue.
- d. Analyze issues of social justice across local and global contexts.

Before departure:

1. Meet with the program director to determine your individual project theme and decide on a reading list.
2. Write a brief paragraph outlining your project theme and which two of the above goals you will work at attaining.
3. Possible themes and foci for your analysis include: China's recent economic growth, local China and globalization in the 21st century, women in modern China, the China-U.S. connection, 20th century history (the Republican period, the Japanese occupation, the Cultural Revolution), 19th century history (Taiping Rebellion), Ming dynasty history, Chinese art (Buddhist art), Chinese religion, (Buddhism, Taoism) etc.

In China:

1. Keep a bilingual (Chinese and English) journal and record of your travels and experiences in China this summer.
 - a. Keep a record of all the places we visit, what you learned about them, your impression of them, and relevance they might hold for your project theme.

- b. The journal should provide the names of places we visit in Chinese and English, list what was there (in Chinese and English), identify the historical period(s) to which it belongs (or note it is a modern day site), identify people associated with the site, identify and discuss events or other significant activities relevant to the site.
 - c. If features of the site relate to your project theme, explain how and discuss them in more detail.
 2. Visit at least two places in China (parks or other local sites in Changchun, or nearby Harbin or Shenyang) on your own (or organize a visit with classmates) that we do not visit as a scheduled part of the program and that are directly relevant to your project theme (such as the museum of the Japanese occupation or the last emperor's palace). This excursion can include organizing a visit to people you would like to visit and/or interview regarding your chosen theme and focus.
 - a. Keep a record of these in your journal also, including what you learned about them, your impression of them, and how they relate to your project theme.
 - b. Make notes as in 'b.' above.
 3. Meet twice weekly (for about 1 hour each time) with the program director and other students doing this independent study project to discuss your project.
 4. Develop an outline for your final paper.

After returning from China:

1. Do some additional research on your project theme – find out at least two more things about your theme that you did not learn in China.
2. Write a paper (in English or Chinese) on a topic that integrates, reflects upon, and analyzes what you see and learn in China and how that relates to your project theme with regard to history and current economic and cultural developments.
 - a. The paper should tell a story that illustrates discoveries you made in China, provide an analysis of those discoveries, and outline a conclusion that you draw from that regarding some feature of China's past, present, or future.
 - b. The paper and journal will be due at the end of August after we are all back in the U.S.
 - c. If the paper is written in Chinese, this course will also count toward the major and minor in Chinese.