

UC 8719 05F

RECEIVED OCT 17 2005

UNIVERSITY of HOUSTON

CORE CURRICULUM COURSE REQUEST

APPROVED DEC 07 2005

Originating Department/College: MCL/CLASS

Person making request: X. Sharon Wen Telephone: X 33072

Dean's signature: _____ Date: _____

I. General Information:

Course number and title: CHNS 3350 a Look into Modern China

Complete catalog description (NOT required if attached to CBM 003 form):
please see the CBM form

Category of Core for which course is being proposed (mark only one):

- Communication
- Mathematics
- Mathematics/Reasoning (IDO)
- Natural Sciences
- Humanities
- Visual/Performing Arts Critical
- Visual/Performing Arts Experiential
- Social/Behavioral Sciences
- Social/Behavioral Sciences Writing Intensive
- U.S. History
- American Government

II. Objectives and Evaluation (respond on one or more separate sheets):

Call 3-0453 for a copy of "Guidelines for Requesting and Evaluating Core Courses" or visit the website at www.uh.edu/academics/corecurriculum

- A. How does the proposed course meet the appropriate Exemplary Educational Objectives (see Guidelines). Attach a syllabus and supporting materials for the objectives the syllabus does not make clear.
- B. Specify the processes and procedures for evaluating course effectiveness in regard to its goals.
- C. Delineate how these evaluation results will be used to improve the course?

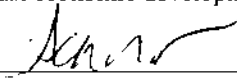
please see the application and syllabus

CBM003 ADD/CHANGE FORM

Undergraduate Council
 New Course Course Change
Core Category: Humanities Effective Fall 2006

or

Graduate/Professional Studies Council
 New Course Course Change
Effective Fall

- Department: MCL College: CLASS
- Person Submitting Form: WEN Telephone: 3-3072
- Course Information on New/Revised course:
 - Instructional Area / Course Number / Long Course Title:
CHNS / 2360 / A Look into Modern China
 - Instructional Area / Course Number / Short Course Title (30 characters max.)
CHNS / 2360 / A LOOK INTO MODERN CHINA
 - SCH: 3.00 Level: SO CIP Code: 1603010001 Lect Hrs: 3 Lab Hrs: 0
- Justification for adding/changing course: To meet instructional needs of students
- Was the proposed/revised course previously offered as a special topics course? Yes No
If Yes, please complete:
 - Instructional Area / Course Number / Long Course Title:
 / /
 - Content ID: Start Date (yyyy3):
- Is this course offered for undergraduate credit only? Yes No
- Authorized Degree Program(s): BA
 - Does this course affect major/minor requirements in the College/Department? Yes No
 - Does this course affect major/minor requirements in other Colleges/Departments? Yes No
 - Are special fees attached to this course? Yes No
 - Can the course be repeated for credit? Yes No
- Grade Option: Letter (A, B, C ...) Instruction Type: lecture
- If this form involves a change to an existing course, please obtain the following information from the course inventory: Instructional Area / Course Number / Long Course Title
 / /
 - Start Date (yyyy3): Content I.D.:
- Proposed Catalog Description:
Cr: (3) Prerequisites: Eng. 1303/1304 Description (30 words max.): The course is taught in English. China's social transformation in the last two decades and the Chinese people's understanding of modernity. Readings of novels, essays, journal reports and films reveal conflicts between conventional Chinese values and modern legal systems, fast economic development and traditional ways of living. Taught in English.
- Dean's Signature:  Date: 10/6/05
Print/Type Name:

Application for the Humanities core course:

CHNS 2360: A Look into modern China

I. The course will reach the Exemplary Educational Objectives in following ways

1. The course will reach the Exemplary Educational Objective 1, “to use and critique alternative explanatory systems or theories” by providing students with different readings that present different or even conflicting perspectives and viewpoints. Students are required to use critical thinking skills and create their own viewpoints that might be different from the readings and lectures. For example, the two text-books, *Evening Chats in Beijing-Probing China’s Predicament* and *China Pop* are written from different perspectives and have proposed many controversies on China’s modernity. The first book is by Perry Link, a distinguished professor from Princeton, whose analysis of present China is very critical; whereas the second book is by a well-known columnist, Jiangying Zha, who provides students with alternative explanations.

In addition to the readings, the course emphasizes a critical approach and encourages peer learning and group discussion. Students will propose their ideas, invite different viewpoints, and lead the discussion. The course schedules a formal oral presentation for students to share their ideas and to debate with others in addition to many informal discussions.

2. The course will reach the Exemplary Educational Objective 2, “to analyze the effects of historical, social, political, economic, cultural, and global forces on the area under study” by presenting rich course contents in a broad scope. Students will explore and analyze the issues in social, economic, political, historical, cultural and global aspects. They will use analytical skills to write 3 essays in addition to in-class tests. Prior to the essays and tests, the course offers ample discussions that will help students develop their analytical skills.

The themes the course include the Movements of Historical Reflection and Cultural Reflection in the late 1980’s; social changes as presented in the readings of stories; political improvement as in the readings of *China Pop*, the film, *Story of Qiuju*, or political stagnation as presented in *Evening Chats in Beijing-Probing China’s Predicament*; the consequences of the Chinese economic reform in the past two decades, and globalization of Chinese economy and media industries as discussed in *China Pop*.

3. The course will reach the Exemplary Educational Objective 5, “to analyze, critically assess, and develop creative solutions to public policy problems” by providing students with social cases and problems discussed in the stories and the text-books. Students are required to analyze, critically assess, and creatively construct suggestions to the problems. For example, the social problems to be discussed include current massive unemployment caused by the economic reform, aging of the population because of the policy of one family one child,

confusion of legal system due to the rapid development of laws, and fusion of materialism and modernity as presented in the film *Er Mo* and other readings.

Although it is not the intent of the course to train students to solve social problems, the contents of the course do provide students with ample opportunities to apply their knowledge to real social situations and to creatively explore solutions.

4. The course will reach the Exemplary Educational Objective 6, *“To recognize and assume one’s responsibility as a citizen in a democratic society by learning to think for oneself, by engaging in public discourse, and by obtaining information through the news media and other appropriate information sources about politics and public policy.”* Readings of the course include not only books but also electronic materials; not only essays and novels but also journal reports and media presentations. The course intends to develop students’ critical thinking and analytical skills through a critical approach, to broaden their knowledge on today’s China by requiring them to use the larger socio-cultural context to support their analysis and interpretation, to develop their understanding of the complexity of socio-cultural issues, and consequently, to think and function independently as responsible individuals.

II. Specify the processes and procedures for evaluating course effectiveness in regard to its goals. How will these evaluation results be used to improve the courses?

1. At the mid of the semester, an informative evaluation form will be filled by students since this is a new course. Based on the results of the informative evaluation, the instructor will adapt the teaching method and style to accommodate student’s needs.
2. By the end of the semester, students will fill an assessment form designed specifically for this course, in addition to the regular departmental course evaluation. The feedback of the students will help improve this new course continuously.
3. Through the semester, the course requires five quizzes and three essays, all of which are thoroughly graded and commented by the instructor. The tests and essays themselves are the evaluations of the course effectiveness. The work of students provides the immediate feedback to the instructor. In addition to the written work, the oral presentation from students also serves as the evidence of effective learning and instruction.

New Course CHNS 2360: A Look into Modern China
Instructor: Dr. X. Sharon Wen, MCL x33072; xwen@uh.edu
Class meets twice a week, 1.5 hours each time.

The course focuses on today's China where economic reform has brought drastic changes to people's daily life. Readings of the course are selected from political, economic, social, cultural, and literary perspectives to help students develop their literary critiques and intellectual inquiry. The course materials include genres of novels, essays, journal reports, and films published in the 1990s and the beginning of the 21st century. The course materials present the social transformation, and changes of people's understanding of Chinese modernity and economic globalization. They reveal conflicts between conventional Chinese values and the modern legal system, fast economic development and traditional ways of living, the prosperity of cities and the poverty of the country, materialism and a good sense of values.

The course intends to develop students' critical thinking and analytical skills, to broaden their knowledge on today's China by requiring them to use the larger socio-cultural context to support their analysis and interpretation, to develop their understanding of the complexity of socio-cultural issues, and consequently, to think and function independently as responsible individuals. The course is taught in English. All the readings are in English or English translation and films are English subtitled.

Required Readings

1. *The Vintage Book of Contemporary Chinese Fiction*, 1998. Vintage Books A division of Random House, New York

Stories

- 1. Chen shixu: The general and the small town
- 2. Su Shuyang: Between life and death
- 3. Bi Shumin: One centimeter
- 4. Liu Xinwu: Black Walls
- 5. Wang Anyi: Between themselves
- 6. Cai Cehai: The distant sound of tree felling
- 7. Wang Anyi: Life in a small courtyard
2. Perry Link, 1992. *Evening Chats in Beijing-Probing China's Predicament*, W. W. Norton and Company, New York. (ECIBJ)
3. Jianying Zha, 1995. *China Pop*. The New Press, New York (CP)

Required Films

Zhang Yimou, *To live*
 Zhang Yimou, *The Story of Qiu Ju*
 Chen Kaige, *Together*
 Zhang Yang, *Shower*

Required electronic materials: Available through Webct.

Recommended books and films

Books

1. David Wang, 1994. *Running Wild-New Chinese Writers*. Columbia University Press
2. M. Duke, 1991, *Worlds of Modern Chinese Fiction*, M. E. Sharpe.
3. Perry Link, Richard Madsen, and Paul Pickowicz (editors), 2002. *Popular China*, Rowman & Littlefield Publishers.

FilmsZhang Yimou, *Not one less*Yang Yazou, *Pretty Big Feet*Wang Xiaoshuai, *Beijing Bicycle*Huang Jianzhong, *Spring Festival*Carma Hinton *Morning Sun*Zhou Xiaowen, *Ermo***Course Requirements and Grading**

1. Three essays based on the readings and films. The first essay is on a film plus stories from the course, the second is on a chapter from the book by Link, and the third is on a chapter from the book by Zha. (60%)
2. Five quizzes on the required readings and films (20%)
3. Oral presentation. You will have 15 minutes to present one of your essays in class. Group (2-3 students) presentation is welcome. (10%)
4. Attendance and participation (10%). Try to maintain perfect attendance. You will have one free cut. You will lose one point for each additional absence. Two to three times of tardiness will be considered as one absence. Participation in the class discussion is important.

Notes on the essays and quizzes.

1. The length of the essay: minimum 1000 words or 4 pages each.
2. All the essays are assigned to you as home work. Please be aware of the due day in Course Schedule below.
3. All the quizzes are close-book tests.

90-100: A- --A; 80-89: B- --B+; 70-79: C- --C+; 60-69: D- --D+; Below 60: F.

Course Schedule

- Wk 1 Introduction to the course, readings, and expectations.
Introduction to the Cultural Reflection Movement in the 1980's.
Assignments: Read the stories and see the films that are not shown in class.
Decide on which stories that you are going to write for the essay.
- WK 2 Introduction to the Historical Movement.
Introduction to Zhang Yimou.
Film screening: *To live*
Assignments: Finish the stories of 1 and 2. Finish the film *To Live*.
- Wk 3 Introduction: Events in *To Live*.
Quiz on Stories 1 and 2 the general and the small town; between life and death.
Discussion *To live* and Stories 1 and 2.
Assignments: film *Story of Qiuju*. Readings: stories of 3 and 4.
Submit your choice of the film and stories for the presentation.
- Wk 4 **Quiz on Stories 3 and 4 One centimeter and Black Walls, and the film Story of Qiuju.**
Introduction: Conformity in Chinese tradition. Conflicts between the tradition and modernity.

Discussion: stories 3 and 4, as well as the film *Story of Qiuju*.
 Assignments: film *Together*. Readings: story 5 and Chapter 1 of ECIBJ (Social World).

- Wk 5 **Quiz on Story 5 Between Themselves, and Chapter 1 of ECIBJ.**
 Introduction to Chen Kaige and the fifth generation film directors.
 Discussion: *Together*, Story 5. Chapter 1 of ECIBJ.
 Assignments: film *Shower*. Readings: Stories 6 and 7; and Chapter 2 of ECIBJ (Livelihood). Writing the first essay.
- Wk 6 **Your first ESSAY on a film and the stories are due.**
 Discussion: Story 6, The distant sound of tree felling and 7 Life in a small courtyard in relation to the essay of Chapter 2 Livelihood of ECIBJ.
 Assignments: Chapters 4 and 5 Identity and Identity with Groups of ECIBJ.
- Wk 7 Introduction: Chinese intellectuals and their roles in society. The Proletarian Cultural Revolution.
 Film screening: *Morning Sun*
 Assignments: Same as Wk 6.
- Wk 8 **Quiz on Chapters 2, 4, 5 of ECIBJ.**
 Chinese values as social relations among people.
 Discussion Chapters 4 and 5 Identity and Identity with Groups
 Assignments: Chapter 6 Responsibility of ECIBJ.
- Wk 9 **Quiz on Chapter 6 of ECIBJ.**
 Introduction to the Chinese media
 Discussion: Chapter 6 Responsibility of ECIBJ
 Assignments: Chapters 1 and 2, After an Icon and Yearnings of CP. Writing: the second essay on one or two chapters of ECIBJ.
- Wk 10 **Your second ESSAY on one or two chapters of ECIBJ is due.**
 Discussion of Chapters 1 and 2, After an Icon and Yearnings of CP.
 Introduction of Chinese pop music and culture
 Film screening: Ermo.
 Assignments: Chapters 4 and 5, Shadows on the screen and The Whopper
- Wk 11 Discussion of Chapters 4 and 5, Shadows on the screen and The Whopper
 Themes: Communism lite,
 McArt with small fries,
 Paper money and
 Food is Heaven.
 Assignments: Chapters 6 and 7, Yellow Peril and Islanders.
- Wk 12 Discussion of Chapters 6 and 7, Yellow Peril and Islanders.
 Reflection of China Pop
 Assignments: Prepare your presentation. You are most welcome to discuss your topic with the instructor. Writing: the third essay on one or two chapters of CP
- Wk 13 **Your third ESSAY on one or two chapters of CP is due.**
 Discussion in groups about the presentation topics and contents.
 Submit your presentation topic.

Assignment: prepare your presentation.

Wk 14 Students presentation and discussion.

Wk 15 Students presentation and discussion. Course evaluation.