Global Seminar 2016: 
Xi’an: “Self-Awareness and Images of the Other”  (HUEN 3750)

**Place:** Xi’an and Beijing/ China  
**Time:** Maymester  
**Instructor:** Anja K. Lange, Ph.D.; Senior Instructor Herbst Program of Humanities, College of Engineering and Applied Science

**Course Objectives:**
What are the components of “culture”? How do people relate to each other within a specific nation? How does this nation relate to other nations? This course aims at understanding ideas of “self” and “other” as constructs, developed under special historical, social, political, and economical circumstances and on the basis of different beliefs and philosophical thoughts. We will analyze Chinese and American concepts of self and society, of individual, collective, and national identities. By the end of the course, we will understand how the social construct of the “other” influences our perception of a foreign culture. Being able to explore questions of identity together with students from Jiaotong University will be the highlight of this seminar.

We will explore questions of cultural identity in Xi’an, China. During the Tang dynasty Xi’an was the largest and probably most important city in the world, marking the eastern end of the legendary trade route between the Orient and the West, the Silk Road. By studying Shaanxi’s rich literature and history on site we want to understand where China was yesterday, where it is today, and where it will be tomorrow. The course materials will be divided into the following categories:

- Understanding Cultural Studies
- Questions of Culture and Ideology
- Culture, Meaning, Knowledge
- Historical Images of the Other
- Ethnicity, Race, and Nation
- Class and Cultural Identity
- Feminism and the Politics of Identity
- Cultural Politics and Cultural Policy
- Cultural Space and Urban Space

While we are in Xi’an and Beijing, students visit some of the most impressive and significant sites of ancient China, as well as experience the bustle and energy of a modern Chinese city. By staying on campus and interacting directly with Chinese professors and students in classroom settings, participants have the unique opportunity to understand first-hand the thinking and perspective of China’s next generation. At the same time, students will be given a unique opportunity to explore their own cultural identity.
4 meetings prior to departure*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic/Reading (48 classroom hours; this does not include Lectures at historical sites)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Introduction to the Program (with Global Seminar Director and OIE Program Administrator)</td>
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<td>Introduction to Xi’an, its Dynasties, and the Silk Road</td>
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<td>Cultural Studies: Definition and Theories</td>
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<td>Questions of Culture, Social Formation, Ideology; <em>Beijing Bicycle</em> and film discussion</td>
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- Meetings could be changed to weekends to avoid interference with spring courses and labs

All coursework will be combined with excursions to local sites.

| Day 1 | **Historical Images of the Other**: *Shanhaijing*. |
| Day 2 | Italo Calvino. *Invisible Cities* |
| Day 3 | **Culture, Meaning, Knowledge**  
Images of the Other: Italo Calvino, *Invisible Cities* |
| Day 4 | The Order of the Chinese Universe. Italo Calvino. *Invisible Cities* |
| Day 5 | China’s University life |
| Day 6 | Mandarin Class  
**Identity and the City**:  
Ethnicity, Race, and Nation |
| Day 7 | Mandarin Class  
**Class and Cultural Identity**:  
Tang Dynasty Poetry; Confucius and Buddhism |
| Day 8 | Shaanxi and the warlords period |
| Day 9 | Mandarin Class  
**Politics of Identity**: Pearl S. Buck: *The Good Earth*. |
| Day 10 | Mandarin Class  
Representation of China in *The Good Earth* (Roundtable discussion) |
| Day 11 | **Leadership and Power**: Wu Zetien. |
| Day 12 | **Shaanxi in the Wake of Communism**. |
| Day 13 | Mandarin Class  
**Cultural Politics and Cultural Policies I**: Edgar Snow. *Red Star over China* |
| Day 14 | Mandarin Class  
| Day 15 | Mandarin Class  
**Class and Cultural Identity I**: Dai Sijie. *Balzac and the Little Chinese Seamstress* |
| Day 16 | Mandarin Class  
**Class and Cultural Identity II**: Dai Sijie. *Balzac and the Little Chinese Seamstress* |
Language course (Mandarin) is offered by Jiaotong University.
Formal classes on literature and culture will be held on the campus; Lectures on art history and history will be given on site. Transportation within the city will be on public buses; for sites outside the city we will be traveling on a tour bus.
Students have the option to attend the following classes:
Chinese calligraphy (incl. lecture)/ Chinese painting (incl. lecture); Tai Ji

Course Requirements:
1. one written assignment will be due during classes here in Boulder in May/June (15%)
2. daily class attendance, participation, short assignments (20 %)
3. 3 site reports (20 %)
4. presentation at the site (10%)  
5. one final paper (15 %)
6. journal (20%) 

All written assignments (#3-7) are to be collected in a portfolio which you will submit in person by the beginning of September.

Course Materials:
Required texts to be purchased:

Available electronically:
- *Shaanxi Short Stories by Jingfu and Lu Yao*. Always the latest translations.
- Selected Tang Dynasty Poetry by Du Fu and Li Bai.

Recommended:

*Due to the nature of this course I might have to make changes prior to the trip or during our stay in China. Often I am given new opportunities to see interesting sites and occasions to meet new people.*

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