

ARTS1008

English Discussion Skills: Critical Discussions on China

6 credits - total 48 contact hours

Session B: July 17 – August 4, 2017

Mon to Fri, 14:00 to 17:00

Course Description

This is an advanced speaking skills course that aims to improve students' ability to discuss critical issues in English. Students are exposed to a range of views on specific issues in Chinese culture and society, and are required to discuss these issues with others. The course uses a number of scholarly readings on China as starting points for discussions, and students are required to do some reading to prepare for lessons. Students will receive focused advice on how to improve their speaking skills, and will be required to do independent work in specific areas where they would like to improve.

Aims and Objectives

- Engage students in substantial, critical discussions in English on a range of topics regarding Chinese culture and society
- Expose students to a range of views (from assigned readings and classmates) on issues and introduce strategies for effectively responding to the views of others
- Raise students' awareness of their areas of weakness in spoken English, and introduce strategies for improving in these areas

List of Topics (that will be covered in class)

Language and Society

Minorities in China

Education

Freedom of Speech

Heritage Conservation

Gender Equality and Sexuality

The course will be highly interactive and will require a high level of participation from students in and out of class. It will include the following types of activities:

- Group discussion on a range of issues in modern Chinese society
- Reading general and scholarly texts to prepare for discussions
- Researching the views of the “average person” within a demographic group regarding a specific issue in Chinese society, and then the reporting of findings in a short presentation
- Reflection on learning

(Please note the topics and teaching resources may vary and are provided here as a guide only.)

Assessment

- 1) Individual Discussion-style Speaking Test 40%
- 2) Presentation on a Specific Issue 40%
- 3) Reflective Writing on Learning 20%