Engaging China: Yunnan Trip Course

Course: ASIA 297
Term: Spring 2016
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Course Description:

The purpose of the Yunnan Excursion is to afford the student an in-depth experience of the ethnological background of the “Minority Peoples” of China. At the same time the excursion provides a general survey of the history and culture of Yunnan.

The Yunnan Excursion course is comprised of:
- Four pre-trip introductory lectures / presentations /movies
- Two weeks of guided travel
- Two lectures during the travel + 50 student presentations
- One "reflection dinner" during trip to consider what is being learned
- Student research topics presented as 8 minute "in-progress" reports during trip.
- Or, Team (5 members) Ethnographic Report—20 minute Presentation one month after return from trip.
- Two summary lectures / presentations at conclusion of trip.
- Student 7 page (academic form) paper on research topic
- Synoptic exam

Course Outcomes:

Must include some indication of how the work of the course will fulfill the outcomes of the course

Preliminary lectures / presentations will introduce the student to the history and peoples of China. The Excursion itself is a physical validation of what has been read and heard. Prior to arriving in China the student will be given the option to chose from our master list a research topic about Yunnan. S/he will have additional time in our library to study. During the travel, at an appropriate site, each student offers an in-progress report on, for example, the “Strategies of Rice farming”. Staff and
faculty will comment on the presentation in private. Further research and physical resources will be supplied. The student will photograph interview, document and record data to corroborate the substance of their research. During travel a “reflection dinner” will aid students to digest the myriad images and experiences they will have had. At the conclusion of the trip two presentations will help gather up what has been learned. A written exam will be undertaken. A final draught of the research will be presented in academic form. If a student chooses to work on a Team Ethnographic study, s/he will investigate the social, economic, cultural, artistic and religious dimensions of a minority group. S/he will come to a richer understanding of the subject people.

Course Requirements and Form of Assessment:

- Must include an indication of how grades will be assigned (by percentages)
- If class participation is a significant percentage of the final grade (such as 25%) components of class participation must be clearly specified.

Students must attend all pre-departure lectures, all "in-situ" student presentations, lectures during travel and post-factum lectures. Absence from any one activity will diminish the total grade by 5%. Trip participation =40%

Student "in-progress" report will be judged for comprehensiveness, clarity and presentation. Report = 15%

Final Exam on Yunnan Excursion Reader = 15%

Final Paper (or PowerPoint Presentation = 30%

Attendance Policy:

It is required that any penalties for lack of attendance be tied to a grade for class participation.

Participation in the Excursions is mandatory. No exceptions. A student cannot enroll in TBC unless s/he can undertake these trips. Participation during the travel includes not only attendance, but contributing to reflection dinners, asking questions of presenters and lecturers.

Academic Honesty Statement:

This can be a simple reference (web link) to the new Loyola University Chicago/Beijing Center policy statement.

TBC abides by the policies outlined by Loyola University
**Required Texts:**

Include recommended or reserved texts if applicable, noting them as such.

All students will be given the Yunnan Excursion Reader, a comprehensive survey of history, geography, religion and politics of Yunnan. All students will be afforded access to a vast array of recommended books appropriate to the trip. Each student will be furnished a reading list of approximately 6 books for the research topic s/he undertakes. Final Exam will be based on these readings.

**Class Schedule:**

A daily (or at least weekly) schedule is required that includes topics, readings and assignments with due dates.

**First Session:**
- Introduction to Geography / History of Yunnan. (Video of Geography)
- How to conduct research on assigned topics.

**Second Session: Pre Departure Special Topics:**
- "How China became China"
- "The Meaning of Minzu Ethnicity in China"

**Third Session: Pre Departure Special Topics**
- "Tourism and its Effect on Culture" Documentary: "When Ruoma was Seventeen."
- "The Diversity of Peoples in Yunnan"

**Fourth Session: During Travel Presentations**
- "Dynamic Yunnan" music and dance
- "Bai People orchestra and song"

**Fifth Session: Religion: During Travel Lecture or Presentation**
- "Principles and Practice of Buddhism"
- "Lamaist Buddhism" and "Theravada Buddhism"
- "Tibetan Thangka painting"

**Sixth Session: Culture: During Travel Lectures/Presentations**
- "Dongba Culture, Ritual and Writing"
- "Hani Culture and Rice Terraces"
- "The Bai Kingdom and its Ceremonies"

**Seventh Session: Environmental Issues: Lectures/Presentations**
- "Ecological Issues" and organic farming.
- "Bio-diversity in a rapidly shrinking Forest."
Eighth Session:
   Resume and Reflection on what we have Seen and Learned
   This will consist in 5 twenty minute ethnographical reports by students based on their travel researches.