

CUNY-BC Study in China: Program Description & Itinerary

Tentative Program Dates: May 30-June 20, 2016

Application Deadline: March 21, 2016

Program Director:

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This program is designed in such a way that all travel is education-related. The cities we have chosen to visit are all sites of great historical and cultural importance.

1. Beijing is the current capital of China and used to be the capital of several late Chinese dynasties. Many sites in Beijing (e.g., Tiananmen Square, Palace Museum, Forbidden City, the Great Wall, Summer Palace, the Olympic Stadium) are directly related to what we are teaching in our courses on Chinese history, culture, society, and Chinese business & economy.
2. Xi'an was where Chinese dynasties started several thousand years ago and many subsequent emperors established their capitals. It is also the eastern starting point of the ancient overland Silk Road. Sites that strongly support the academic content of our courses are the Terra Cotta Museum, Qin Shihuangdi Emperor's Mausoleum, Wild Goose Pagoda Buddhist Temple & Square, Xuanzang Buddhist Statue, Silk Road Sites, Tang Dynasty Art Museum, Muslim Quarter, and the Great Mosque.
3. Nanjing was the capital of six ancient Chinese dynasties and the capital of the first Republic of China—a place of great significance in modern Chinese history. Ming Dynasty first established its capital here and then moved the capital to Beijing. The Maritime Silk Road started here and in Yangzhou (a very important city close by) from the Yangtze River and went to the ocean before it reached other parts of Asia and Europe. (Yangzhou is a famous city of historical culture with museums for several important schools of Chinese classical painting; we will make one day trip there while studying in Nanjing). At the beginning of the 20th Century, the Nationalists (Kuomintang) chose the city as its capital for the first Republic, which lasted until 1949 when the Communists gained control of China. Therefore, Nanjing is the perfect choice for our Study Abroad Program. Nanjing Museum, Confucius Temple, Jiming Buddhist Temple, and many other cultural and historic sites in Nanjing add immense leverage to the course content of the courses we teach. It is one thing to read Confucius in a classroom in New York, but it is an entirely different thing to visit the Confucius Temple and Yuan Emperor's Tomb where Confucian rituals are practiced. Our students and faculty stay in Nanjing for about 3 weeks for formal class sessions and site visits.
4. Suzhou is considered the king of gardens in China (we will stop at Suzhou for half a day when we finish our courses in Nanjing, before we arrive in Shanghai). It is also acclaimed as the Oriental Venice. The exquisite gardens of southern China styles will help our students understand many classical poems by great Chinese scholars that we teach about in the Core course on the Chinese

classic literature. The rivers, bridges and the imposing architecture around the beautiful lakes will open our students' eyes to China past glories and current modernizations.

5. Shanghai, a modern metropolis, is our final stop: Foreign concessions are painful memories for the Chinese. Now, it is the symbol of China's modernizations. Our students will witness breathtaking beauty and modern developments of China, visit sites of cultural significance, including Pudong financial district, and the Jewish synagogue (it is a must-see for many American visitors to Shanghai). Many of the things we see and do in this city are strongly related to our courses on Chinese history, culture, economy and business.

These carefully chosen sites will offer CUNY study abroad students excellent opportunities to learn about China's present and past, experience Chinese culture, society and economy, interact with Chinese people, and improve their Chinese language skills.

This program is open to all CUNY students who wish to participate. All CUNY students who meet the program's eligibility requirements will be given the opportunity to apply for the program.

The CUNY-BC Study Abroad in China Program will offer several credit-bearing courses for undergraduate students. Students may choose from the following courses:

1. ARTD 3018: Art of Ancient China
2. BUSN 3175: Asian Business
3. CORC 3206 (Core Curriculum): Development of the Silk Road
4. CLAS 1110: Classical Cultures (China)
5. CHIN 1010: Beginners Chinese & CHIN 1020: Intermediate Chinese
6. HIST 3005: Shaping of the Modern World
7. HIST 3534: Revolutionary China
8. SPEC 1619: Intercultural Communication
9. SPEC 2623: Business & Professional Communication (Cross-Cultural Perspectives)
10. TVRA 3871: Elements of TV Field Production

The program is led and staffed by CUNY faculty. The program director is Professor Shuming Lu, from the Department of Speech Communication Arts & Sciences, Brooklyn College-CUNY (Telephone: 718-951-5225; E-mail: shumingl@brooklyn.cuny.edu), who is a native of China and expert on Chinese culture. All courses are to be taught by Brooklyn College faculty, who are experts in the areas of study. Other faculty who will be participating in the program will be invited and appointed soon after the application deadline when the final course offerings, based on students' selections, are confirmed.

The BC faculty will be with the students throughout the program and will be teaching the courses. Students will receive CUNY-BC credits for those courses they complete.

Itinerary

(Tentative, subject to availability of international flights):

Our plan is to depart for China on December 31, 2013 and travel for 4-5 days in Beijing and Xian, to cope with jet lag and see historical sites of thousands of years of Chinese history in the two cities. Our class discussion sessions start as soon as we arrive in China, with more formal class sessions when we arrive

in Nanjing where we can settle down to discuss and reflect more on the assigned readings and on what we have seen and observed during our first 5 days of travel the first two cities. Our program will be held overseas for 3 and half weeks. The exact dates of program may be adjusted slightly depending on the availability of airline tickets for the group. A detailed itinerary is as follows:

1. Day-1: Report to JFK/LGA Airport to depart for China
2. Day-2: Arrive Beijing Capital International Airport
 - a. Immigration clearance and baggage claim
 - b. Charter bus and tour guide from the travel agency in Beijing pick up at Beijing Int'l Airport
3. Day-3: Tour historical sites with class sessions in Beijing
 - a. Students are required to keep journals with reflections on the site visits and observations of the life and culture in the city
 - b. The Great Wall; Summer Palace
 - c. Discussion of topics on Silk Road, as seen in the sites of the city
 - d. Palace Museum & Forbidden City
 - e. Tiananmen Square
 - f. Discussion on Traditional Chinese Culture, Confucius Philosophy and Chinese Government
 - g. Discussion of China's dynasty cycle, imperial power, and influence on China culture
 - h. Discussion on modern Chinese history; processes of China's modernization; and stages of economic development and boom since 1978
 - i. Language Practice Lessons for Beginners Chinese
 - j. Chinese Medicine Parlor, Cloisonné Display (from the Silk Road), etc.
 - k. Lecture on Chinese traditional medicine and health care tradition (much from yin & yang of Daoism as philosophy and religion)
4. Day-4: Depart Beijing for Xi'an in the evening
5. Day-5: Arrive Xi'an (our hotel is located right in the center of this exciting city) and tour historical sites with Class Discussion Sessions in Xi'an
 - a. Students are required to keep journals with reflections on the site visits and observations of the life and culture in the city
 - b. Terra Cotta Army Museum: Discussion of China's ancient history, relations with non-Chinese kingdoms/tribes
 - c. XuanZang Buddhist Master Statue and Silk Road
 - d. Wild Goose Pagoda Square
 - e. Ancient Silk Road Sites
 - f. Discussion of topics on Silk Road, as seen in the sites of the city
 - g. Muslim Quarter, Ancient City Wall, Chinese Art Museum
 - h. Discussion of Islamization of the Silk Road
 - i. Language Practice Lessons for Beginners Chinese
6. Day-6: Leave Xi'an for Nanjing in the evening (we are traveling from northwest to southeast of China: Nanjing was the capital of six ancient Chinese dynasties)
7. Day-7: Arrive Nanjing in the morning
8. Days 7-20: Classes and exploration of historical sites in Nanjing
 - a. Daily class sessions and assignments

- b. Field trips to Confucius Temple, Daoist Temple, Buddhist Monastery, Nanjing Museum for discussion of some class topics
 - c. Side trip to Shenzhen/Hong Kong on a weekend to understand the British influence on Chinese culture and economy, and see Chinese version of capitalism in southern China (in Shenzhen, with enormous influence from Hong Kong)
 - d. Side trip to Yangzhou to see sites and learn about influence of the Silk Road (Marco Polo Museum, and sites of Arab merchants in Yangzhou); visit China Block Printing Museum to learn about the history of Block Printing and its influence on human civilization and education on the Silk Road
 - e. Side trip to Sanya and/or Huangshan on a weekend
 - f. Students are required to keep journals with reflections on the site visits and observations of the life and culture in the city
 - g. Final exams and program review/summary meetings
9. Day-20: Leave Nanjing for Suzhou and Shanghai on the early morning
10. Day-20: Sightseeing and Class Discussion Sessions in Suzhou
- a. Tour Suzhou Gardens to learn more about Chinese history, role of intellectuals in Chinese society, and rich cultural meanings in designs and objects of Chinese gardens
 - b. Discussion of Chinese philosophical ideas as seen in typical Chinese garden
 - c. Silk Mill
 - d. Language Practice Lessons for Beginners Chinese
 - e. Students are required to keep journals with reflections on the site visits and observations of the life and culture in the city
11. Day-20: Tour major historical and cultural sites with more discussion sessions in Shanghai
- a. Students are required to keep journals with reflections on the site visits and observations of the life and culture in the city
 - b. Old and new sections of Shanghai
 - c. Pudong Financial District
 - d. Discussion on Chinese Economy, Business and Modernization, and East-West exchanges as extension of the Silk Road, and Globalization
 - e. Language Practice Lessons for Beginners Chinese
12. Day-22: Report to Shanghai Pudong Airport for NYC the same day

This program has been operated successfully every summer and winter intersession since 2002. The program will pay particular attention to issues of safety, health, and medical needs. All participating students will purchase accident and health insurance (for traveling abroad), and will sign a "Waiver Release Agreement" when registering for the program. In addition, the travel agencies in China (China International Travel Service, Inc.), which will arrange our travels in China, also have safety and accident insurance for the participants; this insurance has been budgeted into the cost for travel within China. All charter buses for travel within China also carry insurance. Plus, students will also purchase international travel insurance to protect them for the trip.

All the participants of the CUNY-BC in China program will live in hotels in China, which are equipped with modern conveniences, including air conditioning or heat, a laundry room, pay phones to call abroad with calling cards, and internet access.

The programs will require students to submit statements of goals and expectations before traveling, as well as post-travel evaluations to the study abroad program director.

We will provide a pre-departure orientation to all participants of the program to prepare students and faculty for their travel, study, and living in China. This orientation takes place about 3 weeks prior to departure. All participants will be given detailed instructions about applying for passport and Chinese visa, and about immunizations.