

**Study Abroad to China – Rapid Urbanization, Labor Migration, and Social
Challenges
(TLO)
March 15-25, 2019**

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I. TEXTBOOKS

- Gipouloux, Francois. China's Urban Century: Governance, Environment and Socio-Economic Imperatives, 2016. (Publisher: Edward Elgar Pub)
- Yusuf, Shahid, and Saich, Tony. China Urbanizes: Consequences, Strategies, and Policies, 2008. (Publisher: The World Bank)
- Shepard, Wade. Ghost Cities of China: The Story of Cities without People in the World's Most Populated Country, 2015. (Zed Books)
- ANY travel guide book of China that covers cities we are visiting

Other Reading list:

- The Economist articles (available on Canvas)

II. COURSE DESCRIPTION

This study abroad course with a trip to China takes students to the specific political and economic settings of China to learn about specific economic issues related to and social problems emerged from the rapid urbanization and the growing urban-rural disparity in China. Specifically, students will learn about the phenomenon of a large scale domestic labor migration driven by the polarizing imbalance of economic opportunities, and its impact on health, education, and social development of children who were left behind by parents. The course offers students a framework with rich contextual factors to evaluate economic and labor policies related to urbanization and related issues. The participants will travel to megacities including Beijing and Chengdu, and a rural town in Sichuan province to observe the urban-rural contrast. During the visit to the rural site, the participants will have the opportunity to interact with school children and provide some volunteer work (e.g. foreign language instruction). Participants have opportunities to meet with faculty and students in Beijing International Studies University (Beijing) and Southwest University for Nationalities (Chengdu, Sichuan) to share viewpoints and observations during the trip.

The course has several major components:

- (1) Pre-trip meetings (December 2018 – March 2019): Students will attend lectures on related topics and essential travel guides for the visit to China.

(2) Field study during the trip abroad (March 15 – 25, 2019): During the visit to China, students will visit hosting universities and a rural community. Students will also visit significant cultural and historical sites and experience many aspects of local life.

(3) Post-travel presentation and discussion (5 hours in April 2019; after returning from China): Upon returning to UNF, each group of students (four students in each group) will organize the information collected during the trip and conduct additional research. During the final meeting (the debriefing session), students will have group presentation of their travel experience and submit an essay to reflect on what they learned around the course theme.

Learning Objectives:

Upon completion of this course, students should be able to

- Describe features in the culture, history, custom, social, business, and economic environment in China.
- Describe the urban-rural contrasts in China in terms of economic development, living standards, cultures, education, and social support mechanism.
- Describe China's key economic and labor policies related to urbanization.
- Explain the emerging issues surrounding the left-behind children and identify possible causes of these issues
- Identify at least three challenges China has been facing during her rapid urbanization and economic development.

III. COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Prerequisites: ANY of the following:

- ECO2013 (*Principles of Macroeconomics*)
- ECO2023 (*Principles of Microeconomics*)
- ECO3701 (Contemporary International Economic Issues)
- Permission by instructors.

Travel Documents: Students must have a passport that is valid through the entire trip. Students are responsible for ensuring that they have the appropriate visas to enter China. Information regarding visa application will be posted on Canvas

Cost: The trip costs \$2,600 per student, after TLO scholarship \$1,150. (Please check the CCB webpage for any update of the cost.) The cost of the trip covers airfares, in-country ground transportation, lodging, breakfasts, 8~10 group meals, and a commemorative shirt.

Lodging: Students will normally stay in double-occupancy rooms in hotels.

IV. GRADING

Students will be graded based on the following activities:

Stage	Assignment/Activity	% of Final Grade
Pre-trip	Attendance, Participation of lectures, and pre-trip presentation	20%
During trip	Participation during trip	25%
During trip	Study Abroad Journal	10%

Post-trip	Participation of post-trip discussion	10%
Post-trip	Essay	20%
Post-trip	Group Presentation*	15%

Individual grade for group activity: The grade an individual will receive for a group activity (marked with *) is the group grade multiplied by an individual effort ratio on that activity. The ratio ranges between 0 and 1, with 1 indicating satisfactory level of effort and 0 no effort. The effort ratio is calculated based on peer assessment, which is conducted at the end of the course.

Improper behavior, described elsewhere in this syllabus, will result in a failing grade for the course.

Pre-trip Presentation: Each participant will make a PowerPoint presentation on one of the places we will visit, covering history, cultural significance, and some fun facts if possible. You will be asked to provide an electronic version of your presentation for inclusion on the course website.

Study Abroad Journal: The purpose of the journal is to provide you an incentive and a forum for reflecting on your experiences *as they happen*. It is not intended to be merely a “what I did today” account. Therefore, journals will be graded for the quality of your notes from meetings, your observations and the degree and quality of self-examination that it documents. Journals will NOT be graded for organization, grammar, spelling, etc. (Other writing, including correspondence with your international research partners, should be grammatically correct, spell-checked, etc.) Students should write at least once per day in their journals.

Essay: The research essay will be graded for content and style. One hard copy of the essay and an electronic copy are required.

Group Presentation: All presentations must utilize PowerPoint and be well-organized, informative, concise, and coherent. In addition to content, presentation style and clarity will be graded. You will be requested to provide an electronic version of your presentation for inclusion on the course website.

Grading Scale: Letter grades will be assigned based on the following scale: 94%~100%=A, 90%~93%=A-, 87%~89%=B+, 84%~86%=B, 80%~83%=B-, 75%~79%=C+, 70%~74%=C, 60%~70%=D, <60%=F.

V. ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Working together is a wonderful way to learn, and your instructor encourages it. Because of the nature of this study abroad, we encourage you to work with others in this class on all assignments, including those in which grades are assigned to individuals rather than teams. Discussing your impressions, reactions, and observations before, during, and after the study abroad travel will help you to make sense of them, as well as help you to become more observant during the progress of the course.

Plagiarism is taking someone else’s work and passing it off as your own. Plagiarism includes taking phrases, sentences, or paragraphs from someone else’s writing and using them in your own writing without providing true attribution of their source. Avoiding plagiarism, of course, does not mean neglecting to conduct solid research. It is appropriate to read what various scholars and experts have learned about an issue before you form your own conclusions about it. However, you must ensure that you understand the literature. At a minimum, students should rephrase the literature’s content, rather than quoting it verbatim. This practice also helps to ensure student understanding of the issue, as you

cannot write intelligently unless you do know your subject. Another way to avoid plagiarism is to ensure that you utilize a large number of sources, so that your knowledge goes beyond that of any particular book or article.

The internet now provides students with the opportunity to purchase term papers and other work. Turning any paper or project or making a presentation that you did not create is a violation of academic integrity. Tools exist for faculty to check whether students have submitted work available on-line.

Regarding these and all other issues of academic integrity, students are also expected to adhere to the code of conduct as outlined in the UNF catalog. Anyone caught violating the academic integrity code will be disciplined fully.

VI. ACCOMMODATIONS:

If you have a disability as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), and may require an accommodation or auxiliary aid(s) for the study abroad experience, please contact and register with the UNF Disability Resource Center (located in Building 57, Room 1500; phone 620-2769) or visit the DRC's website at <http://www.unf.edu/drc/>.

Military and veteran students who return from combat exposure may be utilizing the post 9/11 GI bill to continue postsecondary education goals and may need both physical and academic accommodations. These students should contact the Director of Military and Veterans Resource Center (57/2700) by phone (904) 620-5131 or visit the MVRC website at <http://www.unf.edu/military-veterans/>. Please refer to UNF's Student Handbook for more details about both the Disability Resource Center and the Military and Veterans Resource Center.

Please note that foreign countries do not have to comply with the public access requirements of the ADA and there may be physical or other barriers to equal access in foreign locales (e.g., medical care, lodgings, restaurants, businesses and other buildings, services or facilities). Students with disabilities are strongly encouraged to research the access and service limitations of the locales to be visited. Further, prior to registering for the study abroad program, the student should meet with the responsible instructor so that the two can ascertain whether the student will be able to participate in all activities of the desired study abroad program or can participate in alternate activities that meet study objectives.

VII. FREE TIME ACTIVITIES:

Attached to this syllabus you will find a travel itinerary of the time that we are abroad. You will also find a list of approved and recommended activities for those times that we do not have a pre-planned program activity. If you wish to visit a location that is NOT on this list, you will need to get the advance approval of the program instructor. Remember, the "buddy system" must be followed at all times, including during these "free time" activities. You should be sure to give your cell phone number to your Faculty Leader(s), and they will give you theirs.

VIII. NON-PROGRAM TRAVEL:

The approved travel itinerary is attached to this syllabus. The Faculty-Leader must pre-approve any travel during the official UNF activity abroad that differs from the identified program travel.

IX. CRIME AND SAFETY:

Please review the Department of State's country information for your destination(s), particularly noting the "Crime" section, as it refers to any cities or attractions you plan to visit, at <http://www.travel.state.gov/content/passports/english/country.html>. Students must use the "buddy system" at all times, and stay aware of their surroundings and personal belongings.

X. MEDICAL DISCLOSURES:

We encourage you to advise your Faculty Leader of any chronic or serious health care condition that you may have so that the Faculty Leader is apprised of the issue and can take appropriate action on your behalf if a need for medical care arises while abroad. Please be advised that any condition that you disclose will be kept confidential and only shared with necessary University representatives to facilitate your safe participation in the study abroad activity.

XI. CONDUCT:

The UNF Student Code of Conduct applies to students even while abroad. Refer to the UNF Student Handbook for further information on the Code of Conduct. The UNF Faculty-Leader may file an incident report for any student conduct that may adversely affect the University community, and the student may be required to attend a Student Conduct Hearing. Remember: your actions and behaviors reflect UNF while you are abroad!

Also, be aware that if you engage in illegal/criminal activity in another country, you will be subject to local law (in that country) and not U.S. law. Being a U.S. (or other national) citizen will not provide you with special protection.

XII. CLASSROOM ETIQUETTE

Students are expected to remain polite during classroom and in-country discussions. Even during heated debates, you must treat your instructors, classmates and the locals with respect. Violation of this policy will result in a reduction of your class participation grade that, if the violation is significant enough, could result in a failing grade for the class. For example, you should not make derogatory remarks about your classmates' ideas. Instead, explain why you think they are wrong, backing up your viewpoint with sound analysis and refraining from personal attacks. Another example is being quiet while someone else (including your instructor!) has the floor.

You may *not* use cell phones in class. If you bring them to class, the *must* be turned off. If there is an emergency situation that requires you to have an active telephone or pager in class, you *must* notify the instructor *in advance* that your equipment will be turned on. In such cases, cell phones should be set to vibrate, not to sound an alarm. Violation of this policy will result in your being asked to leave the classroom for the remainder of the period. Repeated violations will be reported to the appropriate UNF authorities and will result in disciplinary action. Analogous guidelines apply to business visits abroad.

XII. ETIQUETTE DURING THE STUDY ABROAD

Representing Yourself and UNF: While you are abroad, you are representing not only yourself, but also the Coggin College of Business, the University of North Florida and the United States of America (and/or your native country, if it isn't the US). Remember that any interaction that you have with the citizens of the countries you are visiting can leave a lasting impression, especially if you violate native sensibilities. Citizens of every nation are proud of their heritage. If you make snide remarks that they overhear or, even worse, act in a manner that is insulting to them, they will view this as evidence that the ugly American stereotype is accurate.

Foreign Customs and Cultural Differences: When you are abroad, you should strive not just to be aware of cultural differences, but also both to experience and to appreciate them. Try the local foods, even if you don't think you'll like them. While many Americans view foreign foods as unhealthy, remember that the citizens of most countries are less unhealthy than Americans overall. Besides, eating different foods for a week or two really won't kill you. View this as a chance to practice the skills that you might need someday if you become engaged in international business.

Similarly, Americans are often shocked by the times that shops are open or closed (in some countries, you'll be escorted from the store at 5:00pm, regardless of whether you've made your purchase). Other cultures wouldn't think of starting dinner until 7:00pm or even 11:00pm or midnight! Local restaurants might not even be open when you are ready to eat. There are too many of these issues to discuss here, but you can prepare yourself by learning the local customs before you leave the US and then making plans (e.g., having snack food in your hotel room if dinner starts too late) if you simply don't think that you can deal with the local customs otherwise.

Behavior during School Visits: During school visits, you should behave in a professional manner. Appropriate attire for different occasions will be announced prior to the trip. Be inquisitive and show your interest in the host university, but remain respectful at all times. In general, you should never use familiar forms of address (e.g., first names) unless you are specifically invited to do so. Mr. Karpov, Mrs. Sanchez, and Dr. Chou are proper forms of address. Be sure also to know when it is appropriate for you to shake hands, etc., especially if you are female! In fact, women need to understand that they will not always be treated the same way that men are treated. You might even be treated in ways that you find offensive. Keep in mind that women's rights have progressed much faster and more fully in the US than they have in many other countries.

The bottom line is that you will enjoy the trip more and be more productive while you are abroad if you know what you will be facing before you leave home and you are willing to be open-minded and culturally sensitive while you are abroad. Reading the required book about the culture you'll be visiting is a great way to prepare yourself.

XIII. TENTATIVE COURSE SCHEDULE

The following table lists topics, required readings, assignments, exams, etc., by date. All reading must be completed *before* next class begins! Be prepared to *discuss* the material.

Schedule While in the United States

All meetings are mandatory. Some additional, mandatory meetings will be scheduled during the spring term in 2019.

Room number (TBA)

Date	Topics to be covered	Assignments
TBD (12/7/2018 or 1/11/2019)	1st meeting (1-4pm; 3 hours) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Self-introduction ➤ Explanation of course requirements, travel arrangement, and schedule 	Introduce Yourself on Canvas Complete immunization

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Health immunization information ➤ Start Visa application (IMPORTANT) ➤ Buddy System 	Read: <i>Economists</i> articles; Additional reference: “ <i>China Urbanizes</i> ”
Jan. 18, 2019	2nd meeting (1-4pm; 3 hours) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Watch Documentary ➤ Reflections on assigned reading; Group discussion ➤ Background: Beijing and Chengdu, Sichuan 	Research on places we will visit Read: <i>Economists</i> articles Additional reference: “ <i>Ghost Cities of China</i> ”
Feb. 1, 2019	3rd meeting (1-4pm; 3 hours) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Student presentation: Places we will visit ➤ Lecture: Special Topics in Urban Economics (Guest Speaker: TBA) ➤ Travel tips 	Read: <i>Economists</i> articles; Your travel guidebook
Feb. 15, 2019	4th meeting (1-4pm; 3 hours) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Lecture: Dos and Don'ts during rural site visit (Guest Speaker: TBA) ➤ Lecture: Language Training (Guest Speaker: TBA) 	Read: “ <i>UNF Safety & Security Abroad Handbook</i> ”
March 8, 2019	5th meeting (9-12pm; 3 hours) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Itinerary update if necessary ➤ Safety issues ➤ Packing tips ➤ On the day of departure (wake-up call sequence) 	
March 15, 2019	Leave for China	
March 25, 2019	Return from China	Finishing group presentation, essay, and journal
April 12, 2019	Post-trip meeting (10am-2pm; 4 hours) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Study abroad journal due ➤ Essay due ➤ Group Presentation ➤ Complete peer assessment form ➤ Complete the Study Abroad Student Evaluation form 	