Chinese/Cultures in Taiwan

David Blundell
Summer Course 2014

Syllabus

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES:

This course provides an interdisciplinary and critical examination of contemporary Chinese and other cultural attributes in Taiwan. The course is designed for students who will participate in an educational trip to Taiwan. The course examines major historical events from the colonial, national, and democratic periods, and their influences on current socioeconomic, political, and cultural aspects of Taiwan society. To better prepare the students for the in-country study, survival language skills will be offered in the course.

REQUIRED MATERIALS:

David Blundell, ed. 2012. *Taiwan since Martial Law: Society, Culture, Politics, Economy*. Taipei: National Taiwan University Press, Berkeley: University of California.

_____. 2009. *Austronesian Taiwan: Linguistics, History, Ethnology, Prehistory*. David Blundell, ed. Revised Edition. Taipei: Shung Ye Museum & Berkeley: Phoebe A. Hearst Museum, University of California.

_____. 2004. *Rhythm of Taiwan Hakka*. Al Wu and David Blundell, eds. Council for Hakka Affairs, Executive Yuan, Taiwan.

OTHER READINGS:

Dialogue about biomedical sciences, policies between the United States and Taiwan?

EVALUATION:

Final course grades will be computed using the following percentages:

- **30% Participation.** A critical part of learning on study abroad is the extent to which students extend themselves to take advantage of the opportunities available. Grade will reflect attendance, participation in discussions, contribution to group work, curiosity and inquiry, grasp of readings, etc. Occasional tasks may be used to assess knowledge of key concepts. Attitude on excursions and behavior will also be taken into account, as being professional and having a good attitude is important to study abroad experiences.
- **20% Homework blog posts.** Blog post assignments and commenting on other student's blogs with thought provoking and relevant questions to spark conversations. These blogs will be reflections on class material and how they relate on the cultural excursions we experience in Taiwan.
- **30% Final reflection blog.** The final blog is about what you learned on about biomedical sciences and policies between the United States and Taiwan and how it effects the cultures for both countries.
- **20% Group presentations on a cultural or historical event.** In groups, you will give a 12-15 minute presentation that will be based on a research topic related to Taiwanese culture, and/or to the places to be visited during the in-country study program. The groups should use power point, and provide data, visual images, etc. to illustrate their research project.

TENTATIVE OUTLINE OF TOPICS:

Monday 7/21, Tuesday 7/23, Friday 7/25
Topic 1: Intro to Chinese/cultures in Taiwan

- Anthropology and cultural lessons.
- Taiwan introduction.
    - Formosa in the tug of war – Cross-straits
    - Cultural identities and sociopolitical renaissance
        - **Excursion – Walking tour and history of downtown**
        - **Excursion – National Palace Museum**
        - **Excursion – Shung Ye Museum of Formosan Aborigines**

Monday 7/28, Tuesday 7/30, Friday 8/1
Topic 2: Who are we?

- Minnan (Taiwanese)
- Chinese heritage
- Hakka in Taiwan
- Indigenous peoples
    - **Excursion – National Taiwan Museum**
    - **Excursion – Academia Sinica**

Monday 8/4, Tuesday 8/6, Friday 8/8
Topic 3: Our heritage

- Geomorphology (an island's formation)
- Prehistory
- Early history
- Dutch and Spanish
- Imperial and dynastic Chinese occupations (Ming, Koxinga, Qing)
- Japan (1895-1945)
    - **Excursion – National Museum of Prehistory**
    - **Excursion – National Museum of History**

Monday 8/11, Tuesday 8/13, Friday 8/15
Topic 4: Modern times

- Republican period (1945-present)
- Martial law
- Cold war
- Democratization from 1987
- Economic, political, and cultural changes
- Cultural heritage restoration
    - **Excursion – Museum of World Religions**
    - **Excursion – to be announced**

Monday 8/18, Tuesday 8/20, Friday 8/22
Topic 5: Taiwan in 2014

- Belief systems
- Political, economic, and sociocultural issues

- Group presentations

Note: syllabus subject to change

Topic 6: Tour of Taiwan

Suggested tour to the National Museum of Prehistory –
And around the island.