Course Title: Introduction to Taiwan Culture

Course Description: Divided into five units, this course aims to give the students a panoramic overview of Taiwan culture in a broad historical context. It intends to introduce students to the kaleidoscope of Taiwan theatre, literature, cinema, history, ecological environment and popular culture. The course is team-taught by a group of six teachers and will be conducted in English. Detailed unit descriptions are as follows.

Credits: 2

Course Contents

Unit 1: Theatre and Literature in Taiwan
This unit aims to introduce students to the major theatrical performances and canonical literary works in Taiwan, with an emphasis on those keenly knitted in Taiwan’s history of Japan's colonial rule, cross-strait migration and globalization, so as to explore the metamorphosis of Taiwan in modern times in political, social, cultural and gender aspects, as well as the connection of Taiwan with other countries.

Unit 2: Taiwan Cinema
The unit aims to present a historical overview of Taiwan cinema from its Japanese colonial period to the contemporary time. Of particular interest is the more recent development since the New Wave (1982-1990) and the Second New Wave (1990-2010). We will watch the feature film Cape No. 7 in full length and discuss it in the context of the auteur theory with a focus on Wei Te-sheng, Hou Hsiao-hsien, etc.

Unit 3: The History of Taiwan
This unit will explore the historical factors that have created the uniqueness of Taiwan’s development. There will be 5 subjects: political development, foreign relations, economic growth, social transformation, and cultural change. Each subject covers the periods of the original inhabitants, the Dutch occupation, the Koxinga period, the Manchu (Ch’ing) era, Japanese colonial rule, and the Republic of China on Taiwan after World War II. After learning these subjects, students will familiarize with
the history and peoples of Taiwan, as well as Taiwan’s transformation from an authoritarian country into a free and vibrant society.

Unit 4: The Ecological Environment of Taiwan
Taiwan society and civilization sit right on the fire ring of The Pacific Ocean. However, geology is not a sufficient element to shape Taiwan. It takes ocean currents, monsoon climate, historical context, folklore tradition, and daily life cultures to shape the spatial presentation of Taiwan as well. The course will identify four areas of contemporary life related to Taiwan’s physical and human environments. The four areas covered are: urban and rural river bank land use and controversies; sustainability issues of land use in hillside and mountainous areas; hot/cold springs and tourism development; and sustainable city and the conceptualization of compact city.

Unit 5: Taiwan Popular Culture
This unit aims to introduce contemporary Taiwan by focusing on Taiwan’s popular culture. My purpose is to review relevant literatures of Taiwan’s popular culture, and then to discuss how identity is produced and consumed through ensuing cultural commodities. The following questions will be discussed in this unit.
1. What is Taiwaneseness?
2. How is Taiwaneseness (re-)produced, circulated, and consumed in Taiwan’s popular culture?
3. How is Taiwaneseness (re-)presented in contemporary Taiwan, especially in the culture of popular music, popular literature, films, betel nut girls, queuing and shopping, Kawaii, wedding photography, trendy dramas, baseball, party politics, food and night market?
Course Title: Contemporary Chinese

Course Descriptions:

The course aims to create a practical and task-based situation for the students to learn and practice the most essential Chinese vocabulary and sentence patterns. Conducted as an intensive summer course, it meets five days a week to build a solid foundation for students in the Chinese language.

Credits: 2

Course Objectives:
1. Fluency and literacy in Hanyu pinyin
2. Chinese pronunciation
3. Literacy in the most common 25 radicles in Chinese characters
4. Abilities in the basic structure and stroke-order of the Chinese characters
5. Able to conduct everyday conversation in Chinese, such as ordering, shopping, asking for directions, etc.

Textbooks: *The Far East Everyday Chinese for Listening and Speaking*