LAS 199: Global Studies in Nanjing, China  
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The course abroad to Nanjing, China, is a general introduction to Chinese culture, concentrating on the mutual impact between China’s development and globalization. The course addresses issues such as Chinese urbanization and westernization; public health, AIDS, and global circulation of blood products; the increasing gap in wealth distribution; globalization of festivals, such as Christmas, New Year’s; social entrepreneurship and community building. Participants will learn about these topics through readings, screening documentaries, and visiting relevant locations in Nanjing and nearby cities and villages. Participants will also participate in making a documentary film.

Course Design

The course plan consists of several components: 1. pre-departure orientation and preparation (3-4 sessions); 2. individualized daily language sessions on-site; 3. topic-oriented lectures on Chinese political system, literature, and culture in the context of globalization; 4. local visits to both state-run and private enterprises. Possible site visits include Nanjing Massacre Museum, Sun Yat-sen Mausoleum, The Presidential Palace, The Ming Forbidden City Museum, The Taipei Rebellion Museum, and Xuanwu Lake, and a three day stay and tour in Shanghai.

Requirements include keeping a journal, participating in making a documentary, writing a 10-15 page double-spaced paper, and completing an outreach project (e.g., presenting on program to school students, creating a website, writing an article for a local newspaper)

Nanjing was the capital of six dynasties and of Republican China (1911-1949). A large city with a population of 6 million, it is fraught with cultural heritage sites and is the gateway connecting China’s north and south. The students are expected to find the connections between Nanjing and the rest of the world, between local and global, between China’s ancient civilization and modern transformations.