

HUM320 INTRODUCTION TO CHINESE ETHNIC CULTURES (3 credit hours)

Instructor: Feng CHEN

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Semester: Fall

Meeting times: Tuesday, Thursday 13:00-15:00

DESCRIPTIN: With its 56 ethnic groups, Chinese culture is unique in its ethnic and regional diversity. At the same time, Chinese people have experienced significant cultural changes through the centuries of turbulent history of East Asia, changes recorded by the witnesses of the times from royal historians to folk artists. This course will take a general look at Chinese ethnic cultures in following areas:

Costume of ethnic minority groups in China and Chinese imperial costume, Chinese folk music and Chinese dance, Chinese cuisines and Chinese tea, Peking opera, Chinese traditional painting and Chinese calligraphy, Chinese Wushu, Chinese garden, famous ancient capitals and historical sites in China, natural scenic spots in China, traditional Chinese festivals, and Chinese traditional medicine.

OBJECTIVES: This course is designed to help students in developing a conceptual understanding of Chinese ethnic cultures. By the end of the course students are expected to acquire:

1. Basic understanding of the formation of Chinese ethnic culture today
2. Knowledge of the basic concepts of Chinese ethnic cultures.
3. Basic understanding of the cultural differences between ethnic groups and areas in China.

STUDY MATERIALS:

Materials will be given out in the class.

<Reference books >

YING ming, ed, An Outline of the Traditional Chinese Culture, Haiyang Press, China, 2003.

Zhi E' xiang, ed, The Basics of Traditional Chinese Culture, Foreign Languages Press Beijing, 2005.

ASSESSMENT:

Evaluation will be made on basis of final papers (40%), tests (30%) and short papers

(30%).

ACADEMIC PREPARATION: Students are expected to have completed at least one course related to China or Chinese language before enrolling this course, otherwise, they are encouraged to register for such a course while taking this course.

COURSE FORMAT AND ACTIVITIES:

There are two 75-minute classes a week. Generally, the first class of the week is arranged for lecture and the other is for students to discuss on the theme of the week. Students must submit one short paper per month.

SCHEDULE:

- <Week1> Costume of ethnic minority groups in China.
- <Week2> Chinese imperial costume.
- <Week3> Chinese folk music and Chinese dance
- <Week4> Chinese cuisines
- <Week5> Chinese tea.
- <Week6> Peking opera.
- <Week7> Chinese traditional painting.
- <Week8> Chinese calligraphy.
- <Week9> Chinese wushu.
- <Week10> Chinese garden.
- <Week11> Famous ancient capitals in China.
- <Week12> Historical sites in China.
- <Week13> Natural scenic spots in China.
- <Week14> Traditional Chinese festivals, Chinese traditional medicine.
- <Week15> Final papers.