

Course for Fall 2014

## EPS 199: China's Education Systems Pre-K-16: Teacher Preparation and Experiences in Rural & Urban Classrooms



- Meets during the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of the fall semester
- Includes a 17-day study tour in China between December 29, 2014—January 15 2015
- Includes approximately 30 hours of teaching practice and 20 hours of classroom observation
- For more information about the course, contact Lucinda Morgan at [Lmorgan4@illinois.edu](mailto:Lmorgan4@illinois.edu)
- **Applications due September 30, 2014**

The purpose of this 3-credit hour course (4-credits for graduate students) is to learn about the various education systems in China, including both urban and rural schooling situations. The course consists of both on-campus classes and also a study tour trip to China. The study tour will provide the opportunity for Illinois students to observe the differences in public and private schooling options in China, as well as teacher preparation programs at universities. A range of educational levels will be showcased in the study tour in order to better understand the transitions between different levels of education in China, so students will visit pre-schools, kindergartens, various primary and secondary schools, and universities.

### **Course Goals:**

By the conclusion of the course, students will have:

- A. Increased knowledge of the educational systems in China
- B. Increased awareness of the unique challenges of rural and urban education in international settings
- C. Improved instructional skills by developing lesson plans and teaching in partnership with teacher education majors in China
- D. Be able to compare and contrast the US and China educational systems
- E. Gained greater insights about their own perspectives of education and role of being a teacher



### **Pre-Departure Class Sessions**

The pre-departure class sessions will provide an overview of China's educational systems, emphasize the importance of intercultural competence, safety issues for international travel, and will introduce basic Chinese Mandarin language.

### **Study Tour in China**

Students will observe classrooms at a variety of schools, ranging from pre-school through university level, and have discussions with Chinese Education professors about various topics, including the history of education in China and recent education reforms. While in Shanghai, students will be partnered with high school students from a private high school that uses a fully English, Western-style curriculum in order to tutor them and assist with homework assignments. In Nanjing, students will be partnered with a local Education university student, who will assist with translating, and together with their Chinese partner they will plan and teach English (ESL) lessons at a primary school specifically for the children of migrant workers. The study tour also includes a visit to Beijing, where students will visit international schools and climb the Great Wall.

### **Instructor Information**

Lucinda Morgan teaches the course and leads the study tour to China. Lucinda is a PhD student in the Education, Policy, Organization, & Leadership Department and is primarily based in Shanghai as the Coordinator for the Greater China Initiative for the College of Education's Office of International Programs. Lucinda holds a Masters of Education from Illinois in Global Studies in Education and is completing a Masters in East Asian Languages and Cultures at Illinois. Her undergraduate major was East Asian Studies and she worked in the education field in China for nine years.



### **Financial Information**

The projected cost per student is \$1,800 USD (based on a group of 15 students). The cost includes accommodation in a double room with two twin beds, most meals while in China; domestic transportation within China, entrance fees for museums and historical sites, and honoraria for guest speakers. Students are financially responsible for their round-trip international airfare to Shanghai Pudong International Airport (estimated \$1,200-\$1,500), their own passport and China visa, international travel insurance through the Illinois Study Abroad Office (approximately \$56), some meals, and any personal purchases while in China.

The study tour is a large financial commitment, but has significant benefits. The College of Education's Office of International Programs awards \$500 scholarships to Education students who study abroad. Students are also highly encouraged to apply for scholarships offered through the Illinois' Study Abroad Office (<http://studyabroad.illinois.edu/cost/scholarships.aspx>)—many of the campus Study Abroad scholarship applications are due September 17, 2014.