



## KIIS Taiwan Program, Summer 2025

### CHIN 333 Chinese Culture and Civilization Course Syllabus

*Syllabus subject to change*

Professor: Dr. Jianjun He

E-mail: Jianjun.he@uky.edu



#### **Course Description and Objectives:**

Chinese 333 is an intermediate to advanced Chinese language and culture course. The main purposes of this course include expanding students' vocabulary, improving students' reading comprehension, and advancing students' conversation skills, at advanced-level. This course also has a focused concentration on the training of essay writing in Chinese. In addition to language training, this course is specially designed to integrate cultural learning into language training by turning cultural context into text. Readings are from an excellent book 《文化中文》 (Cultural Chinese) in which students will find themselves deeply immersed in the very fabric of Chinese culture that governs personal behavior and directs social dynamics. The main texts include introductory essays that offer students insights into the Chinese literary, artistic and cultural traditions, and historical or mythological mini-stories that inform them on Chinese values, customs and thoughts.

#### **Required Texts:**

1. Zu-yan Chen & Hong Zhang, *Cultural Chinese: Readings in Art, Literature, and History*. (Georgetown University Press, 2012)

\* Video and other culturally authentic materials will be employed as they tie in with the theme of each chapter.

#### **Course Requirements:**

Course requirements consist of attending all class meetings, preparation before class, completion of assignments on time, and oral/written tests. Final grades will be based on a combination of daily class performance, dictations, quizzes, oral presentations, homework, and essay writings.

1) “Words of the Day” (每天名言). Each student is required to give a short report/presentation in Chinese/English about anything (life, school, food, mood,

hobby, friends, etc.) at the beginning of each class. It can be one's own contemplation, or as a piece of advice to others.

2) Dictations. To make sure that students take full advantage of the class, simple dictations of the new vocabulary learned will be given at the beginning of classes on a regular basis. (Please check weekly schedule for specified date/es.) (For dictation, please write characters and the English definitions; if you forget a certain character, write *pinyin* instead, to receive half of the points.)

3) Homework. Homework assignments are from the textbook's homework section, and are to be checked in class.

4) Oral presentations. There will be an oral presentation after each chapter. (Oral presentation on a given text can take the form of retelling a story, contextualizing a cultural concept, summarizing a text, explaining a cultural phenomenon, a common saying or a Chinese idiom, their modern-day use and ramifications.)

5) Final Reflection essay in Chinese and presentation. (2 pages, typed, font 12, double-spaced)

**Recommended:**

*Concise English-Chinese, Chinese-English Dictionary*, Oxford Univ. Press, 2nd Edition.

And online dictionary: [www.nciku.com](http://www.nciku.com) and [pleco.com](http://pleco.com)

**Grading:**

Attendance and participation: 15%

Dictation: 20%

Class report (每天名言): 15%

Oral presentations (discussion, presentation, debate): 20%

Final essay and presentation: 30%

Please note that your final grade for the course will be cumulative and will be based on the combination of all parts of exercises and requirements for the course.

**Make-up Policy:**

All students are expected to take dictations, quizzes and exams at the scheduled times on the set dates. Make-up dictations, quizzes and exams will be permitted, but only with a valid excuse accompanied by appropriate documentation. In the event that you have to miss a scheduled quiz or exam due to an emergency, you must inform the instructor as early as possible. An incomplete will be given only to students whose work is satisfactory as of the end of the semester, but who have missed the final exam due to serious illness or family emergency.

**Late Policy:**

Late arrival is strongly discouraged. Homework and test-preparation should be done at home. Do not write your homework in class.

**Class Schedule will be handed out/posted on site.**

### **Overall KIS Program Student Learning Outcomes:**

#### KIS Study Abroad Mission Statement:

KIS provides high-quality education abroad programs for students from all diverse backgrounds that promote deep international learning, are integrated into the curriculum, and encourage critical and creative thinking. Our goal is to help students understand the wider world and develop personal and professional skills for lifelong enrichment. We strive to go beyond generalizations and cultural stereotypes to help foster a nuanced appreciation of the world in which we live.

#### Students participating on KIS study abroad programs aim to:

- 1) Understand contemporary issues of their host country/countries (i.e. KIS program location).
- 2) Develop skills to interact comfortably in a global setting.
- 3) Understand other cultures.

Prior to your KIS study abroad program, and again at the conclusion of your program, KIS will ask each student to a) answer a few multiple-choice questions, and b) write a short reflective essay (two paragraphs in length) related to the elements detailed above. There is no right or wrong answer, and your responses will not affect your grade in any way. The purpose of the exercise is to help KIS measure the effectiveness of its study abroad programs.

#### **Attendance Policy:**

KIS program participants are expected to be punctual to and in attendance at all classes, presentations, meetings and required excursions, and to remain with the program for the full academic period. Unexcused absences from classes and/or mandatory meetings will result in a lowering of the student's final grade, as will excessive tardiness. Multiple unexcused absences could result in expulsion from the program. Any absence from an academic class session must be excused for medical reasons.

#### **Disability Accommodation:**

KIS will make every reasonable effort to provide accommodations for program participants with special needs or disabilities, but we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so. Be aware that many foreign countries do not have comprehensive legislation comparable to the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). As a result, businesses and other establishments operating in foreign

countries may not be able to provide accommodations.

If you have a disability accommodation need, we recommend you contact your KISS Campus Representative, <https://www.kiis.org/about-kiis/contact-us/campus-representatives/> early in your program selection process so that s/he has time to discuss any specific needs, including which KISS programs may be best suited. You also are welcome to contact KISS Assistant Director, Maria Canning, [maria.canning@wku.edu](mailto:maria.canning@wku.edu), to discuss your disability accommodation needs (e.g. housing, transportation, excursions, class schedule, etc.).

Immediately after acceptance, notify KISS Admissions and Enrollment Specialist, Haley McTaggart, [haley.mctaggart@wku.edu](mailto:haley.mctaggart@wku.edu), if you have a special need or disability that might require any form of accommodation abroad. Failure to notify KISS may prevent you from participating on your KISS program.

If you require any accommodations abroad, you must provide KISS Admissions and Enrollment Specialist, Haley McTaggart, an accommodation letter from your home campus' disability accommodation office that lists the accommodations you are eligible to receive. Please do not request accommodations directly from your KISS Program Director or other KISS Faculty; the KISS Office will notify your KISS Program Director and/or Faculty after we have received your above accommodation letter.

In some cases, you may need to make arrangements for a caregiver to join you on your KISS program, should your physician, campus disability accommodation office, or KISS make such a recommendation or require it.

#### **Title IX / Discrimination & Harassment:**

Recent attention to gender discrimination and sexual harassment at colleges and universities reminds us of the importance of adhering to standards of ethical and professional behavior. KISS Study Abroad is committed to supporting and encouraging safe and equitable educational environments for our students, faculty, and program directors. Students, faculty, and program directors are required to be civil and treat each other with dignity and respect. As such, harassment and/or discrimination of any kind will not be permitted or tolerated.

Sexual misconduct (sexual harassment, sexual assault, and sexual/dating/domestic violence) and sex discrimination are violations of KISS policies. If you experience an incident of sex/gender-based discrimination, harassment and/or sexual misconduct, you are encouraged to report it to a) KISS Assistant Director, Maria Canning (+1-859-200-1000) or KISS Executive Director, John Dizgun (+1-270-227-2288), b) WKU's Title IX Coordinator, Ena Demir (270-745-6867 / [ena.demir@wku.edu](mailto:ena.demir@wku.edu)) or WKU's Title IX Investigator, Michael Crowe (270-745-5429

/ [michael.crowe@wku.edu](mailto:michael.crowe@wku.edu)). Please note that while you may report an incident of sex/gender based discrimination, harassment and/or sexual misconduct to a KIIS program director and/or faculty member, KIIS program directors and faculty are considered "Responsible Employees" of Western Kentucky University and MUST report what you share to WKU's Title IX Coordinator or Title IX Investigator.

If you would like to speak with someone who may be able to afford you confidentiality, you may contact WKU's Counseling and Testing Center, <https://www.wku.edu/heretohelp/> at 270-745-3159.

For more information on KIIS Title IX, see <https://www.kiis.org/students/health-safety/title-ix-clery/>; additional Title IX resources can be found here <https://www.wku.edu/titleix/titleixbrochure2020.pdf>.

Everyone should be able to participate on a KIIS program, attend a KIIS event, or work in a KIIS environment (e.g. KIIS office) without fear of sexual harassment or discrimination of any kind. Be respectful of each other.