PAAS 151 – MODERN CHINESE CULTURE

Fall 2017 (CRN 12473)

Class times: Monday and Thursday 13:00 – 14:20 pm
Cornett [COR] A121

Instructor: Andrew Marton – amarton@uvic.ca
Office Hours: Monday and Thursday 2:30 – 3:30 pm; CLE C225
Teaching Assistant: Nicholas Chlumecky – nchlumec@uvic.ca

Course Content

This course surveys patterns of Chinese culture in relation to a range of domestic and international economic, social and political contexts in contemporary China. Case studies of Chinese culture will also be placed in traditional perspective, including earlier periods back to the mid-19th century, to highlight the effects of modern events on cultural life in China, particularly literature, visual and performing arts, media, and the education system.

Learning Outcomes – Students will be able to:

- Describe and critically analyse a range of perspectives relevant to understanding modern Chinese culture;
- Consider and evaluate the empirical realities of particular cultural phenomena revealed in case studies in relation to contemporary economic, social and political developments;
- Identify assumptions, strengths and weaknesses of various interpretations of contemporary Chinese culture;
- Summarise, critically review, compare and discuss key arguments from the lectures and readings;
- Search databases to identify and locate relevant academic readings and other resources;
- Develop organisational and writing skills to convey knowledge, analyses and understanding in clear concise terms;
- Work effectively in groups to discuss and present particular issues and questions.

Evaluation

Attendance (15%) – Attendance is required at all classes and will normally be recorded via a sign-up sheet. Marks will be deducted for repeated absences without a valid reason and relevant proof (e.g. Doctor’s note).

Critical Reflections Exercises (35%) – Time will be given in class to write brief critical reflections to summarize your understanding of key issues and raise questions which demonstrate familiarity with the assigned readings and that you’re thinking about the lectures and discussions. Format and detailed expectations will be discussed in class.

Journal Article/Book Chapter Review (20%) – Due Thursday October 12th
Write a 700 word critical review of an academic journal article or book chapter relevant to the course. Format of the review and detailed expectations will be discussed in class. Submit to the PAAS department office CLE C205 by 4:30 pm on the due date.

Course Paper (30%) – Due in class Thursday November 30th
2500 word essay chosen from a list of topics or in consultation with the instructor. Format of the paper and detailed expectations will be discussed in class.
Late submissions – Late assignments will not be accepted without the prior permission of the instructor. Failure to hand in an assignment will result in a grade of zero for that assignment.

Originality of topics – Assignments prepared for another course may not be submitted. Anyone wishing to work on a topic addressed in another course must obtain the permission of the instructor at least two weeks before the due date.

Academic integrity – Students on this course are subject to University protocols on plagiarism and cheating. Offences will result in a grade of zero for the assignment, and may result in a failing grade for the course. Further details on the last page of this outline.

COURSE OUTLINE

- Assigned readings – other recommended and supplementary readings are provided under separate cover and will be updated during the term.

Week 1 – Introduction

Introduction and course overview (Thursday Sep. 7)
“Modern” history and contemporary Chinese culture (Monday Sep. 11)

Week 2 – Contemporary Chinese culture

Recent history – positioning Chinese culture (Thursday Sep. 14)
Guest speaker: Madeline Walker, Coordinator, Centre for Academic Communication; Introduction to contemporary mass culture; Critical reflections exercise (Monday Sep. 18)

Week 3 – Chinese culture and China in the world

Globalization, Chinese culture and the world; Critical reflections exercise (Thursday Sep. 21)
Wealth, power and Chinese culture – One Belt, One Road (Monday Sep. 25)
Week 4 – Rural and urban in China; Contemporary urban youth culture

Critical reflections exercise; Urban and rural in contemporary China (Thursday Sep. 28)
Global consumer culture and gender in a Chinese mega-city (Monday Oct. 2)

Week 5 – Avant-garde art in China and the world

Critical reflections exercise; Bloody animals! Chinese avant-garde art and artistic practice (Thursday Oct. 5)
- Perlez, J. (2017) Where the Wild Things are: China’s art dreamers at the Guggenheim, New York Times, September 24, p. AR1

No class – Thanksgiving (Monday Oct. 9)

Week 6 – Culture, gender and urban society; Enlightenment and modern cosmopolitanism

Cultural values and way of life among white collar migrant women; Critical reflections exercise; Review due today (Thursday Oct. 12)
- Republican Shanghai; Cultural geography of jazz in Shanghai today (Monday Oct. 16)
- Mu, Shiying (1934) Shanghai Foxtrot (上海的狐步舞 Shànghǎi de húbùwǔ). In Mu Shiying: China’s Lost Modernist. (Translated by Field, A. D., 2014) Hong Kong: Hong Kong University Press, pp. 105-118.

Week 7 – Chinese culture and the end of Empire

Literary allegory as cultural and social critique (Thursday Oct. 19); (Monday Oct. 23)

Week 8 – Revolution in Chinese culture

Guest speaker: Joshua Fogel, Were the Taipings Proto-Communists?: Naitō Konan’s Understanding of ‘Communism’ in the Early Twentieth Century (Thursday Oct. 26)
Mao and the Cultural Revolution; Critical reflections exercise; Discussion of Course Paper (Monday Oct. 30)
Week 9 – Research on modern Chinese culture; Deng and the early reform era

Guest speaker: Ying Liu, Asian Studies Librarian, Research resources for contemporary Chinese culture (Thursday Nov. 2)
Reform and opening, Democracy Wall and High Culture Fever (Monday Nov. 6)

Week 10 – May 35th 1989 and its aftermath

*The Gate of Heavenly Peace; Critical reflections exercise;* (Thursday Nov. 9)
**No class – Reading Break** (Monday Nov. 13)

Week 11 – New media and changing cultural norms in China

The internet and social media (Thursday Nov. 16)
**TBC** (Monday Nov. 20)

Week 12 – Global impact of Chinese culture

China’s sharing economy and the shifting culture of consumerism (Thursday Nov. 23)
Nationalism and patriotism in Chinese culture; Course review (Monday Nov. 27)

**Last Class – Thursday Nov. 30: COURSE PAPER DUE**
PLAGIARISM AND CHEATING

The Department of Pacific and Asian Studies upholds and enforces the University’s policies on academic integrity and enforces the rules on plagiarism and cheating. These policies are described on pp. 46-48 of the current Undergraduate University Calendar (2017-18). All students are required to read this section: http://web.uvic.ca/calendar2017-09/undergrad/info/regulations/academic-integrity.html#

Practices that are NOT acceptable include:

- Persuading or paying someone else to write the student’s assignments, or otherwise presenting someone else’s work as the student’s own;
- Downloading essays or articles from the Internet and submitting part or whole as own work;
- Copying and pasting passages (aka “glossing”) from books, journals online resources or other sources, and presenting them as the student’s own work;
- Citing only a portion of a quotation, and presenting the remainder as the student’s own work;
- Copying from another student or sharing information in examinations or tests;
- Bringing notes or other materials into an examination or test, except as authorised by the examiner or instructor;
- The use of an editor – either as an individual or service, whether paid or unpaid – who manipulates revises, corrects or alters a student’s written or non-written work.

In addition, the following kinds of behaviour, unless specifically authorised by the instructor, are unacceptable in an examination: talking or communicating by computer or other electronic device with another student; looking at the work of other students while writing an exam; consulting books, electronic materials or other sources of information.

In every course, the instructor may choose to conduct an additional oral examination, in the presence of another faculty member from the Department, so as to ascertain the level of a student’s knowledge or understanding of the course material.

Departmental Policy Regarding Penalties for Plagiarism and Cheating

The possible penalties for plagiarism and cheating are outlined in the Calendar. An instructor will notify the Chair of the Department of cases of a suspected violation and the Chair will contact the student to arrange an interview with the student and instructor to review the case. If it is determined that a violation of University policy has occurred, the Chair will notify the Director of Academic Advising of the case and a letter of reprimand will be issued to the student. Any repeat offenses will be dealt with directly by the Dean.

In the Department of Pacific and Asian Studies, the minimum penalty for a first offence will be a grade of zero for the assignment, examination or test. Depending upon the seriousness of the offence and the weight of the assignment, the instructor in consultation with the Chair may assign a failing grade (less than 50%, zero GPA) for the course.

Students will not be permitted to rewrite an assignment, examination or test on which they have been found to have cheated or plagiarised, nor will they be permitted to complete supplemental assignments. A formal letter of reprimand will be issued to the student and kept on file. Records of any violation will be held by the Office of the Registrar. Such records are held five years after the offence. A repeat offence may result in the additional penalty of Disciplinary Probation being placed on the student’s Official Transcript.

If you have any doubts about the University’s policies, or want to know if a practice is acceptable or not, you should raise your concerns with your course instructor.