State(s) of China: From Oracle Bones to the Hard Rock Café

Course Description:
This course considers the historical and contemporary state(s) of China through an interdisciplinary lens. Topics for the course vary annually according on the expertise of the co-instructors. A vital component of the course will involve a short-term study abroad experience in several select Chinese cities. In addition, students will interact with local university students and professors as a means to provide supplementary and, perhaps, alternative perspectives on traditional and modern Chinese society.

Previous Courses:
Spring 2007: Professors Janine Chi (Sociology) and Amber Vanderwarker (Anthropology/Archaeology)

Why do people give up their autonomy and allow themselves to be ruled? How does the state structure identity, economy, and power in different communities and segments of society? How does globalization affect state and national identities? This seminar considers these questions and more in the context of ancient and modern China using archaeology and sociology as lenses. In addition to weekly readings/discussions, students and professors will visit China during a three-week short-term study abroad experience that involves participation in archaeological fieldwork and sociological service-learning projects. Cost: $2,800 (includes airfare, excursions, food and lodging)
Number of Students: 19
Cities: Beijing, Xian, Shanghai