

Introduction to China

This five-unit seminar of "Introduction to China" has provided an opportunity for students to familiarize themselves with Chinese history, geography, culture and modern economic development to some extent through lecturing, watching video and group discussion. It also offers students opportunity to learn some basic daily Chinese. The seminar prepares students for the upcoming China cultural explore trip with some basic understanding of the magnificent country. Student will

- get an overall picture of China with basic knowledge about its history, geography, culture and economic development;
- get familiar with art of politeness in Chinese culture to some extent;
- learn some very basic conversational Chinese;

Unit 1: Brief Introduction to China in General, Chinese History and Geography

Basic information on China

Full name: The People's Republic of China

Area: 9,600,000 sq km

Location: middle and East Asia, bounded on the east by the Pacific Ocean

Climate: mainly continental monsoon climate (Tibet: vertical climate zone)

Territorial seas: the Bohai Sea, the Yellow Sea, the East China Sea, and the South China Sea

Population: 1.3 billion (as of 2004)

Capital City: Beijing

People: Han Chinese (93.3%), plus 55 ethnic groups like Miao, Li, Mongolian

Language: Mandarin Chinese (Putonghua) based on Beijing dialect, plus local dialects

The main religions and beliefs

History: list of Chinese dynasties (A dynasty was rule by a series of emperors from the same family) with emphasis on Qin (the first emperor), Tang (silk road), Yuan (Marco Polo), Qing (last emperor)

Geography

Climate

Conversational Chinese

Unit 2: Brief Introduction to Chinese Culture

Ethnic Groups

Language

Religions and Beliefs

Chinese Calendar/Festivals/Zodiac/Lucky Number/Cuisine

Cultural Differences within China

Conversational Chinese

Section 3 – Modern China

Fast growing economy
Planned economy vs. market economy
Problems faced in fast growing economy
Conversational Chinese

Section 4 – Chinese Business Culture “Dos” and Don’ts in China

Understanding Chinese cultural influence on business etiquette
Chinese way of being polite
Cultural differences: East meets west
Conversational Chinese

Section 5 – Beijing

History
Culture
Architecture
Royal Gardens
Charm of Beijing
Modern Beijing
Living in Beijing
Conversational Chinese

Wrap up