Study Abroad Proposal

Addition of a Chinese Area Studies track in Beijing to our menu of Chinese Language programs at other sites administered through CET, Academic Programs.

Prepared by

Gary Johnston, Director of Study Abroad Programs, and Xianmin Liu, Senior Lecturer Chinese, East Asian Studies Program.

Rationale for Requesting the Additional Track in Chinese Area Studies

The Program in Chinese Language Studies and the East Asian Studies Program is seeking approval to add a Chinese Studies track to our menu of programs in China through CET Academic Programs. Currently, we offer a number of opportunities for intensive Chinese language study through CET Academic Programs in Beijing, Hangzhou, and Harbin. Over the past few years a number of students have participated in these programs, especially in summer. With increasing enrollments in Chinese language classes and area studies at Vanderbilt over the last several terms and a growing interest in Chinese culture, history, and society there is also an increased interest in pursuing Chinese Area Studies subjects in country. We hope by offering this new track to attract more students into this field and enhance the interest in both the language and the country.

Program Overview

The track in Chinese Studies allows students to live and study in China with a less intensive focus on the language. For example, students who choose the intensive Chinese track in Beijing are subject to a full-time language pledge and a curriculum of 19 to 20 hours per week of language instruction. In contrast students choosing the Chinese Area Studies will be able to take courses in “Chinese culture, history and issues of contemporary significance” in addition to the eleven hours per week of Chinese language study.

(from the CET web site)

The program accommodates all students, with varying degrees of Chinese background, by offering courses in Chinese history, politics, philosophy, literature and language. Three levels of Chinese language are offered: beginning through high intermediate. All area studies courses are taught in English.

Courses

During the 15-week fall and spring semesters, students will enroll in up to 20 hours per week of Chinese language and Chinese studies courses. Language classes total 11 hours per week and include one hour per week of one-on-one tutorial. In addition, all students are required to take two area studies courses, and may take as many as three. CET recommends that all students choose as one of their electives the program's cornerstone course, 21st Century Beijing, which introduces students to some of the broad issues of today's China, emphasizing how these issues manifest in Beijing. Each content course
meets for three hours per week.

During the eight-week summer term, students take 19 class hours per week. Eleven of these hours are Chinese language classes, including one hour per week of one-on-one tutorial. In addition, students take two area studies electives, each of which meets for four hours per week.

As a part of the course curriculum, each area studies course will include field trips and events, such as lectures by local experts or visits to local museums, temples or other sites of historical and cultural significance. These excursions are led by course faculty and are designed to enhance student's learning experiences beyond the walls of the classroom.

**Independent Study**

Students who choose to enroll in an additional term at the Beijing Chinese Studies program may take an Independent Study in lieu of one area studies course. Independent Studies are student-designed and completed under the direction of one of the program faculty. At the end of the term, students give a formal presentation about their Independent Study topic to their teachers and peers.

**Course Details**

**Required Course:**
**CL100-300. Chinese Language**
All students take daily Chinese language classes, including one hour of one-on-one tutorial per week. Classes use an integrated approach to language learning, placing equal emphasis on the basic areas of language competency: listening, speaking, reading and writing. One-on-one tutorials supplement group class work and provide students the chance to practice and refine sentence production. Fall, Spring and Summer: 11 hours/week.

**Elective Courses:**

**CS250. 21st Century Beijing - Offered all terms**
Beijing at the beginning of the new century embodies the dynamism of contemporary China, with rapid economic development, population pressures, environmental concerns, and the stresses of political reform and adaptation. It is also a thriving cultural center, with art, literature, film and architecture all flourishing. This class will look at some of the many issues facing modern China. Using modern media and our own investigative talents we will attempt to come to a deeper understanding of this center of power for the People’s Republic of China. In addition to our classroom lectures and assigned readings, we will hit the streets, read the news, watch tv, attend cultural events, and interview the ‘man on the street’ to find out what makes this vibrant and rapidly changing city tick.

*Professor:* Rebecca Clothey (Spring 2006), Team taught by Ken and Elvira Hammond (Summer 2006)
**CS260. Sino-Japanese Relations - Spring 2006 and Summer 2006**
This course will focus on the Sino-Japanese relations surrounding the Second World War. Beginning with a brief historical review of Sino-Japanese relations from pre-modern times to the end of the 19th century, the course then introduces the main sources of conflict during the interwar period and investigates events leading to World War II. Topics covered include events such as the Manchurian Incident, the Xian incident, the Rape of Nanjing and military cooperation between China and the US. Students will leave the course with a solid understanding of the intricacies of Sino-Japanese relations today.

*Professor: Liang Zhanjun*

**CS 270. China’s Modern Revolution, 1842-2006 - Summer 2006**
This class will trace the course of China’s revolutionary struggle to overcome the invasions and domination of the Western powers in the 19th century, and to transform the late imperial political and cultural order to create a new society which would allow China to reclaim its traditional role as a leading country in Asia and the world. The decline and collapse of the imperial order from the defeat in the Opium War and the challenge of the Taiping Rebellion through the Self-strengthening Movement and the Reforms of 1898 and the Boxer Rebellion gave way to the rise of revolutionary nationalism and communism, which clashed through the middle of the 20th century before the establishment of the Peoples’ Republic in 1949. Over the ensuing 5 & ½ decades China has undergone radical political movements, rapid industrialization, environmental stress, and “opening to the world.” We will seek to understand each of these episodes and to make sense of the broad patterns of Chinese history in the modern period.

*Professor: Team taught by Ken and Elvira Hammond*

This course discusses many of the inherent contradictions and new social issues that have emerged as a result of China's rapidly changing economic environment. The course also explores the modern historical factors that have contributed to these contemporary issues. After completion of this course, students will have an understanding of the challenges facing China’s leaders as the nation forges into the twenty-first century.

*Professor: Rebecca Clothey*

**CS280. Chinese Literature in Translation - Summer 2006**
This course traces the highlights of Chinese literature, from ancient records and the classics of Confucius to the poetry of the high Tang and the opera of the Ming. Students will learn of the great writers and styles of the ages, and study some of the historical context to better understand the pieces they read. We will meet lovesick scholars, wronged women, dashing heroes, avatars in myriad forms, corrupt officials, drunken lords, and a host of other characters. From this investigation of China’s literary heritage, students will have a better understanding of cultural themes and motifs they see daily and they will also get an insight into the core values of Chinese culture.

*Professor: Elvira Hammond*
CS320. Chinese History through the Lens of Beijing - Summer 2006
Through a combination of readings, lectures and site visits this course will explore the main contours of Chinese history using the city of Beijing as a microcosm of the country as a whole. We will visit a Han dynasty tomb, a Buddhist monastery from the Tang period, a Liao dynasty pagoda, and a series of other sites from the Yuan, Ming and Qing dynasties, and the twentieth century. We will situate these places in the context of Beijing’s historical development, and the overarching trajectory of China’s imperial past.

Professor: Ken Hammond

CS900. Independent Study - Offered all terms to qualified students
Students who continue into a second term may choose to design an Independent Study in lieu of one elective course. Projects can be on any topic of interest to the student, but must make use of Beijing as a learning environment. All research projects are decided in consultation with an advising member of CET’s faculty. At the end of the term, students submit a final paper and give a formal presentation on their research findings to their teachers and peers.

Housing and meals
CET students live in a foreign students' dormitory on the Capital Normal University campus with a Chinese roommate. This newly renovated dormitory building also houses other international students, creating a uniquely international living environment that allows for a lively exchange of culture and views. All student rooms offer a private phone line, a television and internet access. Each floor has a shared kitchen equipped with a sink and a microwave. Electric burners may be checked out by students. The building also houses a new gym with state-of-the-art equipment and an Olympic-size swimming pool. Meals are not included in the program cost; however, Beijing has an abundance of reasonably-priced restaurants and eateries, and CNU’s campus offers two cafeterias. Students may expect to spend about $6 or $7 per day for meals.

Chinese Roommates
Chinese roommates are undergraduates enrolled at the Capital Normal University and hail from all parts of China. They are individually selected to live with CET students and have varying degrees of English proficiency. CET students wishing to have more opportunities to practice Chinese language skills may request to live with a Chinese student less proficient in English. Similarly, CET students with minimal Chinese language skills may request a roommate with higher English proficiency. Chinese roommates participate in this housing arrangement in order to engage in cultural exchange with CET students. This unique arrangement offers the opportunity to practice language skills, make local friends and experience Chinese student life.
CET Academic Programs (from the web site)

CET Academic Programs is a private study abroad organization based in Washington, DC that has been designing and administering educational programs abroad since 1982. Study abroad programs are offered in Vietnam, China, the Czech Republic and Italy. CET is well known for its innovations in the field of study abroad. Programs specialize in integrating students into the society in which they are living, and emphasize high academic standards, innovative approaches to teaching and careful student management. Staffed by over 20 full-time employees in the US and abroad, CET currently sends more than 500 American students abroad annually.