



湖北工業大學
HUBEI UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY

Course Title	Comparative Studies on Chinese & Western Cultures
Course Code	HUMS 2311
Semester	Summer 2025
Course Length	10 Weeks, 60 Contact Hours
Credits	4
Instructor	TBA
Office	TBA
Email	TBA
Prerequisite	N/A

Course Description:

This course examines Chinese and Western cultures through a parallel analysis of their frameworks such as thought patterns, religious beliefs, value systems, and elements of cultural structure. It introduces prevailing theories and key issues in the field of cultural comparison, enabling a comprehensive understanding of the similarities and differences between the two cultures.

Course Goals:

The course is designed to:

- provide a nuanced understanding of the cultural differences and similarities between Chinese and Western societies;
- foster global cultural perspectives through historical, philosophical, religious, and artistic lenses;
- enable students to critically analyze cultural conflicts and synthesize insights within a globalized context;
- enhance analytical, interpretative, and integrative capabilities related to cross-cultural understanding.

Student Learning Outcomes:

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

- understand the foundational differences and interrelations between Chinese and Western cultures;
- develop critical awareness of cultural diversity and engage in cultural evaluation with an open mind;
- build strategies for better communication across cultural divides and minimize misunderstandings in cross-cultural interactions.

Textbooks/Supplies/Materials/Equipment/ Technology or Technical Requirements:**Recommended Textbook:**

- Xu Xingyan, *Comparative Studies on Chinese & Western Cultures*. Peking University Press, 2004.

Reference Books:

- Gu Zhengkun, *Introduction to Chinese & Western Cultural Comparisons*. Peking University Press, 2007.
- Zhang Zhongli & Zong Wenju, *Overview of Chinese & Western Cultures*. Tianjin University Press, 2005.
- Wang Qian, *Comparative Studies on Chinese & Western Cultures*. Renmin University of China Press, 2005.
- Wu Keli, *Cultural Studies: A Textbook*. Shanghai Foreign Language Education Press, 2002.

Course Requirements:**Attendance and Participation**

Consistent attendance is essential to your success in the course, and your thoughtful participation is vital to making the course itself successful; participation in class discussion and activities is also central to achieving all of the course's learning outcomes.

Written Assignments

Students should complete written responses to critical questions that relate to what we are learning throughout the semester.

Term Research Essay

Students will develop a thesis statement that relates to the curriculum, then write a research essay. The ideal length will be between 1200-1500 words.

Cultural Presentation

Either individually or in pairs, students will choose a culture to extensively research, then present their findings in detail to the class in a creative and informative way.

Exams

There will be two exams during the semester. Exams will be a combination of short- and long-response questions.

Assessments: Activity	Percent Contribution
Attendance and Participation	10%
Written Assignments	10%
Midterm Exam	20%
Term Research Essay	15%
Cultural Presentation	15%
Final Exam	30%

Grading:

Final grades will be based on the sum of all possible course points as noted above.

Percentage of available points	Grade
90 - 100	A
80 - 89	B
70 - 79	C
60 - 69	D
<60	F

Course Schedule:

The schedule of activities is subject to change at the reasonable discretion of the instructor.

Minor changes will be announced in class, and major ones provided in writing.

HUMS 2311 Schedule		
Lecture	Topic	Readings
L1	Course introduction Syllabus review	---
L2	Origin of cultural studies and its research subjects Definition of culture Basic characteristics of culture	Chapter 1
L3	Evolution, categorization, and current status of cultural types	Chapter 1
L4	Brief history of Western culture	Chapter 2
L5	Brief history of Chinese culture	Chapter 2
L6	Humanistic tradition and scientific spirit National ideals and individual orientation	Chapter 3
L7	Harmony and equilibrium vs. force and struggle	Chapter 3
L8	Morality and ethics vs. utility and efficiency	Chapter 3
L9	From cosmology to epistemology	Chapter 4
L10	Intuitive thinking and logical reasoning	Chapter 4
L11	Practical rationality and speculative rationality	Chapter 4
L12	Midterm Exam	---
L13	Different religious attitudes Different religious beliefs	Chapter 5
L14	Different religious sentiments	Chapter 5
L15	Religious authority and secular power	Chapter 5
L16	Chinese artistic imagery vs. Western ideology	Chapter 6
L17	Narrative starting points: spatiality vs. temporality	Chapter 6
L18	Impressionism vs. scientific literary criticism	Chapter 6
L19	Ritual governance vs. legal governance	Chapter 7
L20	Societal norms' value foundation	Chapter 7
L21	Practical applications of virtue and law	Chapter 7
L22	Lifelike forms vs. metaphysical charm	Chapter 8
L23	Gentle elegance vs. bold dynamism	Chapter 8
L24	Ethereal simplicity vs. passionate intensity	Chapter 8
L25	Final Exam	---

Accommodation Statement:

Academic accommodations may be made for any student who notifies the instructor of the need for an accommodation. It is imperative that you take the initiative to bring such needs to the instructor's attention, as he/she is not legally permitted to inquire.

Students who may require assistance in emergency evacuations should contact the instructor as to the most appropriate procedures to follow.

Academic Integrity Statement

Each student is expected to maintain the highest standards of honesty and integrity in academic and professional matters. The University reserves the right to take disciplinary action, up to and including dismissal, against any student who is found guilty of academic dishonesty or otherwise fails to meet the standards. Any student judged to have engaged in academic dishonesty in coursework may receive a reduced or failing grade for the work in question and/or for the course.

Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, dishonesty in quizzes, tests, or assignments; claiming credit for work not done or done by others; hindering the academic work of other students; misrepresenting academic or professional qualifications within or without the University; and nondisclosure or misrepresentation in filling out applications or other University records.

Other Items:

Attendance and Expectations

All students are required to attend every class, except in cases of illness, serious family concerns, or other major problems. We expect that students will arrive on time, be prepared to listen and participate as appropriate, and stay for the duration of a meeting rather than drift in or out casually. In short, we anticipate that students will show professors and fellow students maximum consideration by minimizing the disturbances that cause interruptions in the learning process. This means that punctuality is a must, that cellular phones be turned off, and that courtesy is the guiding principle in all exchanges among students and faculty. You will be responsible for the materials and ideas presented in the lecture.

Assignment Due Dates

All written assignments must be turned in at the time specified. Late assignments will not be accepted unless prior information has been obtained from the instructor. If you believe you have extenuating circumstances, please contact the instructor as soon as possible.

Make-Up Work

The instructor will not provide students with class information or make-up assignments/quizzes/exams missed due to an unexcused absence. Absences will be excused and assignments/quizzes/exams may be made up only with written documentation of an authorized absence. Every effort should be made to avoid scheduling appointments during class. An excused student is responsible for requesting any missed information from the instructor and setting up any necessary appointments outside of class.

Access, Special Needs and Disabilities

Please notify the instructor at the start of the semester if you have any documented disabilities, a medical issue, or any special circumstances that require attention, and the school will be happy to assist.