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.

Spring 2009: Professors Janine Chi (Sociology) and Amze Emmons (Art)

What is the relationship between art and society? How does globalization affect the emergence of new forms of nationalism in China? How has local artistic practice mirrored the cultural, economic and political changes taking place across China? What does the new global interest in Chinese art teach us about China and about the global art market? This seminar considers these questions and more in the context of a changing China using sociology and art as lenses. In addition to weekly readings/discussions and art projects, students and professors will visit the China during a two-week short-term study abroad experience that involves participation in creative interdisciplinary fieldwork projects.

Cost: $2,700 (includes airfare, excursions, food and lodging)
Number of Students: 17
Cities: Beijing, Shanghai