

## Chinese Medicine

**The Beijing Center**

**Fall 2010**

### **Course Description**

“Traditional Chinese Medicine” has become an essential, if contested, part of the social and political identity of modern China. The official government policy is to support what it calls the “scientific development” of medical thinking and practices associated with the medical traditions indigenous to China, including acupuncture, herbal medicine, qi gong, and orthopedic manipulations. In this class, we will examine the concepts behind varying traditions of Chinese medicine and how this set of ideas and practices has been used to meet the ideological, political, as well as medical, needs of various groups in China, the United States, and Europe. Students will gain a practical understanding of how practitioners of traditional Chinese medicine are trained and how consumers access treatments. Observing clinical encounters and demonstrations of treatment modalities will be a part of our experience, as students learn about the fundamental ideas and practices that constitute traditional medicine in China today.

### **Instructor:**

Shelley Ochs

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### **Course Outcomes**

This course is designed to give students a general understanding of the fundamental ideas and practices that constitute traditional medicine in China today. Students should leave this course with an understanding of how philosophical, political, and social frameworks effect the legitimation and transmission of medical knowledge. It is hoped that students will be able to use this as a case example when considering other instances where “modern” versus “traditional” knowledge is at stake in development policies and discourses.

### **Attendance Policy**

Attendance is required at all class meetings and field trips. Students are permitted one excused absence, and will be docked one full grade from the class participation portion of their grade for each additional absence.

### **Academic Honesty Statement**

Please see the following link, and read the text carefully:

[http://www.luc.edu/cas/pdfs/CAS\\_Academic\\_Integrity\\_Statement\\_December\\_07.pdf](http://www.luc.edu/cas/pdfs/CAS_Academic_Integrity_Statement_December_07.pdf)

### **Readings**

**Required Texts: (Students should purchase prior to coming to China)**

## **The Web That Has No Weaver : Understanding Chinese Medicine**

by Ted Kaptchuck, MaGraw-Hill (2000)

## **Chinese Medicine in Contemporary China**

by [Volker Scheid](#), Duke University Press (January 2002)

A reader also will be distributed at the beginning of the semester. The reader will not include the chapters assigned from the books that students are required to purchase. Readers will also be available on reserve in the library of The Beijing Center.

## **Assessment**

### Class Participation 20%

Students are expected to read all assignments and participate in class discussions. A short written assignment is due at the end of every class. Students should include one paragraph summarizing the main argument for each reading, as well as a paragraph expressing the student's own critical analysis.

### Class Presentation 10%

Students will be required to develop a topic that supplements and “unpacks” certain key concepts in our studies of Chinese medicine.

### Midterm Exam 30%

An exam consisting of both multiple choice and essays questions will be given in class on week 6.

### Final Paper 40%

A paper of at least 10 double-spaced pages that addresses a topic suggested or approved by the instructor is required. Guidelines will be discussed.

## **Week 1, Class 1 Sept.8**    Introduction

## **Week 2, Class 2 Sept.15**

### Body, Mind and World: An Introduction to Epistemology

Reading:

George Lakoff and Mark Johnson, *Philosophy in the Flesh: The Embodied Mind and Its Challenge to Western Thought*, ch.25, “Philosophy in the Flesh” (1999) : 551-568

Richard Tarnas, *Cosmos and Psyche: Intimations of a New World View*, ch. 1 “The Transformation of the Cosmos,”(2007): 3-36

## **Week 3, Class 3 Sept.22**

### Ways of Knowing in China: Essential Philosophical Concepts

Reading:

John S. Major, *Heaven and Earth in Early Han Thought*. ch.2 “A General Introduction to

Early Han Cosmology," (1993) : 23-32.

Roger T. Ames and David L. Hall. *A Philosophical translation: Dao De Jing, Making this life Significant*. "Philosophical Introduction: Correlative Cosmology--An Interpretive Context," (2003) :11-53, and ch. 7-9 Dao De Jing translation, 86-91

A.C. Graham, *Disputers of the Tao*, "Correlative Thinking and Correlative Cosmos Building," (1989) : 319-325

#### **Week 4, Class 4 Sept. 29**

##### Ways of Knowing in China: Body, Mind and World as Varying Forms of Qi

Reading:

Zhang yuhuan, and Ken Rose, *A Brief History of Qi*. ch. 4, "Qi in Medicine" (2001) : 83-115.

A.C. Graham, *Two Chinese Philosophers*, ch. 3, "Chi (Ether)," (1958) : 31-42

Guest Instructor in Qi Gong/Martial Arts. Class participation in simple exercises. (One hour)

#### **Week 5 National Holiday**

#### **Week 6, Class 5 Oct. 13**

##### Methods of Knowing: Using the "Senses" in Chinese Medical

##### Practices

Reading:

Ted Kaptchuk, *The Web That Has No Weaver*, chs. 6-8, "The Four Examinations," "The Eight Principal Patterns," and "The Patterns of the Human Landscape," (2000) : 171-276.

*Class Presentations on Essential Concepts of Health and Disease and their Philosophical Roots.*

#### **Week 7, Class 6 Oct. 20**

Midterm

Guest Speakers

#### **Week 8 Class 7 Oct. 27**

##### The Transmission of Knowledge

Reading:

Elisabeth Hsu, *The Transmission of Chinese Medicine*, ch. 3 "The Personal Transmission of Knowledge," (1999): 88-104.

Elisabeth Hsu, *The Transmission of Chinese Medicine*, ch.5 "The Standardized

Transmission of Knowledge,” (1999): 128-167

Nathan Sivin, “Text and Experience in Classical Chinese Medicine,” in Bates, ed. *Knowledge and the Scholarly Medical Traditions* (1995): 177-204.

*Class Presentations on the transmission of Chinese medicine*

**Week 9 Guilin Trip**

**Week 10, Class 8 Nov. 10**

The Construction of Chinese Medicine in Modern Times

Reading:

Volker Scheid, *Currents of Tradition in Chinese Medicine: 1626-2006*, ch. 8 “The Modernization of Chinese Medicine in Republican China,” (2007) : 189-220.

Volker Scheid, *Currents of Tradition in Chinese Medicine: 1626-2006*, “Epilogue,” (2007) : 389-395.

*Class Presentations on the History of Chinese Medicine*

**Week 11 Class 9, Nov. 17 Visit to a Hospital or Clinic**

**Week 12, Class 10, Nov. 24,**

How Patients East and West May Determine the Future of Chinese Medicine

Reading:

Volker Scheid, *Chinese Medicine in Contemporary China*, ch. 4, “Dilemmas and Tactical Agency: Patients and the Transformation of Chinese Medicine,” 107-133.

Anne Harrington, *The Cure Within: A History of Mind-Body Medicine*, “From Mao to Moyers: Qi, China, and the Invention of an Ancient Tradition,” (2007) 222-242

*Class Debate about the Future of Chinese Medicine*

**Week 13, Class 11, Dec. 1**

Clinical Research and Traditional Practice: Science, State Power, and “Modernization”

Reading:

Volker Scheid, *Chinese Medicine in Contemporary China*, ch. 3, “Hegemonic pluralism: Chinese Medicine in a Socialist State” (2001) 65-106.

Reading TBA

**Week 14 Dec. 8 Study Week**

**Week 15 ,Class 12, Dec. 15 Final Due; Guest Speakers**