

Sample Syllabus from 2019 trip, subject to change for 2020: Destination Beijing

MANA 7397 International Environment of Business

Spring Session 4,

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View our trip agenda [on the web](#) and get the app too. Here is the full url in case the link doesn't work in your browser:

<https://travefy.com/trip/6yw9rqk2lauwqz2af9k2eszdcvq6djg?tu=4d31d136-b4a0-48f2-8f48-4104736afd0b>

COURSE OBJECTIVE

This course is designed to provide a working framework for understanding the underlying structures and resultant forces acting on global businesses. Through this framework, you will be encouraged to develop your own insights and relate it to future opportunities whether personal or professional. In Hong Kong and Shenzhen, our goal is to bring to life the elements covered in assigned materials with a view to sensitizing and awakening you to the opportunities and pitfalls of going global. Lastly, through the integration of what you read, see, hear and experience you will produce a report that includes reflection upon the study abroad experience incorporating and building upon the perspective of the quote from James Fallows in his book, *China Airborne*.

COURSE EVALUATION

| Assignment | Points |
|---|------------|
| Contribution and Department | |
| - On trip to China | 50 |
| - On Packback Questions - | 15 |
| Pre-trip questions | 10 |
| Post-trip questions | 10 |
| Final Paper: Reflections, personal, professional and on China in general. | 15 |
| Total | 100 points |

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MATERIALS REQUIRED

1. Harvard coursepack – see Blackboard (\$17.00)
2. Packback Questions discussion board – (\$25.00) I have provided your email to the service provider and you will receive instructions for purchase.

GRADE DISTRIBUTION

Grades for this class will be determined by the total number of points that you earn during the semester based on the following scale:

| | | | |
|----|--------|----|-------|
| A | 100-93 | C+ | 79-77 |
| A- | 92-90 | C | 76-73 |
| B+ | 89-87 | C- | 72-70 |
| B | 86-83 | D | 69-60 |
| B- | 82-80 | F | 59- 0 |

CLASSROOM AND TRIP CIVILITY - DEPARTMENT

As students enrolled in courses offered by the Bauer College, you are expected to adhere to the ethical principles described in the Bauer Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct (Bauer Code), in addition to those required by the UH Student Handbook. You may review the Bauer Code by clicking on the following link -

<http://www.bauer.uh.edu/BCBE/BauerCode.htm>. You may obtain a copy of the UH Student Handbook from the Dean of Students Office located in room 252 of the University Center, or by visiting the publications webpage on the Dean of Student's website at <http://www.uh.edu/dos/pub.html>. Students are expected to conduct themselves as follows:

- Timely arrivals and departures – It is expected that you arrive on time and be prepared to depart on any excursions on time. Further, it is expected that you be at the designated meeting place to return to the hotel on time.
- Attention during lectures and visits – It is expected that you participate and provide your full attention during tours, lectures and company visits. This means that you should avoid unnecessary discussions with fellow students; taking photographs, read newspapers or magazines; or other activities that may be disruptive. You should also make sure that you get enough sleep the previous evening, so that your attention is not impaired during program activities.
- Unauthorized use of cell phones or beepers during trip activities – Please turn your cell phones and beepers off before coming to any course activities. If you find it necessary to keep your phone turned on, please put it on vibrate mode.

Sample Syllabus from 2019 trip, subject to change for 2020: Destination Beijing

- Respect for hosts, guest lecturers, other students, and other hotel guests – Students should treat hosts, guest lecturers, other students, and other hotel guests in a respectful manner.
- Preparation for class – You are expected to prepare for the trip by completing all assignments and researching each organization visited. Your preparation will show by the quality of your questions and comments.

ASSIGNMENTS AND ACCOUNTABILITIES

Contribution and Deportment (65 points total)

Trip to China (50 points)

The Hong Kong/Shenzhen trip is a vital part of this course. Students are expected to positively represent the University of Houston, act professionally, abide all the laws of the country being visited, participate in all excursions and seminars (unless they are deemed optional), and to attend all classes. Violating the Bauer Code, delaying the group, being disruptive, being inattentive, drinking alcohol during program activities, missing activities, and bringing along guests are examples of behaviors that will negatively affect the contribution grade. Students' behaviors on the trip counts 50 points.

Packback Questions (Discussion) (15 points)

Packback discussion will be based on the week's readings as specified on the schedule. Discussion contribution points will be based on the quality and quantity of each student's postings, as well as the quantity of postings each student has read. High quality postings will be more than just opinions; they will include references and links to material that supports the opinions.

Students are expected to contribute one original quality post and two responses to other posts for four weeks, for a minimum total of 12 quality posts. To get full credit, students are expected to read at least 90% of the posts.

Pre-trip Questions (10 points)

Students will be give the name of two companies in Asia. We will not visit each of these companies but we will interact or experience their operations during the trip. Each student should research these companies and for each of these, provide me with 1) a one paragraph summary of the company; and 2) three questions that would be appropriate to ask a company representative were we to engage directly with them.

The questions should show considerable thought, a basic knowledge of the company, and be course related. **That is, the questions should be related to some aspect of doing business in Asia, not just how that company does business in general.** Questions that can be answered in one word (or a short sentence), that are not course related, and

Sample Syllabus from 2019 trip, subject to change for 2020: Destination Beijing

questions that might be embarrassing to company employees are not appropriate. In such cases, students may be asked to submit new questions so that they can still get full credit for the next assignment (post-trip answers). These 2 paragraphs and 6 questions are **due by 23:59, Wednesday Feb 27 by 23:59**, and should be turned in via blackboard Turnitin assignments. The questions are worth 10 points, with 1 point off for every day late.

Post-trip Answers (10 points)

Students should seek the answers to their questions during our Asia trip. The questions should be thoroughly answered. If you cannot find the answer to your specific questions from company representatives, research the issue and answer it for Chinese companies in general. The six questions and their answers in word format should be **turned in on Blackboard (Turnitin assignments) by 23:59, Wednesday, March 20th**. The answers are worth 10 points, with 1 point off for every day late.

Final Paper: Personal and Professional Reflections (15 points)

This paper is meant to be the final integrating component of your experience on this study abroad trip. It should be 4 – 6 pages in length, 1.5-line spacing, normal size font no larger than 12 point. It consists of two parts:

1. Your own thoughtful reflection on the trip, your experience and how it might connect to your future endeavors, personal or professional; these trips are part of what we call experiential learning – you derive knowledge and insights from participation in the trip itself. At your stage of academic career, as a graduate student, I expect more insight in your paper than a bulleted list of things that you saw.
2. What China did you see, what did you expect? In terms of the substantive portion of the course, was there something that you expected; something you missed? Look for manifestations of things you can't see directly but that impact the environment – politics, climate, social issues and so on. Go back to the readings and draw inspiration from those. Lastly, in preparing your paper, consider this quote from a book called *China Airborne* by James Fallows:

The Many Countries of China

“Now a word about the territory we would see from above. The main surprise of living in China, as opposed to reading or hearing about it, is how much it is a loose assemblage of organizations and aspects and subcultures, an infinity of self-enclosed activities, rather than a “country” in the normal sense. The plainest fact about modern China for most people on the scene often seems to be the hardest to grasp from afar. That is simply how varied, diverse, contradictory and quickly changing conditions within the country are. Any large country is diverse and contradictory, but China’s variations are of a scale demanding special note.”

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ASSIGNMENT SCHEDULE

| | |
|--|---|
| Mandatory Orientation in Hong Kong | March 10, 2019 @ 18:00 at HK Hotel |
| Trip to HK/Shenzhen | March 10 - 16, 2019 |
| <p>Packback Questions: Discussion</p> <p>Topic 1: opens Monday, February 18, 2019</p> <p><i>Packback posts should be based on the Harvard case or article as well as the general assigned readings.</i></p> <p>due Feb 24 by 23:59</p> | <p>Readings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - From Harvard coursepack: China's State-Owned Enterprise Reforms: Then and Now - Online Text: International Trade (chapters as noted) - Podcast: Kishore Mahbubani on China's rise and America's myopia |
| <p>Pre -trip questions</p> <p>Submit to Blackboard</p> <p>due Feb 27 by 23:59</p> | <p>Students will be give the name of two companies we will be visiting in Asia. Each student should research these companies and for each of the three provide me with 1) a one paragraph summary of the company; and 2) three questions that would be appropriate to ask a company representative.</p> |
| <p>Packback Questions: Discussion</p> <p>Topic 2: opens Monday, February 25, 2019</p> <p>due March 3 by 23:59</p> | <p>Readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Wall Street Journal Article, The Internet Divided ... - Online Text: Building Bridges Across Cultural Differences (Culture) |

Sample Syllabus from 2019 trip, subject to change for 2020: Destination Beijing

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|---|---|
| <p>Packback Questions: Discussion</p> <p>Topic 3: opens Tuesday March 4, 2019</p> <p>due March 17 by 23:59</p> | <p>Readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - From Harvard coursepack: Fiat and Fairness: Why China Can Build Cities Overnight and India Cannot - From Harvard coursepack: Why is Property Right Protection Lacking in China? An Institutional Explanation - Online Text: Fair Trade, Sweat Shops and Corruption |
| <p>Packback Questions: Discussion</p> <p>Topic 4: opens Monday, March 18, 2019</p> <p>due March 24 by 23:59</p> | <p>Readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - From Harvard coursepack: One Belt, One Road: Chinese Strategic Investment in the 21st Century - East Asia: Where Eastern and Western Ambitions Meet (article) - Hong Kong's Elections: Testing Democratic Reform in China - Podcast: China's One Belt, One Road: Will it reshape global trade? |
| <p>Post-trip Answers</p> <p>Submit to Blackboard:</p> <p>due March 27 by 23:59</p> | <p>Students should seek the answers to their questions during our Asia trip. The questions should be thoroughly answered. If you cannot find the answer to your specific questions from company representatives, research the issue and answer it for Chinese companies in general.</p> |
| <p>Reflections Paper</p> <p>Due March 29, by 23:59</p> | <p>Final paper due by 11:59 pm via Turnitin/Blackboard.</p> |

ACCOMMODATIONS FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

The Center for Students with Disabilities provides a wide variety of academic support services to all currently-enrolled UH students who have any type of mental or physical disability of either a temporary or permanent nature. These services include assistance with course accommodations, adaptive equipment, individualized exam

administration, taped textbooks, wheelchair repair, library needs, registration,⁷ handicapped parking, accessible housing and transportation, as well as many other needs. If you feel you may need assistance of this nature, you should call the Center at 743-5400. In addition, you should let me know about any special needs as soon as possible.

ACADEMIC HONESTY POLICY

The Bauer College of Business is proud of the high quality of our students and our academic programs. We recognize the importance of academic honesty in maintaining our high standards. In the rare situation where there may be a breach of academic honesty, we would appreciate your assistance in bringing the situation to our attention. We will, of course, take appropriate action in all cases. If you have questions about the Academic Honesty Policy, it is included in the Student Handbook. The staff of the Dean of Students Office are also available to answer questions.

COURSE EVALUATIONS

The Bauer College of Business has a policy that requires all of its instructors to be evaluated by their students. The results of these evaluations are important to provide feedback to instructors on how their performance can be improved. In addition, these evaluations are carefully considered in promotion, salary adjustment, and other important decisions. We openly encourage students to provide feedback to the instructors and the Bauer College of Business through the evaluation process.

UH COUNSELING AND PSYCHOLOGICAL SERVICES (CAPS)

CAPS can help students who are having difficulties managing stress, adjusting to college, or feeling sad and hopeless. You can reach CAPS (www.uh.edu/caps<<http://www.uh.edu/caps>>) by calling 713-743-5454 during and after business hours for routine appointments or if you or someone you know is in crisis. No appointment is necessary for the "Let's Talk" program (http://www.uh.edu/caps/outreach/lets_talk.html), a drop-in consultation service at convenient locations and hours around campus.