

Culture of China & Culture of Vietnam

Art 4435-S | 3 Credits

GEORGIA SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY
College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
Betty Foy Sanders Department of Art

Summer 2008

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IN CASE OF AN EMERGENCY:

COURSE PHILOSOPHY

This class represents the research component of the China + Vietnam study abroad program. The aim of this course is to encourage a deeper degree of investment in the sites we visit in China and Vietnam more so than is provided in the typical “tourist experience”. Throughout this course we will question and evaluate the role of Chinese and Vietnamese art and culture in relation to its local, regional, and global audiences. As well, the research completed should recognize that we are subject to our own biases and perceptions based upon our identities as U.S. citizens. Our cultural fingerprint will be left though various humanitarian efforts: through volunteering at the Little Rose shelter (an orphanage/safe house for girls) in Saigon.

Due to the fast pace of our experience abroad, work will be required before and during the actual travel. During spring semester, and directly prior to our departure, we will meet to discuss expectations, begin assignments, and orient students to the program and culture of Asia. Upon arrival in Asia, students will continually meet with instructors to discuss the scope and conceptual direction of their individual and group projects. Many sites, ideas, and experiences will be taking place “on the road.” Our study abroad program will culminate in an open forum program evaluation.

PRE-DEPARTURE EXPECTATIONS

- PASSPORT
- CHINESE + VIETNAM VISAS
- IMMUNIZATIONS
- PRESCRIPTIONS
- DONATIONS (TOYS, ART SUPPLIES, ETC.) FOR LITTLE ROSE SHELTER

PROJECTS

Students will be expected to do a great deal of individual and group research prior to our departure. Each student will be responsible for investigating a site on our itinerary. (We will review the quality and quantity of the research in advance in the days leading up to the trip to ensure a deep level of engagement.) While on site you will assume the role of “resident experts”, telling us the cultural, historical, and artistic significance of your location. This helps you to own this experience by being active participants in each other’s education.

We will give you a one-page overview of what we expect creatively, technically, and conceptually on the day an assignment is presented. The overall grade you earn, will be an evaluation of the merit of all your presentations, readings, attendance and participation.

Research Presentation China

30%

Preliminary research, research overview **due: April 11**
& on-site presentation

Research Presentation Vietnam **30%**

Preliminary research, research overview **due: April 11**
& on-site presentation

Attend Film Screening **20%**

Attend at least 2 films (one from each region we will be visiting)
about Vietnam + China.

Interactions + Participation & Attendance **20%**

In each of the destinations we will visit in China, we have arranged for our students to stay at a teaching university. As such, they will have the opportunity to hear lectures regarding aspects of Chinese culture, ranging from history, economics, tai-ji, and calligraphy from regarded Chinese scholars. Behavior that is ethical and culturally sensitive is expected, as is participation.

Total 100%

Students on this trip are expected to conduct themselves appropriately and respectfully. An important goal of all travel courses is to understand and appreciate other cultures. Lack of respect or inappropriate behavior will be reflected in your grade for this course and possible early return to the U.S.

CONTACT HOURS

Our curriculum will be broken in half. Half of the work will be completed before going to China and Vietnam. During this time, we will orient students and present the conceptual framework for the trip's itinerary, which will help direct preparatory research. We will utilize this time to set the tone for the trip and teach students how to be respectful and culturally aware visitors. In addition, we will discuss our expectations for student behavior and their level of production while on the trip. During our time in Asia, students will complete the rest of their coursework. Students will attend lectures by esteemed Chinese scholars and present oral presentations on sites that we will visit.

ACTIVITIES | EXCURSIONS: China

Wuhan

Chinese Language Classes
Lecture: Chinese Educational System & Chinese History
Tai-ji Demonstration/Practice
Yellow Crane Tower
Yangtze River Cruise

3 Gorges Area

Three Gorges
Xiling Gorge
Three Gorges Dam site

Xi'an

Visit Terracotta Warriors and Horse

Beijing

Forbidden City
Temple of Heaven
Tiananmen Square
Peking Opera
Great Wall
Peking duck dinner
Summer Palace
Hutong tour
Area 798-Arts Center

ACTIVITIES | EXCURSIONS: Vietnam

Hoi Chi Minh City

War Remnants Museum (formerly known as the American War Crimes Museum)
Cu Chi Tunnels
San-Art Gallery
Catalyst Foundation, Little Rose Shelter—volunteer at an orphanage
Rice Farming

Hoi An and Da Nang

Cham Museum
Marble Mountains
China Beach
Vietnamese Cooking Class
Visits to Rural Areas in Central Vietnam

EVALUATION

A: Exceptional performance, effort and accomplishment beyond expectations.

90-100%

B: Very good work, consistent effort and participation.

80-89%

C: Satisfactory work and average effort.

70-79%

D: Poor work and/or effort

60-69%

F: Unacceptable work

59% and Below

LATE WORK WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED, PERIOD!

LEARNING OUTCOMES

After successfully completing this course, you should:

- Develop a deeper degree of investment in China and Vietnam than is provided in the typical “tourist experience”.

- Have a knowledge base related to Vietnam's feudal, colonial, post-colonial and contemporary history as compared to China's system of government.
- Have the ability to connect aspects of art, culture, and history of China and Vietnam.
- Acknowledge biases and perceptions based upon our identity as U.S. citizens—broaden ways of seeing.
- Have the experience of directly meeting the needs of orphans in Vietnam.
- Acquire a foundation of knowledge regarding historic and contemporary art and culture in China and Vietnam.
- Observe the diversity within these two countries—culturally, politically, and aesthetically.

ATTENDANCE/CLASS PARTICIPATION

Due to the brevity and intensity of this course, only in extreme situations will absences be permitted, and this will only be at the discretion of the professors. Unlike traditional classroom based education, tardies will not only hold up the group, but also might require additional expenditures as determined by the situation, i.e. plane travel, taxis, tour guides, etc. As such, any tardy will directly effect your grade, and if the situation persists professors have the authority to send students back early.

Not having things prepared is considered an absence! In this course in particular, attendance and participation are crucial. Students should attend all required events, be on time, be prepared to work and contribute to discussions—anything else is not considered full participation.

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY

This is a place in which to learn, absorb, discuss, and question—to expand the depths of one's mind through rigorous intellectual explorations. The integrity of the educational experience is diminished by cheating in class, plagiarizing, lying, or employing other modes of deceit.

Plagiarism and Copyright Infringement will not be tolerated. If you have any questions about academic dishonesty ask us, or in regards to a presentation or paper you may also check with the writing center (681-1383).

SAFETY/ACCIDENT PROCEDURE

United States Embassy of Beijing, China

Ambassador Clark T. Randt Jr.

Xiu Shui Bei Jie 3

100600

Tel: (86-10) 6532-3831

American Embassy Hanoi

Physical Address : 7 Lang Ha Street, Hanoi, Vietnam

Fax : 011-84-4-772-1510

U.S. Consulate General

4 Le Duan Blvd., Distric 1, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam

Tel: (84-8) 822-9433

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When calling from VN:

Phone: 001.912.681.5358
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Email: pwcarter@georgiasouthern.edu

Center for International Studies

Nancy Shumaker
1313 Forest Drive Bldg.
P.O. Box 8106
Statesboro, GA 30460-8106

When calling from VN:

Phone: 001.912.681.0332
Fax: 001.912.681.0824
Email: interstd@georgiasouthern.edu

Non-emergency contact with students should be via email or done through phone cards purchasable in the U.S. or in China and Vietnam upon arrival.

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT

Georgia Southern University does not discriminate against qualified students with documented disabilities in its education programs. If you have a disability-related need for modifications in this course, contact the *Student Disability Resource Center (SDRC)* 871-1566; TDD phone: 912-681-0666. This notification should occur by the middle of spring semester. As much as possible we will work to accommodate all documented disabilities, though we are limited by the locations we are traveling to.

- SDRC is located in Hampton Hall, BLDG. #5. Knight Drive, 871-1566; TDD phone: 912-681-0666

We will make no provisions for any claim of disability that is not documented through the *Student Disability Resource Center* by the middle of Spring semester.

CIVILITY

We will not allow another person to disrupt the learning of others in this class. Students are expected to communicate in a civil manner in academic interactions at all times, both in and out of the classroom. This means that interactions are to be carried out in a polite, courteous, and dignified manner, which are respectful and understanding toward both peers and professors. Unbiased and non-discriminatory actions that reflect the utmost respect for one another, regardless of race, gender, religion, disability or sexual orientation are mandatory. Failure to behave in a civil manner may result in disciplinary actions as described by the Student Conduct Code.

Agreement With Syllabus Content, Course Requirements and Expectations

This syllabus is a contract between the professors and student to respectively provide and complete a worthy learning experience. By remaining a registered student in this course, the student has

identified their understanding of the obligations set-forth in this syllabus for satisfactory completion of the course.

Caveat: This syllabus is subject to change. You are responsible to be aware of and adapt all changes.