

# the **epic** ADVANTAGE

## **Student/Faculty Collaborative Research Experience**

### **EPIC ADVANTAGE: Field Research on Chinese Urban Cultural Heritage & Creative Practices and Its Global Interactions in China**

**Dates: May 15- June 5, 2019**

**Leader: Ying Liu**

**Credits: 3 credits (credit/no credit)**

**Application Deadline: October 15, 2018**



#### **Description of Experience and Research:**

This is a three-week field research experience in which we will focus on an important topic of contemporary China: urban cultural heritage and creative practices under the influence of globalization. We will examine urban cultural practices of three Chinese cities: Beijing, Shanghai, and Nanjing to examine cultural globalization, economic globalization, and radical globalization in the form of war.

We will visit particular places, spaces, and universities' cultural centers in these three Chinese cities to discuss scale, time, discourse, allusion, trauma, memory, urban and rural. Through close analysis of architecture, photographs, fiction, films, paintings, as well as interviews with urban residents and migrants, we will examine the cultural heritage and creative manifestations of Chinese metropolises. This experience will give students authentic interactions with urban spaces to comprehend the differently articulated forms of Chinese modernity and global imagination, and also help them establish a direct comparison and between urbanism in China and their own countries. The project will also provide important theoretical and research methods for students' study.

#### **The major research questions are:**

How can a famous historical metropolis revive under the impact of globalization and create new venues?

What kinds of cultural practices do Chinese cities adopt and what kinds of global interactions have been achieved?

How would urban residents connect personal memory with grand history?

What connections and comparisons can we make between the urban cultural practices in Chinese metropolis and the cities we live in?

In order to provide answers to these questions, participants will develop their own research topics and work on them before and during the program. Participants will seek to obtain deeper comprehension of contemporary Chinese urban culture and establish critical comparisons by being physically at those sites.

Prior to departure, participants will be required to take a 1 credit EPIC Advantage Orientation seminar during the spring semester of 2019. In this seminar, students are expected to study the historical, social, and cultural background of these three Chinese cities and to develop and prepare for individual research topics. The seminar will also provide travel logistics for students to maximize the experience. Class meeting dates/times will be determined in the future.

#### **Location in China:**

The program will be based in three Chinese cities: Beijing, Nanjing, and Shanghai. Beijing is an ancient imperial capital and Chinese political center. It demonstrates the integration of the old and the new. Our discovery of cultural globalization will unfold in Beijing. Shanghai provides a vivid example for us to examine economic globalization. In Shanghai, we will trace its trajectory from a port city to a global metropolis and the economic center of China. Nanjing displays a unique facet of globalization that is war as a radical form of globalization. We will explore the different narratives of nostalgia as well as the personal and public memory of the traumatic event.

**Faculty:**

Ying Liu, Visiting Assistant Professor of Chinese, teaches Chinese language and culture. Her research interest includes Chinese literature, cinema, and popular culture. She spent many years researching Chinese urban literature. She has offered courses in contemporary Chinese society through cinema, Chinese urban youth, and modern Chinese fiction. The topic of this program is her current research project that she has prepared for years. As a native Chinese, she has spent a lot of time in various urban areas in China and has lots of connections in cultural circle they will provide assistance to this trip.

**Expectations for Students:**

The learning goals and proposed outcomes for this program are:

- 1) To develop students' effective skills to collect and evaluate information from many courses including textual, visual, and electronic media materials.
- 2) To enhance students' skills of reading materials in an analytical and critical way and to provide students' both diachronic and synchronic visions of key issues of modernity, urbanism, nationalism, and globalization.
- 3) To develop students' ability to interpret and understand contemporary trends and issues in Chinese society.
- 4) To help students establish intercultural communications and comparisons between China and their own origins.
- 5) To develop a comprehensive understanding of diverse forms of globalization and its interaction with local regions.
- 6) To develop students' presentational and research skills.

During the on-campus orientation, students are expected to study the historical/social/cultural background of these three cities. On-site, students will observe and learn about Chinese urban cultural practices, and interact with local people to gather first-hand materials. Participants will demonstrate and share what they have learned by oral presentations and written reports on their research topics at the end of the program. A group research video clip will be designed by participants to exhibit collective and individual findings of the research program.

**Dates of Experience:**

May 15-June 5, 2019

**Travel To and From Site:**

Participants will meet at the Beijing Capital International Airport on May 15 and travel together to sites. The program will end on the last day in Shanghai.

**Application Dates:**

Applications can be received from students starting on Sept. 15, 2018. Application window closes on Oct. 15, 2018.

**Link to Application:**

Apply in Handshake

**Preparation:**

Students will be required to take a 1 credit EPIC Advantage Orientation seminar during the Spring 2019 academic semester. This seminar will provide the necessary background and travel logistics for students to maximize the experience. Class meeting dates/times will be determined in the future.

**Student Eligibility:**

Rising Sophomores, juniors, or seniors are eligible to apply.

**Cost to Student:**

This experience is funded as an EPIC ADVANTAGE opportunity. Funding includes travel, room and board, and other expenses required by the program. Passports and immunizations as well as other personal expenses will be covered by students. Students who are accepted and withdraw after January 15, 2019 must reimburse the college for all expenses committed on their behalf.

**Program plans subject to change.**