

2017 Global Seminar Report

Exploring China through English Teaching (Chengdu, China)

Overview

Faculty Director: Mia Thomas-Ružić

Courses: LING 3800 *approved for Linguistics major/minor; core course for undergraduate TESOL Certificate; elective course for the Education minor, Asia Geographic Area Concentration course or Off-Campus Experience course for International Affairs majors, and one additional Chinese language or culture course*

Credits: 6 credit hours

Duration: 5 weeks

Offered Since: 2017

Total Students since Inception: 9

Program Description:

Students explore the intersections of culture, language and English language learning and teaching in Chengdu, the dynamic capital of China's southwest Sichuan province. The linguistics course with its strong field-based component to schools and classrooms delves into social, political, and cultural – not only linguistic and pedagogical- contexts for learning and using English in China. Bi-weekly visits to classrooms, programs and centers where English is being taught allow students to connect with English language learners and teachers. A small-scale project links each student with a Chinese student writing/conversation partner. Students also choose enrolling in a Chinese Language or Chinese/Asian culture course.



Photo by Mia Thomas-Ružić

Summer 2017 Details (9 Participants)

Student	Gender	GPA	Residency	School/College	Major/ Minor	Class Standing
S1	M	3.1	RES	NONDU	N/A	Unclassified
S2	F	3.1	RES	ARSCU	LING-BA JPNS-MIN	Senior Fifth Year
S3	M	3.1	NRES	ARSCU	LING-BA	Junior
S4	M	2.2	RES	ARSCU	CHIN-BA	Senior
S5	M	2.5	NRES	ARSCU	LING-BA	Junior
S6	M	3.1	RES	ENGRU	ASEN-BS	Senior Fifth Year
S7	M	3.3	NRES	ARSCU	LING-BA	Junior
S8	F	3.9	RES	ARSCU	LING-BA	Senior
S9	M	3.0	RES	ARSCU	LING-BA GRMN-MIN	Senior Fifth Year

Seminar Perspectives

"The combination of a complete immersion with a Mandarin course exponentially increased my acquisition abilities. The experiences with Prof. Mia at the various schools for the TESOL program are invaluable for anyone looking to work/study abroad for any career. Chengdu is a vibrant city with a great history to it, from the culture, people, food, and nightlife. The inner workings of the city only reveal themselves through interacting with locals, who are exceptionally gracious and welcoming to foreigners."

Summer 2017 Participant

"The site visits to over seven schools/ institutions and a dozen classrooms in the city opened up a world of insights to CU students--not only into English Language Learning and Teaching in China, but also, to Chinese cultures of learning, schools' and classrooms' physical layouts and facilities, students' academic lives and schedules, interests, pressures, abilities, goals, etc."

*Mia Thomas-Ružić
Global Seminar Director*