China: History, Culture and Society  
Beijing, Chongqing, Taigu and Xi’an  
May 17 – June 10, 2015

This study abroad program is coordinated by the Northern Illinois University Study Abroad Office (SAO) and the University Honors Program, in cooperation with all six undergraduate colleges and the Division of International Affairs. It is conducted in partnership with Chongqing College of Posts and Mobile Telecommunications (CMT) and Shanxi Agricultural University College of Telecommunications (CT), along with both their Honors Colleges.

PROGRAM OVERVIEW: China, known as The Middle Kingdom, has long been a mystery to Americans. The history of this ancient land goes back more than 4,000 years. Once it was a nation/state that was largely (and by choice) shut off from the rest of the world. It was then the land of emperors, philosophers, great inventions and discoveries, and a civilization built on strict rules for each member of society. The intersections between China and the US were few and far between, save for some engagement during times of conflicts, the massive influx of immigrants during the settling of the American West, during and immediately after World War II and the Korean conflict, and, of course, President Nixon’s visit in the 1970s.

Only in the 1980s did the US and China really come into modern contact and even then, the relationship has been one of dualities—tensions and friendship, admiration and fear, agreement and disagreement. Today, while our states are officially friends, our affairs are far more complex than any simple sentence can convey. When our two governments agree, things go well, but when we clash (as we do over economic, political, social, and international events) we often find ourselves working at odds. Given that China is the world’s second largest economy and has the largest population of any nation, the US cannot ignore them (or if we do, we do so at our own peril). But the two peoples, Americans and Chinese, seem to know little about each other and understand even less.

In the course of study over the nearly four weeks abroad (and one meeting held prior to and the reciprocal exchange weeks following the program), program participants will strive to bridge those gaps of familiarity, knowledge, and understanding.
Students will fly to Beijing from Chicago, and be quickly immersed in everyday Chinese life as they are hosted by our two partner colleges, CMT and CT. Participants will live in the residence halls, be joined by students from both schools (some of whom have been to NIU), learn to cook using a wok, take special classes to learn about Chinese history, culture, customs, film, contemporary issues, and people.

**PROGRAM DATES:** The program will officially begin on Sunday, May 17, 2015 in Chongqing, China, and will end on June 10, 2015. Students will be responsible for making their own travel arrangements in order to arrive in Chongqing on Sunday, May 17, 2015. Students will also be expected to participate in the reciprocal program that will bring many CMT and CT students to the NIU campus in July/August.

There will be one pre-departure session held in-person (or via Skype or other online streaming) in either late April or early May, 2015. The meeting will last two hours and serve as an introduction to China and to travel abroad.

**PROGRAM FACULTY:** Dr. Lanhui Ryder, from the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures, NIU will serve as the NIU program director. Dr. Ryder was born and raised in China and obtained her undergraduate degree in Chinese Language and Literature from Beijing Normal University before coming to the United States. She has been a journalist and travelled extensively in China. Dr. Ryder is fully fluent in both English and Chinese and will be leading several of the sessions while in China.

Once in China, Dr. Vivian-Lee Nyitray, Ms. Rolanda Pi and Ms. Amanda Chen will be the coordinators for the program while at CMT/Prospect College and CT/Taigu College. Dr. Nyitray is the Dean of both Honors Colleges and a professor of Asian religions, Ms. Chen is the Vice Dean at Taigu and is a specialist in English, and Ms. Pi is the Vice Dean at Prospect.

**PROGRAM OBJECTIVES:** The primary purpose of this program is to provide participants with the opportunity to focus on developing a deep understanding of Chinese history, culture, and life. The program will consist of in-class “traditional” lectures as well as interactive sessions with students in China, travel-study to explore contemporary issues and more.

**PROGRAM REQUIREMENT:** The program is generously supported by NIU Honors Program and Mr. Jason Peng, Founder and Chair of the Board of Directors of both CMT and CT. In exchange for the financial support, students are expected to participate in the reciprocal program by assisting during the US visit and program for CMT and CT students in late July and early August.

**PROGRAM SITES AND HIGHLIGHTS:** Students will arrive in Beijing and immediately transfer to Chongqing and CMT. Once in Chongqing, class sessions will begin on campus as well as several notable visits to important sites that tie in the daily lessons with the setting of China and the city of Chongqing, including Daiyu Fortress (The fishing village) located on one of the great ancient battlefields dating from the Song Dynasty and its resistance to the Mongol armies, Arhat Temple, the Stillwell Museum (commemorating the “Flying
Tigers,” who flew supplies to the Chinese during their war of resistance against the Japanese), the Three Gorges Museum, and a personally guided tour through the new Modern Art Gallery.

From Chongqing students will travel by plane to Xi’an where they will visit one of the most historical cities in China, including the Muslim Quarter, the Forest of Steles, bike ride around the city wall etc. At the UNESCO World Heritage Site of the tomb of the First Emperor, Qin Shi Huangdi, the hundreds of terra cotta warriors, each unique in every feature, are among China’s best-known artifacts and attractions.

After leaving Xi’an the program moves to Shanxi Province and the campus of CT in rural Taigu, a city of 300,000. The city and its region are home to the Wubian Temple, the Cao Family compound, and numerous other places of interest.

After leaving the CT campus, students will travel back to Taiyuan and depart for Beijing via high-speed train. Students will then journey throughout Beijing, where the “city as text” approach will evolve as the tour: Tian’anmen Square, the Forbidden city, hutongs (ancient quarters and homes), rickshaw ride, Ming Dynasty tombs, the Great Wall, the Temple of Heaven, Empress Dowager Cixi’s Summer Palace, tea house, local antique market, and many time-honored famous foods, including Peking Duck, shaomai. The excursion concludes at a dumping and tea party at a private residence.

PROGRAM AUDIENCE: Space is limited and qualified applicants will be accepted on a first-come-first-serve basis, unless applications exceed spaces. As a University Honors sponsored-program limited priority will go to Honors students but all others are encouraged to apply. This program is open to NIU students and students from all other fully accredited colleges and universities. There is no graduate-level credit offered for this program.

The program is open only to NIU students who are:

- Undergraduates: who have a 2.5 GPA or higher, with some priority given to those who are enrolled in the University Honors Program and/or who have an overall 3.2 GPA or higher.
- Students who do not meet the above criteria are encouraged to contact the Associate Vice Provost of University Honors and ask to be considered on a case-by-case basis. In certain circumstances the AVP can grant admission to the program when the minimum criteria are not met.
- It is open to students of any major or undergraduate college: Business, Education, Engineering and Engineering Technology, Health and Human Sciences, Liberal Arts and Sciences, and Visual and Performing Arts.
INSTRUCTION METHOD: The program will provide daily instruction in the classroom through traditional lecture and/or discussion format, through hands-on activities, by using “site as text” (where the place is the object of study), and interactive practice such as tai chi, calligraphy, water ink painting, etc.

THE COURSE: The program offers courses that are rich and eclectic, such as introduction to Confucian and Daoist texts and ideas; Chinese Buddhism; Chinese education, past and present; 20th century Chinese film as art form and cultural window; women in Chinese society, past and present; 20th century Chinese history and its legacy; contemporary music and C-pop; semiotics and language symbolism in Chinese architecture; environmental issues; the changing Chinese family.

The program director along with faculty from CMT and CT will provide the instruction. There may also be a few other “visiting” instructors from local universities and other educational institutions, as available and appropriate.

There will be built-in, mandatory reflection time each day when students are given time for personal as well as group reflection, discussion, and debriefing. These sessions will provide an essential component of the international experience.

Students will be required to submit written assignments.

Students will be provided with all grading materials at the time of the first course meeting, including detailed assignment handouts, expectations, grading rubrics, and more.

Please see the forthcoming syllabus for complete course information.

PROGRAM ACADEMIC CREDIT: For satisfactory participation in the program, participants will receive 6 semester hours of undergraduate credit in one of the following NIU courses.

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<th>UNDERGRADUATE CREDIT:</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>INTL 301 or INTL 301H</strong> Study Abroad Program: Seminar Abroad</td>
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<td><strong>6 Semester Credit Hours</strong></td>
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**Description:** Course work undertaken as part of an approved university study abroad program. Discipline-based course used to reflect credit given, with departmental approval, for course work for which there is no NIU equivalent course available. May be repeated to a maximum of 9 semester hours.

**Prerequisite:** None.

APPLICATION AND ADMISSION PROCEDURES: Space in this program is both limited and competitive. Any NIU student may apply, however, University Honors students are assured of consideration for a reserved number of spaces.

The program is generously supported by NIU Honors Program and Mr. Jason Peng, Founder and Chair of the Board of Directors of both CMT and CT. In exchange for the financial support,
students are expected to participate in the reciprocal program by assisting during the US visit and program for CMT and CT students in late July and early August.

The program is open to undergraduate students who meet the NIU general admission requirements, and who are interested in the topics that are explored. (Please see “Program Audience” above). Currently enrolled students must meet University Honors GPA requirements. Students must be in good academic and disciplinary standing at the time of application. Students who are on academic or disciplinary probation are not eligible to participate in study abroad programs. Applicants must participate in the entire program and satisfy NIU undergraduate admission and course requirements.

Students cannot have any encumbrances against their NIU records. Any encumbrances placed on a student’s records by NIU (i.e., the Graduate School, Undergraduate Admissions, Bursar’s Office, Accounts Receivable, Registration and Records, Health Services, Parking Services, etc.) must be cleared before a student is granted admission to a study abroad program.

To be admitted to the program, an applicant’s official transcript must be on file in the NIU Study Abroad Office. Students who are currently enrolled at NIU, or who have previously enrolled at NIU, do not need to request an official transcript; the Study Abroad Office will make this request on behalf of the applicant.

Questions relating to the admission requirements or transcripts should be directed to the Study Abroad Office.

APPLICATION FORMS AND DEPOSIT: Click China: History, Culture and Daily Life or visit the NIU Study Abroad Office website https://niu.studioabroad.com (and search for “China” program) to begin the online application process for this program. The webpage provides guidance on requesting information, advising, or applying for the program. Please note that at the time of application, applicants will be expected to submit a signature verification form and copy of their ID to the Study Abroad Office. More detailed instructions can be found at https://niu.studioabroad.com website or by contacting the Study Abroad Office at (815) 753-0700 or niuabroad@niu.edu.

$200 APPLICATION FEE/DEPOSIT: A $200 application fee/deposit is required of all applicants. The $200 is broken down into $100 for the non-refundable application fee and $100 for a program deposit. Both the application fee and the deposit will be applied to the total balance of the program cost. The $100 deposit is refundable only if the participant withdraws prior to the withdrawal deadline indicated on the program materials or for medical reasons verified by a physician if the withdrawal takes place after the withdrawal deadline.

The $200 application fee/deposit will be charged to NIU students’ NIU Bursar's account. (Checks and money orders cannot be accepted from NIU students.) Non-NIU students must submit a check or money order in the amount of $200. More detailed instructions regarding the application fee/deposit can be found on the seminar application website.
IMPORTANT – All applications will be categorized as “Pending – No Deposit” until the $200 application fee/deposit has been received (or, in the case of non-NIU students, once a check has been received). The Study Abroad Office will not consider or process applications without the $200 application fee/deposit. In order to reserve your place in the program you must submit the $200 deposit within 14 days of application. After 14 days applications without a deposit will be inactivated.

APPLICATION DEADLINE: March 5, 2015

ACCOMMODATIONS AND MEALS: Participants will reside in university residence halls while in residence at CMT and CT and hotels while in Xi’an and Beijing. While in the University residence halls, students will be sharing a kitchen and working with the students at each school in order to prepare some of their meals.

AIR TRANSPORTATION: Participants travel arrangements must be made individually; each participant is responsible for paying for their own flights between the U.S. and Beijing, Beijing to Chongqing (Travel insurance is recommended.)

Important - The Study Abroad Office advises all participants that flight reservations for this program will not be booked until:

a. After the March 5 application deadline;
   AND
b. The SAO has accepted the minimum number of participants needed to operate this program.

Students will be notified by the program director when they can reserve and pay for their airline tickets.

LAND TRANSPORTATION: For program-related travel within China the group will travel by train, plane, and private coach bus. This transportation is provided as part of the NIU program cost and does not require any advance reservations. All in-country travel over long distances can be done by train or plane, while all local and daily travel can be done by public transportation or on foot. For a few side excursions we may take a pre-arranged private shuttle van. The in-country airfare is covered by the program cost except Beijing to Chongqing flight.

PASSPORT: — IMPORTANT — all participants are required to possess a valid passport by March 5, 2015. U.S. passports must be valid SIX months beyond the intended stay overseas. Individuals who do not currently possess a valid passport should apply for one immediately upon acceptance into the program. After March 5, 2015 applicants may need to request expedited services or apply in person at the Chicago (or nearest) Passport Agency or they may be prohibited from going altogether. Information on acquiring a U.S. passport is available at the U.S. State Department’s website: http://travel.state.gov/content/passports/english.html. Foreign passport holders may need special visas for travel and are responsible for obtaining all necessary visas.
INTERNATIONAL STUDENT I.D. CARD: The ISIC card is provided as part of the program cost. The I.D. card can provide discount on international airfare and other travel. Students will receive an application and instructions for obtaining this card when accepted into the program.

The International Student Identity Card also includes a limited health and accident insurance policy which is only valid outside the U.S. Students will have to pay bills at the time of treatment and will be reimbursed later.

PASSPORT PHOTOS: You may have your passport photo(s) taken in the NIU Study Abroad Office. Photos are $3.00 for the first photo and $2.00 for each photo after that. After the first two photos, photos must be purchased in multiples of two. Photos are usually developed while you wait. Study Abroad Office hours are 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. (closed over the lunch hour) and 1:00 – 4:30 p.m. It is strongly recommended that students get an extra pair of photos taken to keep on their person while in China in case of a missing or stolen passport.

INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL ISSUES

VISA: A visa is required for this program. Details will be provided. It usually takes up to two weeks to get the visa. You will be asked to submit your passport, a completed visa application, the required photos, and other information so that all passports and visa requests will be handled together.

Should you be denied a visa, you will not be permitted to go on the program.

HEALTH REQUIREMENTS/VACCINATIONS: In order to enter China students should be current on their vaccinations. As there are not set requirements for tourists visiting China, it is up to each student to determine whether or not they need to update their vaccinations. The NIU University Health Service and most other university or college health services can administer most immunizations. It is strongly recommended that you visit the Health Center, discuss with them your travel plans and get a list of strongly suggested vaccines. Seek consultation on immunizations several months before you travel.

NIU MAJOR MEDICAL INSURANCE: NIU Student health insurance is required for participation in an NIU study abroad program. Participants not currently enrolled in the NIU Major Medical Insurance Plan will be enrolled by the Study Abroad Office. The NIU Major Medical Insurance Plan has a $250 deductible clause. Students requiring medical attention will be expected to pay any related costs and then file a claim with the NIU Student Insurance Office after returning to the States. Receipts showing payment for all medical expenses are required for reimbursement.
PROGRAM COST: The program cost pays for the following cost related services:

1) Accommodations and some meals while the group is in China.
2) Hotel accommodations in Beijing and Xi’an during the in-program trips and accommodations on both campuses of CMT and CT.
3) All land transportation in China (except if a student decides to take a taxi or train for personal travel)
4) Admission fees to cultural and historical sites visited as part of the daily schedule
5) All textbooks and educational program materials
6) NIU undergraduate credit
7) International Student I.D. Card
8) NIU major medical insurance

PROGRAM COST: $2,575 (not including airfare)

All prices quoted are subject to change. The information contained in the program documents and forms is presented in good faith and is believed to be correct as of the date presented. Northern Illinois University reserves the right to amend, modify, revise, or delete any information appearing in these documents, including but not limited to the cost of the program.

Non-NIU students should consult with their home institutions regarding additional costs that may apply to study abroad. Non-NIU students are responsible for any study abroad charges imposed by their home institution.

ADDITIONAL COSTS TO PARTICIPANTS:

- Airfare
- Costs of acquiring a passport (approximately $135, including 2 passport pictures).
- Additional costs associated with obtaining a visa for non-U.S. passport holders.
- Immunization fees (if immunizations are required)
- Independent travel and visa costs associated with independent travel.
- Expenses for free-time pursuits.
- Expenses and purchases of a personal nature.

What is the cost for other incidentals? There are many shops and unique items throughout China that student may wish to buy. Students should carefully consider their spending habits when traveling and think about what they may desire to bring back for souvenirs and gifts.

The current exchange rate is 1 US dollar = 6.25 Chinese Yuan (as of February 1, 2015)

FINANCIAL AID/LOANS: As a participant in a study abroad program through NIU, applicants may be eligible for: Pell Grant, SEOG, Perkins Loan, PLUS Loan, Subsidized or Unsubsidized Stafford Loan, MAP Award or your privately awarded scholarship with consent of awarding organization.
Students should be aware that substantial resources have already been expended to support their participation in this program. The stated cost of the program has already been reduced by more than $2,500 (that’s a subsidy of over 55% that is being provided).

Please visit http://www.niu.edu/studyabroad/resources/index.shtml for more information on the many other options open to you, or contact Pamela Rosenberg, International Programs Business Manager, Williston Hall 407, (815) 753-9530, prosenberg@niu.edu for more information.

WITHDRAWAL FROM THE PROGRAM: Applicants withdrawing from the program after March 5, 2015 will not be refunded the $100 program deposit.

Applicants withdrawing from the program after this date will also be held accountable any funds obligated to overseas vendors and agents on the applicant’s behalf. This provision is in effect even if the applicant has not submitted the $100 deposit or additional payments, and if the applicant is applying for financial aid.

If the applicant must withdraw after March 5, 2015 for medical reasons, funds obligated on their behalf to overseas vendors can only be refunded if:

1) The request is submitted to the Study Abroad Office in writing and accompanied by a signed statement stating that travel is not advised from a physician on the physician’s letterhead; and
2) NIU is able to obtain refunds from overseas vendors and agents.

CANCELLATION OF THE PROGRAM: The Study Abroad Office reserves the right to cancel this program if the minimum required enrollment is not attained. If, prior to the commencement of the program, a U.S. State Department Travel Warning is issued for China all applicants will be notified promptly of the warning and the possibility of cancellation of the program. If, during the course of the program, a U.S. State Department Travel Warning is issued students will be promptly notified of the warning and the advisability of canceling the program.

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