

Georgia Institute of Technology
School of Modern Languages

Chinese 3022 E: Chinese Society & Culture II
Social Issues in Modern China
Spring 2002 Syllabus

Class hours: Tuesday & Thursday 3:05-4:25 pm

Room: 201 Chapin

Instructor: Paul B. Foster, Ph.D.

email: paul.foster@modlangs.gatech.edu

office: 206 Chapin; office phone: 404-385-0936

office hours: Tuesday & Thursday 1:30-3:00 pm or by appointment

DESCRIPTION:

Objectives. This is a 3 credit, directed study of topical problems in modern Chinese society. We will use the book, *A New Text for a Modern China*, as well as supplementary materials. The student simultaneously develops advanced level listening, speaking, reading and writing skills. Students are expected to increase their discussion skills, listening comprehension, and reading and writing ability through study of five central topics in Chinese society today: problems of population and housing, education and employment, love and marriage, family, women and children, and phases of economic development.

The class meets Tuesday and Thursday from 3:05-4:25 pm. Attendance is essential.

Class Preparation. Students are expected to prepare the daily lesson by doing the following: (1) read and study the text (including grammar notes); (2) practice writing the new vocabulary in preparation for a vocabulary quiz; (3) prepare to discuss assigned selection of the text and grammatical patterns; (4) complete the exercises associated with each lesson. The use of flashcards for vocabulary memorization is highly recommended.

Class Activities. This is a discussion class. Lack of participation results in a forfeit of the daily class participation grade. Students will participate in a variety of classroom activities geared toward language acquisition, from presentation to discussion of various aspects of the assigned readings and supplementary topics. Students will be required to form and express opinions on the various issues studied. This will sometimes occur in the form of a debate in which students take stances (not necessarily their own) on the issues. Integrating vocabulary, stock phrases and focal grammatical features into discussion, presentation, and debate is key to these activities.

Exercise Journal. Students will keep an organized journal of the exercises completed for each lesson. Assigned exercises will be noted during class. *The completed journal is due for grading at the beginning of the final exam*, but please do the exercises during the period we cover the lesson. Particularly troublesome exercises may be discussed in class when necessary. It is highly recommended that you keep up with the exercises since section tests may draw in part on these exercises. Extra coaching is available in office hours.

Character Journal. Students will also keep a well organized character journal in which new vocabulary assigned for each lesson are copied 5 times for practice prior to vocabulary tests. The vocabulary not assigned for each lesson will be copied 2 times each. Each set of characters must be clearly recorded using unit and lesson numbers. *The completed journal is due for grading at the beginning of the final exam*. It is highly recommended that you practice the characters progressively as we cover each lesson: don't wait until the last minute to complete them all!

Translation Journal. Students will also keep an organized journal of translations of the supplementary texts not discussed in class that appear in the exercise section of each lesson. *The completed journal is due for grading at the beginning of the final exam*.

Exams, Tests and Quizzes. Vocabulary quizzes covering specified items assigned in class will be taken for each lesson. The lowest two vocabulary quizzes will be dropped. A take-home test will be given for each of the first 3 units. These tests are open book, but must be taken on one's own, without the assistance of anyone else, and should not be shown to anyone else for any purpose. You are bound by the honor code of academic integrity to follow these instructions and to neither give nor receive aid on the exam. You are likewise bound not to copy the test or allow anyone else to do so. All answers will be hand-written, computer generated characters are not allowed. Tests are scheduled below. The final exam is comprehensive, with a focus on Units 4 & 5. Your graded vocabulary quizzes, tests and the final exam will be on file and available for perusal during office hours. I will keep them on file for two semesters following the final exam.

Oral Presentation. Students will give a 7-8 minute oral presentation during the last week of class covering one particular issue addressed in the text. Classmates will ask questions. 2 participation grades assigned these days.

Recap. While part of each session addresses the social/political/economic background of the texts, there is an emphasis on discussion of the texts themselves and the practice and manipulation of new vocabulary and sentence structures. *The student is expected to think about what is read for each class period and contribute opinions and ideas in class discussion*. It is the goal of this course to increase reading and speaking skills through exposure to texts discussing a variety of Chinese social problems, as well as continue to develop writing and listening skills.

REQUIRED TEXT:

Liu, Irene & Li Xiaoqi. *A New Text for a Modern China*. Boston: Cheng & Tsui Co., 1998.

Supplementary Materials Provided.

EVALUATION:

1. **Class Participation** (30%): one grade daily based on:

- 1) participation in discussion of readings
- 2) participation in a variety of activities, such as organized or spontaneous debates
- 3) presentation of assigned sections of text and a variety of exercises
- 4) 3 lowest daily grades will be dropped at end of semester

2. **Assignments** (20%)

- 1) Translation Journal: translate into English the one supplementary text we don't discuss in class in the exercise section of each lesson. (5%)
- 2) Character Journal: copy vocabulary 5 times each. (10%)
- 3) Exercise Journal: complete all assigned "Exercises" at the end of each lesson. (5%)

3. **Vocabulary Quizzes** (20%):

- 1) 1 brief vocabulary quiz per lesson covering assigned vocabulary (not including the introduction).
- 2) drop lowest 2 vocabulary quizzes

4. **Tests** (15%): A total of 3 take-home tests.

5. **Oral Presentation** (5%): Students will give a 7-8 minute oral presentation during the last week of class discussing one particular issue discussed in the text. Classmates are expected to ask questions. 2 participation grades given these classes. To be done by memory with an outline only (if necessary).

6. **Final Exam** (10%): comprehensive exam stressing Units 4 & 5.

7. **Make-up Policy**: Make-up is counted only for excused absences (verifiable illness, etc.) and must be completed within one week of return to class. The student is responsible for providing verification and turning in work within this period. It is recommended that the student complete all assignments regardless the of status of an absence since assignments contribute to the student's overall skills base.

GRADING SCALE:

There is no curve. You are competing with the demands of the Chinese language and will be evaluated on that basis. Diligent study, regular attendance and active participation is the surest path to success.

Ga. Tech Scale: 100—90 A; 89—80 B; 79—70 C; 69—60 D; 59—0 F.

Note: minimum grade for “pass” if taking this class pass/fail is 70 (C).

SCHEDULE

We have 30 days of class which is the equivalent of 40 class hours. The schedule outlined below may be adjusted with regard to the language level of participating students and the rate of progress of the class as a whole. I hope everybody has a great semester in Chinese!

Week #	Date	Day	Assignments	Tests & Quizzes
Unit I—Population & Housing				
1	1/8	Tuesday	1.Introduction	1. text discussion 2. grammar/sentences 3. discussion questions
	1/10	Thursday	Lesson 1.1—Population Explosion:	1. vocab quiz: 1.intro 2. text discussion 3. grammar/sentences 4. discussion questions
2	1/15	Tuesday	Lesson 1.2—Housing	1. vocab quiz: 1.1 2. text discussion 3. grammar/sentences 4. discussion questions
	1/17	Thursday	Lesson 1.2 – Supplementary Text A	1. vocab quiz: 1.2 2. text discussion 3. grammar/sentences 4. discussion questions 5. comedy short
3	1/22	Tuesday	Unit I Wrap-up: Debates 1. One Child Policy: Individual Rights vs. Social Responsibility 2. Housing Problem: Nuclear Family vs. Multiple Generations under One Roof	1. debates 2. Take Home Test # 1

Unit II—Education and Employment

	1/24	Thursday	2.Introduction – Education & Employment	1. text discussion 2. grammar/sentences 3. discussion questions
4	1/29	Tuesday	Lesson 2.1—Vocational School	1. vocab quiz: 2.intro 2. text discussion 3. grammar/sentences 4. discussion questions
	1/31	Thursday	Lesson 2.2—Drop Out to Graduate Exam	1. vocab quiz: 2.1 2. text discussion 3. grammar/sentences 4. discussion questions
5	2/5	Tuesday	Lesson 2.3—Attitudes: Studying is Useless	1. vocab quiz: 2.2 2. text discussion 3. grammar/sentences 4. discussion questions
	2/7	Thursday	Lesson 2.2 Supplementary Text – The Change in Universities	1. vocab quiz: 2.3 2. text discussion 3. grammar/sentences 4. discussion questions
6	2/12	Tuesday	Unit II Wrap-up Debate: Going to University vs. Going into Business	1. debates 2. Take Home Test # 2

Unit III—Love & Marriage

	2/14	Thursday	3.Introduction: Love & Marriage	1. text discussion 2. grammar/sentences 3. discussion questions
7	2/19	Tuesday	Lesson 3.1—Personal Advertisements	1. vocab quiz: 3.intro 2. text discussion 3. grammar/sentences 4. discussion questions
	2/21	Thursday	Lesson 3.2—Elderly Romance	1. vocab quiz: 3.1 2. text discussion 3. grammar/sentences 4. discussion questions

8	2/26	Tuesday	Lesson 3.3—Pre-Nuptial Contract	1. vocab quiz: 3.2 2. text discussion 3. grammar/sentences 4. discussion questions
	2/28	Thursday	Unit 3 Group Interviews: Answering a “Marriage Proposal” Personal Add	1. vocab quiz: 3.3 2. group interviews 3. Take Home Test # 3

3/4 SPRING BREAK SPRING BREAK

Unit IV—Family, Women & Children

9	3/12	Tuesday	4.Introduction vocabulary; text presentations; discussion	1. text discussion 2. grammar/sentences 3. discussion questions
	3/14	Thursday	Lesson 4.1—Arguing over Disco vocabulary; text presentations; discussion	1. vocab quiz: 4.intro 2. text discussion 3. grammar/sentences 4. discussion questions
10	3/19	Tuesday	Lesson 4.2—Wife's Employment vocabulary; text presentations; discussion	1. vocab quiz: 4.1 2. text discussion 3. grammar/sentences 4. discussion questions
	3/21	Thursday	Lesson 4.3—Single Family Child vocabulary; text presentations; discussion	1. vocab quiz: 4.2 2. text discussion 3. grammar/sentences 4. discussion questions
11	3/26	Tuesday	Lesson 4.2 Supplementary Text: Women Returning to the Kitchen: Progress or Regress?	1. vocab quiz: 4.3 2. text discussion 3. grammar/sentences 4. discussion questions
	3/28	Thursday	Unit IV Wrap-up Debate: Women Returning to the Kitchen; Progress or Regress?	debate

Unit V—Economic Development

12	4/2	Tuesday	5.Introduction vocabulary; text presentations; discussion	1. text discussion 2. grammar/sentences 3. discussion questions
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	4/4	Thursday	Lesson 5.1—Personal Investment vocabulary; text presentations; discussion	1. vocab quiz: 5.intro 2. text discussion 3. grammar/sentences 4. discussion questions
13	4/9	Tuesday	Lesson 5.2—Bankruptcy vocabulary; text presentations; discussion	1. vocab quiz: 5.1 2. text discussion 3. grammar/sentences 4. discussion questions
	4/11	Thursday	Lesson 5.3—Consumerism vocabulary; text presentations; discussion	1. vocab quiz: 5.2 2. text discussion 3. grammar/sentences 4. discussion questions
14	4/16	Tuesday	Lesson 5.3 Supplementary Text	1. vocab quiz: 5.3 2. text discussion 3. grammar/sentences 4. discussion questions
	4/18	Thursday	Unit V Debate: Individual Investing: House/Land & Old Economy Stocks, or New Economy Stocks?	debate
15	4/23	Tuesday	Oral Presentations	2 participation grades
	4/25	Thursday	Oral Presentations	2 participation grades
16	4/30	Tuesday	Final Exam: 2:50—5:40 pm	Character, Translation & Exercise Journals all due at 2:50 pm