



CHN 361

Contemporary Chinese Culture and Society I

S1 Day 2014

Dept of International Studies

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General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff

Unit Convenor

Shirley Chan

shirley.chan@mq.edu.au

Contact via shirley.chan@mq.edu.au

Credit points

3

Prerequisites

6cp at 200 level including CHN209

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description

This unit is designed for students who are Chinese background speakers or those who possess a similar level of Chinese to the HSC Chinese for Background Speakers. The unit aims to explore and evaluate Chinese cultural and social experience as part of an emerging global civilisation. Students will be introduced to key concepts, theories and frameworks that are integral to the analysis of Chinese culture and society, and related topics including government, economics, society, philosophy, religion, arts, literature and science. We will examine the challenges that arise as China adapts ancient values to contemporary society. Particular attention will be paid to the discussions of Confucian practices and institutions appropriate for the modern era, and the analysis of key social and cultural issues in contemporary China.

Important Academic Dates

Information about important academic dates including deadlines for withdrawing from units are available at <https://www.mq.edu.au/study/calendar-of-dates>

Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of this unit, you will be able to:

Enhanced knowledge of contemporary Chinese culture and society

Improved understanding of the key values and practices in shaping Chinese culture, people and their ways of living

Familiarity and facility with concepts, themes and theoretical perspectives on

contemporary Chinese culture and society

Capacity for analytical and critical thinking as well as appreciation of, and respect for cultural diversities

Ability to engage in independent and reflective learning through assessing and responding to ideas

Improved ability to work in cooperative groups on key issues in Chinese Studies and communicate findings to fellow students

Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Due
<u>Written assignments</u>	60%	Week 7 and Week 12
<u>Group presentation</u>	20%	Weeks 4-12
<u>Class participation/discussion</u>	20%	Every week

Written assignments

Due: **Week 7 and Week 12**

Weighting: **60%**

Students will complete two 2000 word essays (one written in Chinese 30% due on Friday, Week 7; one written in English 30% due on Friday, Week 12). Details for topics will be posted on iLearn.

These assignments should be your own original work. Plagiarism is **not** acceptable (For further information and advice, see www.student.mq.edu.au/plagiarism). Your marks will be determined by but not limited to:

- Grasp of the task and focus. Are you really answering the question(s)? Is there a well-defined framework or scope of argumentation?
- Knowledge of content and research. For example, is there a well-developed argument? Does the essay reflect a clear, insightful knowledge of the topic in a clear and critical analysis? Does the written work reflect a substantial and skilful research effort? The essay may incorporate text materials linked together with your own commentary and conclusions. This will involve research activities such as locating materials, books and journal articles.
- Creativity and judgement. Does the essay show good judgement in the selection or arrangement of materials? Is there an evidence to support your argument?
- Communication and presentation. Does the work show a mastery of the technical aspects of writing an essay? What will be assessed here also include such matters as grammar, punctuations, spelling, presentation of source citations, etc.
- Referencing and ethical use of materials. All cited works needs to be properly acknowledged.

Is referencing consistent and precise?

Note: **All written assignments have to be submitted by the due date via Turnitin and a hard copy to the Arts Faculty's Assignment box for Chinese studies.**

Marking rubric will be posted on the iLearn.

Extensions and Special Consideration

Short Term Extensions

Requests for assignment extensions due to unavoidable and unforeseen circumstances of less than three days duration (eg short term illness or misadventure) must be made to the convenor before the due date if possible, or immediately after the disruption. Approvals of extensions **must be noted on the assignment cover sheet**. Note that other assessment commitments will not be considered grounds for an extension.

Assignments that are handed in later than the due date, where no extension has been granted, or are handed in later than the extension date without being granted further extension or special consideration will be penalised.

Late submission of the essays will result in a penalty of 5% of the total value of the essay towards unit assessment each day (including weekends). The essay will not be marked after a period of five calendar days of non-submission.

Serious Illness and Unavoidable Disruption

If your performance has been affected for a period of 3 days or more as a result of serious unavoidable disruption or illness, you are advised to inform the unit convenor and tutor of the problem at the earliest possible opportunity. You must supply documentary evidence of the extended disruption and submit an **Application for Special Consideration**. (see below).

No assessment work will be accepted for marking beyond 07 June 2013 unless you have submitted an **Application for Special Consideration** with adequate and appropriate supporting evidence and have been granted special consideration. Please note that requests for special consideration for long term or serious reasons are not granted automatically, and are reserved for unforeseen and serious circumstances such as prolonged & chronic illness, hospitalisation or bereavement in your immediate family which have affected your performance over the course of the semester; or in cases of unavoidable disruption or misadventure during the formal examination period. If you believe that you qualify for special consideration, please contact the teaching staff as soon as is practically possible and lodge the application.

Special Consideration Policy

http://www.mq.edu.au/policy/docs/special_consideration/policy.html

Required and recommended resources

Readings in research and translation methodologies, see also:

Writing a Research Paper

An excellent guide from Purdue University

<http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/658/03/>

There are many more guides available online as well as in the library.

The university runs a series workshop on learnings skills and completing assignments. Please check the following link for details. Students are strongly encouraged to attend the workshops:

http://www.students.mq.edu.au/support/learning_skills/undergraduate/workshops/

On successful completion you will be able to:

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- Capacity for analytical and critical thinking as well as appreciation of, and respect for cultural diversities
- Ability to engage in independent and reflective learning through assessing and responding to ideas

Group presentation

Due: **Weeks 4-12**

Weighting: **20%**

There will be one group (two-person) presentation. In the beginning of the semester, you will be asked to choose a tutorial topic. You are expected to lead a discussion on your chosen topic for that week. Your oral presentation is expected to be 6-7 minutes in length (no more than 4 min each person). You have to finish your presentation within the time limit or marks will be deducted. The group project should reflect the collective efforts of every member of your group. You should be prepared for the rest of the class to raise questions. You will need to prepare a 2 page report which needs to be handed in.

In preparing to lead discussion, you may wish to consider the following questions:

- 1) What are the readings about?
- 2) What are the main points being argued?

- 3) What evidence is marshalled to support the author's argument?
- 4) Do you agree/disagree with the arguments put forward in the readings?
- 5) What did you find most interesting about the topic or the reading?
- 6) How does this discussion contribute to your understanding/knowledge of Chinese culture and society?

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2)????????????

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- Improved ability to work in cooperative groups on key issues in Chinese Studies and communicate findings to fellow students

Class participation/discussion

Due: **Every week**

Weighting: **20%**

Class attendance and participation in discussion is required. Participation will be marked on attendance, willingness to participate in class discussion, preparation and performance of reading and responding to questions. Students are expected to be well prepared in order to participate in class discussion – this will ensure good use of class time as well as improving your learning skills and sharing your knowledge with others. Class attendance and participation is expected and will be part of the assessment. **This means you not only come and sign in the class but come well prepared and participate in class discussion.** You need to read the assigned reading material and think about the topics and share your thought with others. Your marks for class attendance and performance will be determined by

- a) Whether you attend class regularly or not;
- b) How much effort you have taken to prepare for the class;
- c) How actively you participate in class discussion; and
- d) How helpful your comments are on the work of our fellow students.

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Delivery and Resources

This is a 300 level unit which forms part of the major in Chinese. Students admitted to this class should have completed

CHN209. Students should attend all classes with strong emphasis on student engagement. To benefit the most from the course, students are required to be active, responsible participants in their own learning, and to develop independent analytical and research skills in Chinese culture and society by reading and analysing both Chinese and English sources which should not be confined to the recommended reading list. Students should complete assessments on time by following instructions. Essays and assignments will be written in Chinese and English although class discussions will be in Chinese and explained in English if necessary. Students should check iLearn regularly <http://ilearn.mq.edu.au/my/> under the unit concerned, for announcements and resource information posted by the convenor.

Recommended textbooks and references:

Bell, Daniel A., Yan Xuetong. et al. *Ancient Chinese Thought, Modern Chinese Power*. Princeton University Press.
(Available in the Co-op Bookshop)

Ropp, Paul, S. *Heritage of China: Contemporary Perspective on Chinese Civilization*. University of California Press.
(Available in the Co-op Bookshop)

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Unit Schedule

		Discussions	Assessment
Week 1	Introduction: Theories and theoretical frameworks	Definitions, characteristics, categorization of social and cultural issues.	Class participation/discussion

Week 2	An overview: Contemporary Chinese culture and society	Examples of social issues in China and the challenge The problems and the solutions?	Class participation/discussion
Week3	Environmental issues I	Examples of social issues in China and the challenge	Class participation/discussion
Week 4	Environmental issues II	The problems and the solutions?	Class participation/discussion
Week 5	Population I	Examples of the social issues in China and the challenge	Class participation/discussion
Week 6	Population II	The problems and the solutions?	Class participation/discussion
Week 7	Unemployment I	Examples of social issues in China and the challenge;	Essay draft due on Friday by 4:30pm Class participation/discussion
Week 8	Unemployment II	The problems and the solutions?	Class participation/discussion
Week 9	Poverty and social welfare I	Examples of social issues in China and the challenge;	Class participation/discussion
Week 10	Poverty and social welfare II	The problems and the solutions?	Class participation/discussion
Week 11	Marriage and family issues I	Examples of social issues in China and the challenge;	Class participation/discussion

Week 12	Marriage and family issues II	The problems and the solutions?	Class participation/discussion Essay due on Friday by 4:30pm
Week 13	Crime vs social ethics	Review and feedback	Group project/presentation Class participation/discussion

Policies and Procedures

Macquarie University policies and procedures are accessible from [Policy Central](#). Students should be aware of the following policies in particular with regard to Learning and Teaching:

Academic Honesty Policy http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/academic_honesty/policy.html

Assessment Policy <http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/assessment/policy.html>

Grading Policy <http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/grading/policy.html>

Grade Appeal Policy <http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/gradeappeal/policy.html>

Grievance Management Policy http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/grievance_management/policy.html

Disruption to Studies Policy http://www.mq.edu.au/policy/docs/disruption_studies/policy.html *The Disruption to Studies Policy is effective from March 3 2014 and replaces the Special Consideration Policy.*

In addition, a number of other policies can be found in the [Learning and Teaching Category](#) of Policy Central.

Student Code of Conduct

Macquarie University students have a responsibility to be familiar with the Student Code of Conduct: https://students.mq.edu.au/support/student_conduct/

Student Support

Macquarie University provides a range of support services for students. For details, visit <http://students.mq.edu.au/support/>

Learning Skills

Learning Skills (mq.edu.au/learningskills) provides academic writing resources and study

strategies to improve your marks and take control of your study.

- [Workshops](#)
- [StudyWise](#)
- [Academic Integrity Module for Students](#)
- [Ask a Learning Adviser](#)

Student Services and Support

Students with a disability are encouraged to contact the [Disability Service](#) who can provide appropriate help with any issues that arise during their studies.

Student Enquiries

For all student enquiries, visit Student Connect at ask.mq.edu.au

IT Help

For help with University computer systems and technology, visit <http://informatics.mq.edu.au/help/>.

When using the University's IT, you must adhere to the [Acceptable Use Policy](#). The policy applies to all who connect to the MQ network including students.

Graduate Capabilities

Capable of Professional and Personal Judgement and Initiative

We want our graduates to have emotional intelligence and sound interpersonal skills and to demonstrate discernment and common sense in their professional and personal judgement. They will exercise initiative as needed. They will be capable of risk assessment, and be able to handle ambiguity and complexity, enabling them to be adaptable in diverse and changing environments.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Enhanced knowledge of contemporary Chinese culture and society
- Improved understanding of the key values and practices in shaping Chinese culture, people and their ways of living
- Familiarity and facility with concepts, themes and theoretical perspectives on contemporary Chinese culture and society
- Capacity for analytical and critical thinking as well as appreciation of, and respect for cultural diversities
- Ability to engage in independent and reflective learning through assessing and responding to ideas

- Improved ability to work in cooperative groups on key issues in Chinese Studies and communicate findings to fellow students

Commitment to Continuous Learning

Our graduates will have enquiring minds and a literate curiosity which will lead them to pursue knowledge for its own sake. They will continue to pursue learning in their careers and as they participate in the world. They will be capable of reflecting on their experiences and relationships with others and the environment, learning from them, and growing - personally, professionally and socially.

This graduate capability is supported by:

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Discipline Specific Knowledge and Skills

Our graduates will take with them the intellectual development, depth and breadth of knowledge, scholarly understanding, and specific subject content in their chosen fields to make them competent and confident in their subject or profession. They will be able to demonstrate, where relevant, professional technical competence and meet professional standards. They will be able to articulate the structure of knowledge of their discipline, be able to adapt discipline-specific knowledge to novel situations, and be able to contribute from their discipline to inter-disciplinary solutions to problems.

This graduate capability is supported by:

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Critical, Analytical and Integrative Thinking

We want our graduates to be capable of reasoning, questioning and analysing, and to integrate and synthesise learning and knowledge from a range of sources and environments; to be able to critique constraints, assumptions and limitations; to be able to think independently and systemically in relation to scholarly activity, in the workplace, and in the world. We want them to have a level of scientific and information technology literacy.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

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Problem Solving and Research Capability

Our graduates should be capable of researching; of analysing, and interpreting and assessing data and information in various forms; of drawing connections across fields of knowledge; and they should be able to relate their knowledge to complex situations at work or in the world, in order to diagnose and solve problems. We want them to have the confidence to take the initiative in doing so, within an awareness of their own limitations.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Enhanced knowledge of contemporary Chinese culture and society
- Improved understanding of the key values and practices in shaping Chinese culture, people and their ways of living
- Familiarity and facility with concepts, themes and theoretical perspectives on contemporary Chinese culture and society

- Capacity for analytical and critical thinking as well as appreciation of, and respect for cultural diversities
- Ability to engage in independent and reflective learning through assessing and responding to ideas
- Improved ability to work in cooperative groups on key issues in Chinese Studies and communicate findings to fellow students

Creative and Innovative

Our graduates will also be capable of creative thinking and of creating knowledge. They will be imaginative and open to experience and capable of innovation at work and in the community. We want them to be engaged in applying their critical, creative thinking.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Improved understanding of the key values and practices in shaping Chinese culture, people and their ways of living
- Familiarity and facility with concepts, themes and theoretical perspectives on contemporary Chinese culture and society
- Ability to engage in independent and reflective learning through assessing and responding to ideas
- Improved ability to work in cooperative groups on key issues in Chinese Studies and communicate findings to fellow students

Effective Communication

We want to develop in our students the ability to communicate and convey their views in forms effective with different audiences. We want our graduates to take with them the capability to read, listen, question, gather and evaluate information resources in a variety of formats, assess, write clearly, speak effectively, and to use visual communication and communication technologies as appropriate.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Improved understanding of the key values and practices in shaping Chinese culture, people and their ways of living
- Familiarity and facility with concepts, themes and theoretical perspectives on contemporary Chinese culture and society
- Capacity for analytical and critical thinking as well as appreciation of, and respect for cultural diversities

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Engaged and Ethical Local and Global citizens

As local citizens our graduates will be aware of indigenous perspectives and of the nation's historical context. They will be engaged with the challenges of contemporary society and with knowledge and ideas. We want our graduates to have respect for diversity, to be open-minded, sensitive to others and inclusive, and to be open to other cultures and perspectives: they should have a level of cultural literacy. Our graduates should be aware of disadvantage and social justice, and be willing to participate to help create a wiser and better society.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Enhanced knowledge of contemporary Chinese culture and society
- Improved understanding of the key values and practices in shaping Chinese culture, people and their ways of living
- Familiarity and facility with concepts, themes and theoretical perspectives on contemporary Chinese culture and society
- Capacity for analytical and critical thinking as well as appreciation of, and respect for cultural diversities
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Socially and Environmentally Active and Responsible

We want our graduates to be aware of and have respect for self and others; to be able to work with others as a leader and a team player; to have a sense of connectedness with others and country; and to have a sense of mutual obligation. Our graduates should be informed and active participants in moving society towards sustainability.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Enhanced knowledge of contemporary Chinese culture and society
- Improved understanding of the key values and practices in shaping Chinese culture, people and their ways of living
- Familiarity and facility with concepts, themes and theoretical perspectives on contemporary Chinese culture and society
- Capacity for analytical and critical thinking as well as appreciation of, and respect for

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- Ability to engage in independent and reflective learning through assessing and responding to ideas
- Improved ability to work in cooperative groups on key issues in Chinese Studies and communicate findings to fellow students