



Chinese House

Prof. John Yin and Ms. Diana Sun, Program Directors

OVERVIEW

The Chinese House was first established in the fall semester of 1998. It provides a living and learning place to students who are interested in various aspects of the Chinese culture as well as to those who are learning the Chinese language. It is also the place where students can come together after classes to organize and participate in extracurricular activities that would enrich their experiences with Chinese culture and reinforce their Chinese language learning with the assistance of Chinese language faculty at UVM and visiting scholars from China.

RATIONALE

Chinese culture is the only culture that has continued without any interruption in the human history. China has a history of five thousand years recorded in the Chinese language, and this recorded history offers a wealth of knowledge in almost any field, such as philosophy, medicine, arts, architecture, law, government, mathematics, agriculture, astronomy, military, cuisine, and martial arts. All of these await our students to explore and utilize in their life and make contributions to the society. Many students have the interest in getting to know Chinese culture, and the Chinese cultural activities organized by the Chinese House Program in the past have provided UVM students the opportunities to learn and experience Chinese culture.

In addition, the Chinese language is the language spoken by the most of the people on the earth, and many students are curious about this language which is very different from English and other European languages. Unlike English and other European languages, Chinese is a non-alphabetic and tonal language. Chinese characters and tones perhaps present the biggest challenge to any student who decides to learn Chinese. Formal classroom instruction is far from enough for students to achieve Chinese language proficiency. The opportunities to interact with others in Chinese and to be exposed to Chinese speaking situations and environments are necessary. The Chinese House Program will try to provide such opportunities.

Last but not least, China is the largest developing country that has enjoyed the fastest economic development. It has the potential of becoming the largest market for the United States. More and more students realize that having a good knowledge of Chinese culture and being able to speak Chinese would open themselves up to a lot of good career opportunities. The Chinese House Program will help students to get ready for these opportunities.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES and ACTION STEPS:

To promote UVM students' understanding of the various aspects of Chinese culture.

ACTION STEPS

Organize during each semester some of the following activities under the guidance of the Chinese faculty at UVM and with the assistance of the visiting scholars from China and Chinese House residents: *

- 1) Invite teachers and students who have just come back from China to talk about their experiences in China and show their photos and slides taken of China.
- 2) Invite Chinese visiting scholars or native Chinese students to introduce China.
- 3) Celebrate Chinese holidays, such as the spring festival (Chinese New Year) and the moon festival.
- 4) Have Chinese potluck parties and demonstrate how to cook Chinese dishes and food.
- 5) Introduce Chinese games such as Chinese chess, card games, and majiang.
- 6) Organize excursions to China Town in nearby cities.
- 7) Show newly released Chinese movies.
- 8) Show DVD's or video tapes on Chinese culture.

* Some of the activities listed above will be incorporated into two one-credit courses **Glimpses of Chinese Culture** (AIS 005 in the fall semester and AIS 006 in the spring semester). The residents of Chinese House and other students may register to take the course. The students taking this course will meet once a week from 7:30 – 8:20 p.m. on Wednesdays in the Living/Learning Center to learn about the following topics:

<u>During the Fall Semester:</u>	<u>During the Spring Semester</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Chinese Holidays• Chinese Operas• Chinese Folk Songs• Chinese Acupuncture• Chinese Qigong• Chinese Martial Arts• Chinese Architecture• Chinese Tea• Chinese Music Instruments	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Chinese Painting• Chinese Sports• Studying and Living in China• Chinese Calligraphy• Chinese Women• Chinese Minority Nationalities• Chinese Chess• Chinese Cuisine

Students may also have the opportunity to go on a study trip during the spring recess.

Create a Chinese atmosphere by decorating the lounge in the Chinese house with Chinese lanterns, posters, photos, paintings, calligraphy works, and handcrafts of Chinese House residents' choosing.

To enhance and reinforce students' experiences of learning and using the Chinese language after class.

- Organize Chinese conversational groups among the students of the Chinese House and with the students of Chinese living in other dorms or outside campus. The conversational groups meet regularly during the week to practice speaking Chinese.
- Watch Chinese TV programs at the Chinese house over the Internet, from video tapes or on cable television.
- Participate in the Chinese talent shows organized by the Chinese Language Program at UVM.

To prepare students for their possible future study and career related to China.

- Be aware of the studying and living conditions in study abroad programs in China by communicating via electronic mail with the UVM students already in China.
- Get to know the China related job market through the Internet and other media so as to be prepared for a China-related career.



About the Global Village

This program is part of the Global Village Residential Learning Community (RLC). For UVM students interested in exploring other cultures, studying abroad, or pursuing lives and careers in an increasingly interconnected world, the Global Village may be just the place for you! Drawing on the resources of the Living/Learning Center and its dynamic network of student- and faculty-led programs, the community of learners that make up the Global Village will be engaged in coursework, lectures, concerts, exhibits, study sessions, faculty and peer mentoring, social connections with international students, group meals, and trips that:

- Explore the many connections among language, art and culture at regional, national, and international scales.
- Share disciplinary expertise within an environment that values a holistic approach to “living and learning.”
- Encourage formal and informal contacts among students, faculty, and staff within the Global Village, the Living/Learning Center, the other Residential Learning Communities, and the university as a whole.
- Aim to be a complement to existing international and cross-cultural programs at UVM.
- “Think globally and act locally” by outreach to the international community at UVM and within the greater Burlington area.

More information about the Global Village RLC can be found at: <http://www.uvm.edu/rlc>

AIS 095: The Global Village

AIS 095: The Global Village is a self-paced, one-credit course designed to help you get the most out of your experience as a citizen of the Global Village residential learning community. In addition to taking part in any courses that are required or recommended for your individual House, all new Global Village residents must enroll in AIS 095 for one credit during the fall semester (as must any returning Global Village student who has not yet satisfactorily completed the class). This course will be graded on a “Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory” basis. As this a self-paced course, there will be no weekly class meeting time. Instead, you are expected to participate in an average of one House activity or one non-House cultural/educational event per week throughout the semester. Each House will have the opportunity to craft a “community learning plan” that will involve a combination of House and non-House activities that will fulfill the requirements of one-credit course. We’ll provide you with a list of suggested events and activities, or you can identify other events/activities with a cultural theme; you choose which ones you wish to attend. Finally, you should plan to attend the Global Village community meetings, which are periodically throughout the year.

We’ll provide you with a Global Village Passport; use it to keep track of your activities and explorations. In addition to documenting participation in your weekly events/activities, you will need to do reflective writing in the form of five short journal entries on the cultural/educational events that you participated in, along with a lengthier essay looking back on your most meaningful experience of the semester within the Global Village.

Returning Global Village students are also invited (but not required) to enroll in AIS 095 during the fall semester. Enrollment in AIS 096 for one credit during the spring semester is optional and encouraged for all students.

If you anticipate a problem with fulfilling this course expectation (such as if you will already be enrolled in 18 credits), please contact your Program/House director.

For more details about this course, visit: <http://www.uvm.edu/rlc/ais095096.pdf>

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