COMMON COURSE OUTLINE: Course discipline/number/title: CHIN 1001: Introduction to Chinese Culture

A. CATALOG DESCRIPTION
   1. Credits: 3
   2. Hours/Week: 3
   3. Prerequisites (Course discipline/number): None
   4. Co-requisites (Course discipline/number): None

   This course is designed to enable students to gain a better understanding of the influence of traditional Chinese culture on the formation of contemporary China. The approach is interdisciplinary and comparative. The course includes history, geography, language and literature, visual and performing arts, philosophy/religion, society/family/marriage, science/technology/medicine and political/economical impact. Films (including videos) and other multimedia materials are used in conjunction with lectures and class discussion. Recommended Entry Skills/Knowledge: Basic English skills.

B. DATE LAST REVISED (Month, year): January, 2007

C. OUTLINE OF MAJOR CONTENT AREAS: This course will be presented and organized by topics, including:
   1. Political and economic geography of China
   2. The people and languages of China: cultural and linguistics differences by region
   3. Chinese National Minorities: tensions over social, cultural, religious and linguistic differences
   4. Chinese Philosophy (Confucianism, and Daoism)
   5. Religions (Buddhism, Daoism, Muslim etc)
   6. Chinese history, governments and politics: (pre-modern)
      a) Qin, Sui, Tang dynasties
         i. China under the Mongols (Yuan dynasty)
      b) Qing dynasty and the Initial Western Impact etc.
   7. Chinese history, governments and politics:
      a) (Modern history overview: social conflict between tradition and modernity)
      b) Culture Revolution and Mao’s year etc
   8. Science and medicine in Chinese history
   9. Social Customs/ Etiquette (Women, marriage, and family values, business and interpersonal relationships, and the relative value of the individual versus needs of the nation)
   10. Chinese art (Chinese painting, Calligraphy, Martial Arts, Poetry in the Chinese tradition)
   11. Chinese music and musical instruments, regional operatic forms, Peking Opera
   12. Chinese Architecture (Temples, Shrines, Palaces, the Great Wall, Hutong, etc)
   13. Traditional and Modern Literature & Theater, including puppetry, story-telling and regional forms.
   14. Chinese Language: Tradition and transformation in the Chinese writing system
   15. Culture and the economy as expressed through availability, preparation of various foods
   16. Holidays: value of various religious, political and personal celebrations

D. LEARNING OUTCOMES (GENERAL):
   Students are expected at the end of the course to have acquired a basic knowledge of the cultural history of China.
   Students should be able to identify important elements of China's cultural heritage that have contributed to world civilization, such as traditional China's social, philosophical, political, economical, and religious foundations, as well its achievements in the sciences, medicine, literature, and the visual and performing arts in both elite as well as popular culture. Students will be able to understand how certain key tensions between tradition and modernity, native and foreign, nationalism and cosmopolitanism, national salvation and personal enlightenment issues may be seen as central to the formation of modern Chinese culture and impact how China relates to other countries in the world.

E. LEARNING OUTCOMES (MNTC):
   Goal 2/Critical Thinking: The student will be able to:
   1. Gather factual information and apply it to a given problem in a manner that is relevant, clear, comprehensive, and conscious of possible bias in the information selected.
   2. Imagine and seek out a variety of possible goals, assumptions, interpretations, or perspectives, which can give alternative meanings or solutions to given situations or problems.
E. **LEARNING OUTCOMES (MNTC):** Continued . . .

3. Analyze the logical connections among the facts, goals, and implicit assumptions relevant to a problem or claim; generate and evaluate implications that follow from them.

4. Recognize and articulate the value assumptions, which underlie and affect decisions, interpretations, analyses, and evaluations made by ourselves and others.

Goal 6/The Humanities: Students will be able to:

1. Demonstrate knowledge of the scope and variety of works in Chinese arts, music and literature.

2. Understand those works as expressions of individual and human values within an historical and social context.

3. Respond critically to works in the arts and humanities, such as traditional China's social, philosophical, and religious foundations, as well its achievements in literature and the visual and performing arts.

Goal 8/Global Perspective: Students will be able to:

1. Describe and analyze political, economic, and cultural elements which influence relations of states and societies in their historical and contemporary dimensions.

2. Demonstrate knowledge of cultural, social, religious and linguistic differences.

F. **METHODS FOR EVALUATION OF STUDENT LEARNING:**

May include any or all of the following: Objective exams, research papers, quizzes, written homework, small group projects, oral presentations, panel discussions, or any other as deemed appropriate by the individual instructor.

G. **SPECIAL INFORMATION (if any):**

Additional fees may be necessary for purchasing audiocassettes, computer disks, and for going on field trips.