

**COURSE SPECIFICATION DOCUMENT**

**NOTE:** ANY CHANGES TO A CSD MUST GO THROUGH ALL OF THE RELEVANT APPROVAL PROCESSES, INCLUDING LTPC.

<b>Academic School/Department :</b>	CASS
<b>Programme:</b>	RISS Travelling Programme
<b>FHEQ Level:</b>	4
<b>Course Title:</b>	Many Chinas, “Old” and “New” (Travelling Programme)
<b>Course Code:</b>	HST 4400
<b>Course Leader:</b>	Luke Cooper
<b>Student Engagement Hours:</b>	120
Classes:	30
Visits:	40
Independent/guided learning:	50
<b>Semester:</b>	Summer
<b>Credits:</b>	12 UK CATS credits 6 ECTS credits 3 US credits

**Course Description:**

RISS TRAVELLING PROGRAMME ONLY. Many are today puzzling to understand the “new China”. Indeed, perhaps more than any other polity, China’s transformation over the last century has been quite extraordinary. Is China a new communist superpower, a dynamic market economy, or a long sleeping but now waking imperial giant? However we choose to answer these questions, China unseats many of our assumptions about the modern world. This course provides students with a comprehensive introduction to the major themes and events of Chinese history and how it has shaped its rise to power in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. It combines in-class studies with visiting sites of architectural, contemporary and historical interest in an intensive programme of study. As well as being provided with a core understanding of Chinese history, students are encouraged to think about the country’s development ‘through Chinese eyes’. Chinese history is placed within an international context and students will be given the tools and knowledge that allows them to reflect on the many ways that the country has contributed to ‘world historical’ processes. As such, it is a unique field-work-led learning opportunity.

**Prerequisites:** None

**Aims and Objectives:**

Having completed the course students will have gained a basic understanding of the themes, events and controversies of Chinese history, from the imperial dynasties through to the reform era. Combining academic study with site visits, students will gain a first hand understanding and appreciation of how China's past continues to shape its present.

**Programme Outcomes:**

*This course cannot currently be applied to Richmond undergraduate major requirements or to the 120 UK credits required at Level 4. Richmond undergraduates completing this course do so in addition to all other degree requirements.*

**Learning Outcomes:**

By the end of this course, successful students should be able to:

- Deploy knowledge of major themes and events of Chinese history.
- Understand some of the historical processes that have shaped modern day China.
- Demonstrate a basic conception of the different social and economic structures that existed in China in the imperial, nationalist, communist, and reform eras.
- Place Chinese development, in both the imperial and modern eras, in an international context and understand the impact of global processes on China.
- Complete assigned work with a degree of clarity, technical competence and critical thinking, and a degree of independence and capacity for self-evaluation, which is appropriate for a 4000-level course.
- Demonstrate an understanding of the problems of 'Orientalism'.

**Indicative Content:**

- the Chinese economic miracle – an overview
- the Chinese dynasties
- Chinese nationalism
- Chinese communism
- economic systems in China - then and now
- problems of Western readings of China ('Orientalism')
- the position of women in Chinese society

**Assessment:**

This course conforms to the Richmond University Travelling Programme Assessment Norms approved at Learning and Teaching Policy Committee found at:

<http://www.richmond.ac.uk/wp-content/uploads/2014/10/ALL-ASSESSMENT-NORMS-CATEGORIES-with-descriptions-Jan-2014.pdf> .

**Teaching Methodology:**

This is a traveling program, combining academic studies with field trips to institutions and corporations across China. The teaching methods are primarily based on the academic classroom method; however, the lectures, class discussions and journal will also draw on information sourced from the field trips. Attendance and active participation in both classes and visits is essential to gain a comprehensive understanding of all learning materials. Participation is also encouraged because it stimulates the learning process. Classes combine lectures, group tasks and class discussions. Therefore, students are required to prepare by reading the core readings in advance of each class to draw on the information in class. There are three assessment points for this course: the mid-term exam, the student's travel journal, and the final exam.

**Bibliography:**

**Indicative Texts**

- Warren I. Cohen, 2000, *East Asia At The Centre*, Columbia University Press: New York.
- John King Fairbank and Merle Goldman, 2006, *China: A New History* (Second Enlarged Edition), Harvard University Press: Cambridge, MA.
- Rana Mitter, 2008, *Modern China; A Very Short Introduction*, Oxford University Press: Oxford.

See syllabus for complete reading list.

Please Note: The core and the reference texts will be reviewed at the time of designing the semester syllabus

Change Log for this CSD:

Major or Minor Change?	Nature of Change	Date Approved & Approval Body (School or LTPC)	Change Actioned by Academic Registry
		Course originally approved at LTPC on 28/03/14	
Major	Assessment norms updated	31/03/2015 (Chair's Action)	

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