

Course Descriptions

China Center

GCHI 310 Modern Chinese History (3 units)

This course surveys modern Chinese history and the origins of nationalism. Students explore how China transformed from the insular “Central Kingdom” to an influential member of the world community and a dynamic force in the world economy in little more than one century. The course concentrates on recent Chinese history and the relationship between China and the West including the collapse of the imperial system under Western intellectual influences and military pressure, the national movements in the wake of foreign invasions, and communist rule following the Second World War.

GCHI 312 Heritage and Innovation (2 units)

The purpose of this course is to introduce students to the learning environment surrounding Hangzhou through a cultivated geographic survey. Situated in the richest part of the Yangzi Delta and along the 2000-year-old Grand Canal, this region, China’s most dynamic zone of economic development, has been a cultural hub since before Marco Polo’s visit here in the 13th century. Class is designed around excursions throughout the Jiangnan region, including some of Hangzhou’s best known historical sites, Suzhou, Shaoxing and modern Shanghai. Each trip will be accompanied by assigned readings and classroom discussion, with the purpose of seeing how cultural heritage is redesigned and promoted in the framework of international tourism and how traditional norms are altered by the market economy.

GCHI 314 Creative Writing Workshop (2 units)

The goal of this class is for you to mine your imagination, to discover your true voice(s), to uncover the secrets of your own lives in this culture of East Meets West while developing and strengthening your writing skills, and to reach more deeply into your own inherent powers of creativity and perception. The course emphasis is on individual student writing. Class discussion will center on contemporary writing and ideas as well as the issues of craft in fiction, poetry, and dramatic writing.

GCHI 317 Topics in Chinese Society and Change (2 units)

This course will survey social and cultural changes in the past 40 years. The students will be challenged to understand what happened in the period of the Cultural Revolution and those during the post-Mao era by focusing on gender issues and family structure. Students are expected to explore the meaning and the significance of these changes within the structure of the traditional Chinese culture and from the perspective of encountering the culture from abroad.

GCHI 322 Intensive Mandarin Chinese: Fall Semester (8 units)

Intensive Mandarin Chinese is designed for the beginning students and focuses on the full range of linguistic competencies, including speaking, listening skills in Mandarin as well as beginning reading and writing of Chinese characters. Students will learn pin yin and focus on learning tones early in the semester and then move on to vocabulary acquisition and basic character recognition and writing. Students with previous exposure to Chinese can begin from a level corresponding to their proficiency.

GCHI 323 Intensive Mandarin Chinese: Spring Semester (6 units)

This course is a continuation of GCHI 322. Students continue comprehensive study of spoken and written Chinese. The goal of this class is to provide students with the listening skills and speaking fluency necessary to communicate with Chinese peers, faculty and the surrounding community generally as well as a level of character recognition that provides the basis for students to navigate maps, street signs, markets and travel with confidence independently in China. For students with beginning Chinese, or for those who are already proficient, various levels are possible from which the course could begin.

GCHI 324 China in Film and Literature

This course will use the media of film and literature to examine twentieth and twenty-first century China. Topics will include the civil war, the impact of the establishment of communist rule after 1949 and the rapid changes of the post-Mao period. Themes will include the emancipation of women, youth and age, literature and dissent, literature and power, and the role of China in a rapidly globalizing context. China in Film and Literature is a writing intensive course, with a focus on digital literacy and the process of crafting an academic paper.

GCHI 325 Mao Zedong and the Cultural Revolution in China (2 units)

The course will survey the Cultural Revolution launched, organized and guided by Mao Zedong. We will focus on Mao's theory on revolution, and major events and social changes that happened during the Cultural Revolution. The seminar will be lecture-based and include class discussions. Slides and films will be presented relating to the topics. Students write one response paper and one research paper during the semester. The aim of this course is to familiarize students with characteristics of the Cultural Revolution and Mao's role in it, and to help students understanding why the Cultural Revolution occurred and its historical significance.

GCHI 330 Ethnic Minority Studies (2 units)

This course will introduce students to the 55 official minority nationalities of China and their integration and development in the last fifty years, which includes the colonial and assimilative pressure applied by the Han majority. The focus will be on issues such as education, tourism, and government policies that cause the 'loss' of traditional minority cultures while also providing greater avenues for the promotion of local ethnic culture through economic development and connections with the outside world.

GCHI 352 Chinese Thought and Religions: Comparative Perspectives II (3 units)

This course is a companion the fall seminar, GCHI 340. We will build on the base of comparative tools developed last semester, paying particular attention to the way Chinese religious traditions and institutions have been recast in the twentieth century. We will consider the tension between China's recent past and the current official promotion of traditional culture in the interests of nationalism, tourism, and social stability. The methodological perspectives in the course will have relevance for students' independent cultural studies, both this semester and in their senior projects.

GCHI 360 Chinese Arts (1 unit)

This course will introduce students to the rudimentary skills of Chinese calligraphy and traditional Chinese painting. This course is offered once per week for three hours. Chinese language background is not required.

GCHI 361 Chinese Martial Arts (1 unit)

This course will introduce students to the traditional Chinese longevity exercise of Yang style *taijiquan*, soft-style Chinese martial arts. While the content of the course will be determined to some extent by an assessment of the students' abilities and interests, in general, during the Fall-semester students will be taught the long form with 42 movements. Spring semester students, again, in accordance with student abilities and interests, will learn the short form with 24 movements, which is the Chinese national standard form first promulgated in 1956 by the National Physical Culture and Sports Commission of the People's Republic of China in Beijing. These forms are based on the longer 108 movements of the Yang family style taught by Yang Luchan (1799-1872) to the Imperial Guards of the Manchu Court during the Qing dynasty. Taiji is a Daoist cosmological term that means "supreme ultimate" and Quan means "fist." The actual number of movements taught to a specific student will be determined by the progress made through the semester. In addition, in both semesters, the specific style will be determined by the instructor's assessment of the students' abilities as well as consultation with the students about their own goals and interests.

GCHI 362 Chinese Martial Arts (1 unit)

This course will introduce students to the traditional Chinese longevity exercise of Yang style *taijiquan*, soft-style Chinese martial arts. While the content of the course will be determined to some extent by an assessment of the students' abilities and interests, in general, during the Fall-semester students will be taught the long form with 42 movements. Spring semester students, again, in accordance with student abilities and interests, will learn the short form with 24 movements, which is the Chinese national standard form first promulgated in 1956 by the National Physical Culture and Sports Commission of the People's Republic of China in Beijing. These forms are based on the longer 108 movements of the Yang family style taught by Yang Luchan (1799-1872) to the Imperial Guards of the Manchu Court during the Qing dynasty. Taiji is a Daoist cosmological term that means "supreme ultimate" and Quan means "fist." The actual number of movements taught to a specific student will be determined by the progress made through the semester. In addition, in both semesters, the specific style will be determined by the instructor's assessment of the students' abilities as well as consultation with the students about their own goals and interests.

GCHI 425 Advanced Mandarin Chinese (5 units)

Advanced Mandarin Chinese is designed for the students who study more than 2,000 characters. The course includes reading newspapers, listening to broadcasts and the class discussion that encourage the students to raise complex questions and to express their opinions using correct expressions and intonation.

Offered on Occasion

GCHI 342-3, 390-399, 423-4, 390-99, 423-4, 490-99 Independent Study (variable units)

Students may design a guided independent study project (ISP) with their faculty advisor and/or field advisor. Field advisors are professionals and specialists who can offer students more in-depth study of a chosen field through an ISP or specially arranged lectures and courses. In consultation with the advisor and field advisor (if one is assigned) students will create a proposal as part of their learning plan that will include specific learning goals, internship or service learning placements (if appropriate), methods to be undertaken, reading and written assignments, places (if any) to be visited and a timeline for completing the course. The learning goals must be consistent with the student's abilities (language, methodological etc.) as determined by the advisor in consultation with the student. First-semester students may not take more than a total of four credits and second semester students may not take more than a total of eight credits of independent studies without permission from their faculty advisor and the support of the academic director.

GNYC 200 Introduction to Social Entrepreneurship (3 units, Spring semester)

This course introduces students to social entrepreneurship and the related set of social enterprises that aspire to channel both market forces and entrepreneurial energies to achieve sustainable social good. The course draws upon case studies that exemplify the ways in which entrepreneurial innovators from around the world are devising and executing solutions to some of the world's most intractable social problems. Social entrepreneurship will be studied in relation to a set of related socially productive enterprises such as micro-finance, social business and corporate social responsibility. The course will include both visiting speakers and fieldwork that will expose students directly to successful practitioners and the organizations that support them and that they build.

GNYC 318 Global Studies III: Theories, Issues and Solutions (3 units)

The objective of Global Studies III: Theories, Issues, Solutions is to orient students to the theories of globalization and use them to shed light on the major issues faced collectively by humanity. Students will acquire a basic understanding of the way major thinkers in economics, political science, environmental science and and cultural studies articulate the acute issues characteristic of the Global Age. Students will also learn how these same disciplinary perspectives may contribute to policy, entrepreneurial and advocacy solutions. Students will complete a project focused on a global issues that is of specific interest to them, developing their own interdisciplinary bibliography and a literature review that prepares them for their Senior Independent Study (SIS) semester and their Senior Thesis. The course's review of global issues will be tied to field experiences in the center or program in which the course is delivered.

GNYC 340 Junior Research Seminar (2 units)

This online required course provides students with the skills and knowledge necessary to research, organize and write a thesis proposal as well as a fully developed research paper that incorporates multiple primary and secondary resources that students evaluate according to the pyramid of sources and through critical readings. Students also learn to narrow down a general topic into a manageable project, organize it through scheduling, notes and interviews, and become familiar with the various ways of citing sources and avoiding plagiarism. This course is a prerequisite for the Independent Study Semester.