Syllabus of “China Studies: Industry, Society and Culture”

Introduction:

China has been quickly transformed from an agriculture-based country to a newly industrialized one in the past decades, and is still in the process of quick transforming from many aspects with unique features. This course aims at introducing China’s transformation from three major aspects: industry, society, and culture. The inter-aspect influence will also be discussed, which aims to promote deep thinking of China’s success/lessons in the past and outlook of future opportunities. The students are expected to understand China’s culture from historical perspective; to understand today’s Chinese society from political, economic, societal, and geographic aspects; to have some fundamental information about China’s industry from very primary sectors, construction, manufacturing, to digital economy sectors.

The course consists of learning in classroom and completing assigned homework, on-site visiting to typical companies and other interesting sites, investigation of a selected company and sharing of your primary research. Online students will have opportunity to watch videos of some companies, projects, and historical sites. Shared short videos online will also be important learning materials.

Pre-recorded MOOC lectures and real-time classroom lectures will be jointly used. Off-class online discussions via WeChat are encouraged.

Assignments include literature investigation and analysis report, PPT presentations, and online discussions.

Evaluation of study performance (marks) will be 100% based on assigned homework on selected topics.

Main Contents:

1. Understanding Chinese Culture – Historical Perspective
   1. Feudalist system and the dynasties
   2. Confucianism
   3. The Imperial Examination
   4. Cultural difference with the Western
2. Understanding Chinese Society
   1. Traditional culture with modernization
   2. Special period: 1840-1949
   3. World Wars and CPC foundation (1921)
   4. Civil War
   5. Demographic perspective
   6. Political perspective
   7. Economic perspective
3. Understanding China’s Industry
   1. Infrastructure
   2. Primary Sector
   3. Construction Sector
   4. Manufacturing Sector
   5. Digital Economy
   6. New Infrastructure
   7. Belt and Road Initiatives