COURSE TITLE: Inside China: Society, Culture, and Economy in Beijing and Shanghai (May 7- May 27, 2014)

COURSE NUMBER: ASIA 236  3 Credit Hours

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Xianmin Liu & CET faculty

DEPARTMENT: Asian Studies Program, Vanderbilt University

Survival Chinese (handout)

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The course is designed to provide students with immediate, first-hand experience of China’s dynamic society and expanding economy, while also providing students with an opportunity to learn some basic Chinese language skills through classroom instruction and interaction with local people from different walks of life. The program will spend approximately two weeks in Beijing and one week in Shanghai. No background in Chinese is required.

Beijing
The curriculum in Beijing consists of the following three components:

1) Seminar & issue discussion
Students will spend about one hour every day attending seminar (in English) given by Chinese and American scholars on diverse topics and participating in discussions/debates with Chinese college students. Topics will include current social, political, economic issues, globalization, US-China relations and environmental challenges concerning China and the world.

2) Field trips & interviews
Field trips will be arranged for students to visit a range of well-known cultural/historical sites, such as the Great Wall, Temple of Heaven, Forbidden City, Summer Palace, and Tiananmen Square. Students will also get opportunities to visit local businesses, schools, museums, a traditional Chinese hospital, as well as a rural community. In addition, students will have the opportunity to gain “up close and personal” insights into Chinese life through visiting private homes, and interviewing with business owners, doctors, school kids/teachers, and migrant workers.

3) Language training & language practicum
The language lessons (four hours total) will be tied to students’ daily life, excursions, and visits, but will extend beyond the classroom to everyday life settings. Students will learn and practice some basic Chinese primarily through language practicum, that is, through daily communication, interaction, with Chinese people on/off campus. The four hours of language class will take place in the classroom in Beijing, but language practice will be done throughout the program.

**Shanghai**
The program will spend the last week in Shanghai, China’s commercial capital and one of the most phenomenal cities in the world. Activities in Shanghai include attending lectures on subjects such as History of Shanghai, work place politics in China. Field trips will include visits to famous sites such as the Bund and Pudong, China's financial and commercial hub. Students will also pay a visit to General Motor in Shanghai, American entrepreneur’s solo panel company, and meet with Vanderbilt alumni living and working in Shanghai for more than a decade.

**Final presentation/paper**
Based on the integration of what s/he has learned during the entire program and his/her understanding of the assigned reading (*Modern China: A Very Brief Introduction*), the student is expected to give an oral presentation that reflects his/her own insight into Chinese society, and to submit a five-page paper of personal experience with some substance and concrete details into his/her observations from these three weeks in China at the end of the program.

**Daily Journal Writing**
Students are required to keep a daily journal containing their experiences, thoughts, reflections during the entire program, and to submit it at the end of the program together with the final paper. (Refer to the Journal Requirements for specifics)

**Attendance/Participation**
Attendance of every single class, group activity and trip is required. Attendance constitutes 1/5 of the final grade. In case of medical emergency, the student needs to immediately notify the instructor.

**Course Assessment**

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<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Attendance/Class participation</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Discussion/debate participation</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Daily journal (see attached requirements)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Language practicum/Field trips (asking questions/collection data)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Presentation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Paper (end of the program)</td>
<td>25%</td>
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