

# GLS 4000 – UNDERSTANDING CHINA

Instructors: Dr. Shawn Arthur

Office: Greer Hall 115

Class Meeting Times: TR 3:30-4:45pm

Office Hours: TR 10:45-11:15, 1:45-2:15 in office, W 12:00-5:00pm (on-line only), and by appointment

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Classroom: I.G.Greer room 214

**Course Description:** This course emphasizes the necessity of investigating contemporary global issues utilizing multiple perspectives and methodologies. The major focus of this iteration of the course examines China – from political, religious, cultural, gender, and environmental perspectives and using a range of information gathering techniques. Students will also produce a cumulative research project on their individual area of focus utilizing the methods and theories employed in the course.

**Academic Integrity:** All members of ASU are expected to maintain the highest standards of academic honesty and integrity. We take the issues of cheating, plagiarism, and collusion (and the mere appearance thereof) seriously and expect all the work you do in this course to be your own, done individually. ASU's academic integrity code can be found at <http://studentconduct.appstate.edu/>. If you remain enrolled in the course, there is an understood agreement that all academic integrity policies and course rules will be followed. Transgressions of this policy will result in **an immediate failure of the entire course.**

★ ASU is committed to making reasonable accommodations for individuals with documented qualifying disabilities. Those seeking accommodations based on a substantially limiting disability must contact and register with The Office of Disability Services (ODS) at <http://www.ods.appstate.edu/> and meet with ODS staff to discuss their circumstances.

★ All cell phones, pagers, PDAs, et cetera, should be turned off or vibrate prior to class. A ringing phone (as with talking to your neighbor, text messaging, snoring, reading the newspaper, etc... during class) is disrespectful and disruptive to the entire class, and so the person(s) will be asked to leave and will be counted as absent. (see Student Conduct Code 4.02d, r, u)

## **REQUIREMENTS:**

### **Required Readings**

★ Jasper Becker, *Dragon Rising: An Inside Look at China Today*

★ Xinran, *The Good Women of China*

★ Peter Hessler, *Country Driving: A Chinese Road Trip*

★ Wang Yi'e, *Daoism in China: An Introduction*

★ Students are also required to purchase a course readings packet (P) from the university bookstore.

### **Attendance and Participation (30%)**

★ Regular attendance, prior preparation, and active participation in class are required.

★ Each class day devoted to student discussion of research will be graded.

★ Attendance will count in formulating the final grade. Missing class discussions (or sleeping, talking, texting, etc. during them) also tends to have adverse effects on quiz performance and ability to understand and discuss ideas adequately. Each student receives 3 free absences. Each additional absence, no matter the reason – including religious observances, will reduce the final grade by 2 percentage points. 9 or more absences will result in failure of the course. Use your allowed absences only as necessary. Students are responsible for discussing assignment submission problems due to required religious observances in writing no later than three weeks after the first class day of the term.

★ Students are expected to read the assignments before coming to class and to bring the assigned readings with them to class. Proper preparation is part of active participation and is therefore part of the A&P grade.

★ Students are expected to interact with the professors, to answer in class questions about the readings, to discuss the readings in class, and to provide thoughtful questions about the readings. These forms of participation are part of the A&P grade. (If there are any problems or questions, students are expected to contact the professors immediately for resolution.)

### **Analysis Papers (70%)**

★ Each essay should be well-informed, thorough, thoughtful, and well-organized, as well as critically reflective and analytical. A pertinent style sheet is in the packet. The paper should show the student's understanding of Confucian history, ideas, and practices in a critical, Western academic fashion.

★ During the semester, each student will be required to read, cite, and adequately utilize at least 1 (one) source in the language of their focus area.

★ Each assignment is required to have single-spaced lines, 1" margins, Times New Roman 12pt font, stapled pages, correct punctuation and grammar, and properly cited references throughout.

★ Late work will be graded lower. Work more than one week late will receive an "F."

T Feb 7 – **Essay** (10%; 2.5-3 pages) – Discussing the nature of China's major changes over the past 40 years and the similar changes in the student focus area.

T Feb 28 – **Essay** (10%; 2.5-3 pages) – Comparing and analyzing the issues of politics, economics, labor, and trade between student focus area the Chinese issues discussed in class.

T Mar 27 – **Essay** (10%; 2.5-3 pages) – Discussing women's issues, roles, oppression, and power in student focus area.

T Apr 17 – **Essay** (10%; 2.5-3 pages) – Discussing environmental issues, crises, and contributions to problems and solutions.

F May 11 – **Final Essay** (30%; 6-7 pages) – Discussing contemporary global issues in student focus area. This paper will be based on the range of issues discussed throughout the course. Special attention should be paid to recent changes in the culture and religious climate in the student focus area and reasons why these changes are occurring - especially examining the effects of different forms of globalization.

### **SCHEDULE**

T Jan 17 ★ Introductory Materials about Grading, Writing, and Comma Usage (P)

★ Timeline of China (P)

★ Conversion of Wade-Giles to Pinyin (P)

★ Nathan, "Totalitarianism: Introduction: Central Points" (P)

★ Jacques "Changing of the Guard" (P) – p.1-16

### **VIEWS OF AN EDUCATOR – CONTINUITY OR RADICAL CHANGE?**

R Jan 19 ★ Crain "Preface 1, 2, & 3" (P) – p.i-vii

★ Crain "Section 1 – Inside China: Constant Change" (P) – p.1-68

T Jan 24 ★ Crain "Section 2 – Heroes: Then & Now" (P) – p.69-126

R Jan 26 ★ Crain "Section 3 – Beyond Borders" (P) – p.127-160

★ Crain "Section 4 – Shaanxi Normal University" (P) – p.161-249

### **RECENT CHANGES IN STUDENT AREA OF FOCUS**

T Jan 31 ★ students bring in & discuss preliminary readings about changes in their focus area

R Feb 2 ★ students discuss more changes – connect changes to China and to each other – get a sense of patterns of recent changes around the world

### **ECONOMICS, POLITICS, LABOR, & TRADE**

T Feb 7 ★ Becker, "Introduction," "Beijing," "Shanghai"

★ **PAPER DUE on Recent Changes**

R Feb 9 ★ Compare Confucian Analects and Maoism

★ Gardner – 4 Books – "Introduction," "Great Learning," & "Analects" (P)

★ Mao – Little Red Book – Chs. I-VII (P)

T Feb 14 ★ Watch Documentary of "China from the Inside" (Power & People)

★ Becker, "Northeast," "South of Shanghai," "Pearl River Delta"

R Feb 16 ★Becker, “Central China,” “Yunan Province,” “China and the World”

### **CONTEMPORARY STATE OF POLITICS, ECONOMY, & LABOR IN STUDENT AREA OF FOCUS**

T Feb 20 ★ students bring in & discuss preliminary readings about political and economic state in their focus area

R Feb 22 ★ students discuss more changes – connect issues to China and to each other – get a sense of patterns of recent changes and issues around the world

### **WOMEN’S VIEWS ON THE CUSP BETWEEN TRADITION AND MODERNITY**

T Feb 28 ★Xinran, chs. 1-4.  
★Information on Foot Binding and *Nushu* (P)  
★**PAPER DUE on Politics, Economy, & Labor**

R Mar 1 ★Xinran, chs. 5-8.  
★Watch Documentary of “China From the Inside” (Women from the Country)

T Mar 6 ★Xinran, chs. 9-12.

R Mar 8 ★Xinran, chs. 13-15, epilogue.

### **WOMEN IN STUDENT AREA OF FOCUS**

Mar 13 & 15 Spring Break

T Mar 20 ★ students bring in & discuss preliminary readings about women in their focus area

R Mar 22 ★ students discuss more gender and women’s issues – connect issues to China and to each other – get a sense of patterns of recent changes and issues for women around the world

### **ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES**

T Mar 27 ★Hessler, “Book I, The Wall”  
★**PAPER DUE on Women**

R Mar 29 ★Hessler, “Book II, The Village”  
★Watch Documentary of “China From the Inside” (Shifting Nature)

T Apr 3 ★Hessler, “Book III, The Factory” – 1<sup>st</sup> half  
★ 2008 Earthquake Footage & HBO Documentary on Survivors

R Apr 5 ★ Hessler, “Book III, The Factory” – 2<sup>nd</sup> half  
★ Website articles from James Miller (TBA)

### **ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES IN STUDENT AREA OF FOCUS**

T Apr 10 Easter Break

R Apr 12 ★ students bring in & discuss preliminary readings about environmental issues in their focus area – connect issues to China and to each other – get a sense of patterns of recent changes and issues around the world

### **CHINA’S CULTURE AND RELIGION**

T Apr 17 ★Wang, *Daoism in China: An Introduction* – 7-48  
★**PAPER DUE on Environmental Issues**

R Apr 19 ★Wang, p.49-92

T Apr 24 ★Wang, p.93-136

R Apr 26 ★Wang, p.137-189

**CHINA'S CULTURE AND RELIGION IN STUDENT AREA OF FOCUS**

T May 1 ★ students bring in & discuss readings about culture and religion in their focus area – connect issues to China and to each other – get a sense of patterns of recent changes and issues around the world

R May 3 ★ students continue discussion of readings about culture and religion in their focus area

★ **FINAL ESSAY DUE** – Friday, May 11, 2012 at 11:30 AM