

Chinese Medicine

The Beijing Center

Spring 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:

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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

Readings

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

Knowing Practice: The Clinical Encounter Of Chinese Medicine

by [Judith Farquhar](#), Westview Press; New edition (Mar 7 1996)

The Web That Has No Weaver : Understanding Chinese Medicine

by Ted Kaptchuck, McGraw-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%

A list of presentation topics will be handed out at the beginning of the semester. A 10 minute presentation is required.

Midterm Exam 30%

An exam consisting of both multiple choice and essays questions will be given in class on week 8.

Final Paper 40%

A paper of at least 4,000 words that addresses a topic suggested or approved by the instructor is required. Guidelines will be discussed.

Week 1 Jan.11 Introduction

Week 2 Jan.18

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 Jan.25

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 Feb.2

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 Feb.22

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.

Demonstration and Explanation of Pulse and Tongue Reading (One hour)

Week 6 March 1

Treating Patients

Reading:

Judith Farquhar, "Description and Analysis in *Kanbing*," *Knowing Practice: The Clinical Encounter of Chinese Medicine* (1994): 61-141.

Videos of patient interviews and treatments (TBA)

Week 7 March 8

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.

Guest Talk by Acupuncturist/herbalist trained through traditional master-disciple apprenticeship (One hour)

Week 8 March 15 (Midterm Exam)

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.

Ralph C. Croizer. “The Ideology of Medical Revivalism in Modern China,” in *Asian Medical Systems: A Comparative Study* (1976): 341-354.

Week 9 March 29 Visit to a Hospital or Clinic

Week 10 April 5

Current State of Chinese Medicine in China: Public and Academic

Debates

Reading:

Paul Unschuld, “Epistemological Issues and Changing Legitimation; Traditional Chinese Medicine in the Twentieth Century,” in *Paths to Asian Medical Knowledge*, ed. Charles Leslie (1992): 44-61

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

Reading TBA

Week 11 April 12

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.

Judith Farquhar, "Re-writing traditional medicine in post-Maoist China," in Donald Bates, ed. *Knowledge and the scholarly medical traditions* (1995): 251-76.

Reading TBA

Week 12 April 19

Translating/Transplanting Chinese Medicine Abroad

Reading:

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

Unschuld, Paul, "Traditional Chinese medicine: some historical and epistemological reflections," *Soc Sci Med*, 1987;24(12):1023-9.

Week 13 April 26

Guest Speakers— practitioners working in Beijing and the US
(Students should turn in questions at the beginning of class.)

May 3-7 Study Week

Week 14 May 10

Final Due