CHIN 303/INTL 391

China in the Field: Experiencing Beijing Through Ethnography

Summer 2013
Beijing, China

Course Information
Instructor: Emily Wilcox
Schedule: June 13th – August 4th, W, Th, F: 4:00pm-5:20pm
Location: Tsinghua University (C 楼)
Prerequisites: 1) Students should have completed Chinese 102 or its equivalent before enrolling in the summer program in Beijing; 2) students are required to enroll in a 1-credit preparatory course that will take place in the spring semester preceding the study abroad summer program.

Course Objectives
Taking advantage of the study abroad in China experience, this course aims to introduce students to issues in contemporary Chinese culture and society through field research. Students will learn to identify and employ the basic research methods of ethnographic fieldwork, and they will conduct their own independent research projects in Beijing, making use of their Chinese language skills and cultural knowledge in context. This course is a pilot class for the William and Mary Internationalization Grant on Film and New Media in Higher Education. Thus, we will explore the use of various digital media technologies as pedagogical tools for cross-cultural education in this course. These include web publishing, image and video editing, and on-site interview recording. Students will complete two blogs and a final web-based project presenting their fieldwork findings, with the guidance of an on-site technology assistant hired for this purpose. Student projects will be published on the course website: http://chinese.blogs.wm.edu/summer-in-beijing/. Finally, this course will include a series of weekly guest lectures by young American and Chinese professionals working in Beijing. The aim of these lectures is to introduce students to possible career paths post-graduation and to give students insight into the current activities in a particular industry.

Objectives include:
• Learn methods of ethnographic fieldwork, including spatial analysis, thick description, participant observation, and formal and informal interviews;
• Reflect on ethical and cultural challenges of fieldwork, including human subjects research ethnic protocols and ethical publication of field research data on the Internet;
• Develop a relationship with a community within Beijing (professional group, recreational society, nonprofit or arts organization, neighborhood organization, etc.), which will serve as the site for the ethnographic field research;
• Become familiar with local issues related to working in Beijing, through weekly guest lectures by young American and Chinese professionals working in Beijing;
• Complete an independent research project (in English) that uses the target language for research and involves extensive engagement in Chinese social groups or organizations, as well as original analysis of a social or cultural issue in contemporary China;
• Maintain a student-generated course website documenting student research projects in progress and at completion;
• Learn to use Wordpress and digital video and voice recording technology;
• Identify and experience connections between coursework taken at William and Mary and realities of contemporary China in the field context.

Course Description and Requirements

Preparatory stage: During the spring semester before they leave for Beijing, students will participate in a 1-credit preparatory course at William and Mary. With the help and guidance of the instructor, students will identify potential field sites in Beijing and establish contact with prospective research hosts. Potential field sites could include, but are not limited to: health clinics, schools, restaurants, companies, music clubs, churches, athletic spaces, museums, temples, art centers, theaters, activity groups, local government agencies, internet cafes, beauty salons, shopping centers, food markets, parks, etc. Preference will be for field sites in which students can directly participate in the activities of the site, either as a volunteer, a club member, or a patron. Students will have the option to complete online ethics training for conducting human subjects research, and all students will develop a plan for ethical research and communications practices.

In the field: Once students arrive in Beijing, they will visit their research sites and establish regular visits and communication with their field research communities. Students will be required to conduct a minimum of 2-4 hours of fieldwork per week in their research sites (including planning and transportation), during which they will carry out small research projects, practice their Chinese language and research skills in context, and take regular field notes. Students will complete required readings on field research methods and on contemporary social and cultural phenomena in China. In addition to reading assignments, students will keep a weekly field journal, and they will take quizzes on the social and cultural readings. Students will publish a total minimum of five blogs during the semester: two research blogs, two or more miscellaneous reflections, and one final research project. The final research project will require some text-based research in English on the topic being addressed in their field research. The instructor will be available for regular office hours to provide guidance on the individual research projects. Students will be encouraged to use the target language whenever possible at the start of class, on the course Wiki, during advising appointments, and in their field research.

Required Texts
• Bloomaert, Jan and Dong, Jie. 2010. Ethnographic Fieldwork: A Beginner’s Guide. Multilingual Matters. (used during Pre-Departure course only)
• Course Website (student and instructor generated content created during this course): http://chineseblogs.wm.edu

Grading

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Attendance and Participation</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Weekly Field Journals</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Blog Posts (2 for research, 2 miscellaneous)</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Weekly Reading Quizzes</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Web Project</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Commitment to Using Chinese in Program</td>
<td>10%</td>
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SCHEDULE

Schedule Overview

- Tuesdays: office hours 1-2pm in Tutorial classroom
- Wednesdays: submit field journals, read from *Ethnographic Fieldwork or Field Ethnography*
- Thursdays: guest lecture, return field journals
- Fridays: reading quiz, read from *Modern Chinese Culture*

WEEK 1

**Wednesday, June 19**
Read Kutsche pp. 1-26; field assignment “Map of a Block” due at the start of class.

**Thursday, June 20**

**Guest Lecture 5:30pm-6:50pm**
Xu Wei, Research Associate, Institute of African Studies at Zhejiang Normal University; Visiting Scholar, University of Botswana, 2012

*Business Cooperation and Cultural Difference Between China and Africa: The Case of a Sino-Botswana Glass Factory Project*

**Friday, June 21**
Read Louie pp. 1-19 “Defining modern Chinese culture”; reading quiz at the start of class.

WEEK 2

**Wednesday, June 26**
No readings; field assignment “Fieldwork Vocab” due at the start of class.

**Thursday, June 27**

**Guest Lecture 4:00pm-5:20pm**
Timothy McDade, MACH IT Program Manager, Microsoft; William and Mary Chinese Program ’12

*Microsoft in China*

**Friday, June 28**
Read Louie pp. 20-45 “Social and political developments: the making of the twentieth-century Chinese state”; reading quiz at the start of class.

WEEK 3

**Wednesday, July 3**
Read Kutsche pp. 38-47; field assignment “Body Language” due at the start of class.

**Research Blog 1 due at the start of class.**

**Thursday, July 4**

**Guest Lecture 4:00pm-5:20pm**
Katherine (Kitty) Poundstone, Technical Officer, World Health Organization

*Public Health in China*

**Friday, July 5**
Read Louie pp. 68-90 “Gender in modern Chinese culture”; reading quiz at the start of class.

WEEK 4

**Wednesday, July 10**
Read Kutsche pp. 48-84; field assignment “Ritual” due at the start of class.
Thursday, July 11
**Guest Lecture 4:00pm-5:20pm**
Angie Baecker, Masters Student in Chinese Studies, Tsinghua University; incoming PhD student, Department of Asian Languages and Cultures, University of Michigan

*Working in China's Contemporary Art World*

Friday, July 12
Read Louie pp. 91-114 “Ethnicity and Chinese identity: ethnographic insight and political positioning”; reading quiz at the start of class.

**WEEK 5**

Wednesday, July 17
Read Kutsche pp. 85-103; field assignment “Individual Bio” due at the start of class.

**Research Blog 2 due at the start of class.**

Thursday, July 18
**Guest Lecture 4:00pm-5:20pm**
Alison Friedman, Director and Founder, Ping Pong Productions

*Being a Cultural Entrepreneur in China*

Friday, July 19
Read Louie pp. 173-197 “Chinese religious traditions from 1900-2005: an overview”; reading quiz at the start of class.

**WEEK 6**

Wednesday, July 24
Read Kutsche pp. 103-141; field assignment “Article Response” due at the start of class.

**Thursday, July 25th**

**Guest Lecture TBD**

**Friday, July 26th**
Read Louie pp. 198-217 “Languages in a modernizing China”; reading quiz at the start of class.

**WEEK 7**

**Wednesday, July 31**
Read Kutsche pp. 142-206; field assignment “Media Components” due at the start of class.

**Thursday, Aug 1**
No Guest Lecture, work on Final Projects.

**Friday, Aug 2**
Student presentations **4:00-6:00pm**

**Final Projects due at the start of class.**

**NOTES**

**Attendance and Participation**
Students are expected to attend all class meetings and to participate actively. Participation is defined as speaking at the start of class, engaging during in-class activities, and being a responsible and respectful
audience when others are speaking. Weekly attendance and participation grades will be posted on Blackboard.

**Field Journals**
Field assignments should be hand-written in a field journal and submitted at the beginning of class on Wednesdays. Field assignments will be graded on thoroughness, depth of detail and reflection, and evidence of time spent in field site. Late assignments will lose 1 full grade (10 percentage points) per day.

**Blog Posts**
Students are required to complete a minimum of four Blog Posts: two field research posts and two or more miscellaneous reflections posts. These posts may take any format of the student’s choice. Field research posts will be graded on depth and detail in content, incorporation of digital media (such as images, links, video, audio, and design), and evidence of fieldwork conducted. Miscellaneous reflections posts will be graded on number, originality and depth, and incorporation of digital media. See requirements below for the Final Project blog post.

**Reading Quizzes**
Quizzes will consist of 10 multiple choice questions based on the required chapter and will be given at the start of class. Students who miss quizzes due to absence of any kind can make up the quiz for half credit.

**Final Web Project**
The Final Project for this course is a web-based research project based on fieldwork conducted in Beijing during the summer program. Students are required to do some outside research using academic articles, news articles, and online resources. However, the majority of the data used for the Final Project should come directly from field research. The format of the Final Project is open, but it must contain the following elements:

- analytical and descriptive writing similar in style to an ethnographic research paper (approximately 2,000 words, not including bibliography)
- excerpts from field notes (scanned directly from journal or typed up, clearly labeled)
- photos from your field site
- a map showing the location of your field site (if applicable)
- bibliography of additional sources used (including one academic article) with links to any online sources used
- additional digital media components depending on project (video and/or audio)
- some use of Chinese text, with definitions of key words or phrases

Final Projects will be evaluated on depth, originality, and overall quality. Students will give a 5-minute formal presentation of their work on the last day of class, which will count toward 10 percent of the Final Project grade.

**Commitment to Using Chinese**
This course is part of a study abroad program in which a Language Pledge is in effect from the start of classes until 4pm on Tuesdays through Fridays and from the start of classes until 2pm on Saturdays. Although this class is taught in English, ten percent of student grades for this course will be based on demonstrated use of Chinese outside class, including commitment to the language pledge.