



# Where There Be Dragons

## College Accreditation

### ***College Accreditation***

China semester students may opt to receive college credit for one, two, three, or four courses. Students who do *not* wish to take courses for-credit will receive the same educational experience, albeit without the extra responsibility of academic articulation and evaluation. Students who choose to take a course for-credit are given additional pre and on-course assignments, such as writing research or response papers and completing final presentations or exams. Our college accreditation is a supplemental layer placed on top of our curriculum, which maintains experiential education methods.

### ***China Semester Course Offerings***

- **Chinese Language I, II, III**
- **Modern Chinese History, From 1911 to Present: Interdisciplinary Course in History and Political**
- **Social Issues in Modern China: Interdisciplinary Course in the Humanities**
- **Independent Study Project**

*\*\*\* See detailed course descriptions below\*\*\**

### ***Why or Why Not Take Courses For-Credit***

Choosing to take courses for-credit can be an enriching experience and/or, at times, a burdensome experience. For those students who want to leave academic evaluation behind them, we encourage them to not take courses for-credit. Those who are excited and motivated to spend extra time articulating their experience, receiving credit may be enriching. That said, very few students take all four courses for-credit, as the extra work can be overwhelming. Nonetheless, if a student has good time-management skills and is excited to put in the extra effort, it can add another level of insight and depth to the experience. Whether students choose to take a course for-credit or not, semesters are profoundly educational and enriching through the experiences they provide.

### ***Transferring Credits***

Our courses are accredited through Prescott College. Over the years many schools have accepted these credits; however, you should check with your college/university *prior* to signing-up. We recommend contacting the Registrar office. Each course is worth 4 Prescott College semester credits. Students can earn up to 16 credits. The official course numbers, respective to the above, are (WTBD 10080 / 20080 / 40080), (WTBD 10090), (WTBD 10100), (WTBD 10010).

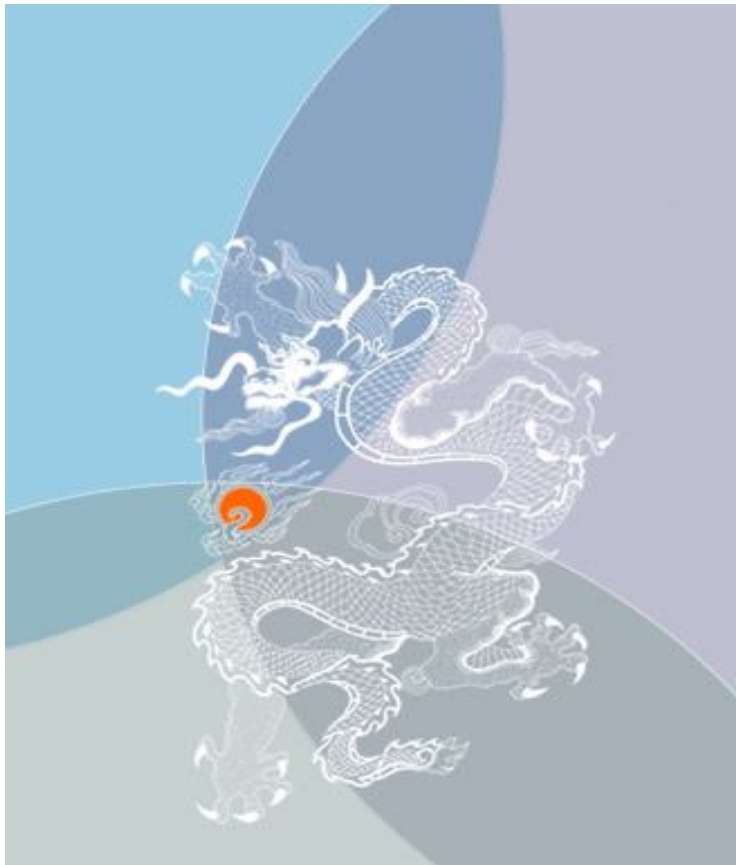
## ***How To Sign Up***

Students must complete the first page of the For-Credit *Registration & Eval Form* for each course (found at the end of this document). Prescott College and Where There Be Dragons have set their tuition for this credit option at **\$700 per course**. Thus, if you choose to take all four courses for credit, the total fee will be \$2,800. This amount is made out to **Where There Be Dragons**, and Prescott College will send directly their official transcript once the student has completed course work. If a student decides to drop a course *before* two weeks into the program, Dragons will reimburse 100% of the tuition. If a course is dropped *after* two weeks into the program, Dragons will reimburse 2/3 of the tuition.

**Where There Be Dragons  
3200 Carbon Place, Unit 102  
Boulder, CO 80301**

Please send registration forms and payment to Dragons by **August 1<sup>st</sup>** for Fall and **January 1<sup>st</sup>** for Spring semesters.

If you have questions about this process, please contact us via email ([info@wheretherebedragons.com](mailto:info@wheretherebedragons.com)), or by calling 1-800-982-9203.



## **COURSE DESCRIPTIONS**

### **Chinese Language I, II, III**

Our courses are designed to accommodate beginners as well as students with previous Mandarin experience. While traveling and during extended home-stays with Chinese families, students will participate in daily formal Mandarin lessons. Classes focus on increasing vocabulary, improving grammar and pronunciation as well as learning to read and write Chinese characters. Additionally, students will be assigned customized language projects that will give them the opportunity to practice their language skills and develop the oral proficiency necessary to converse with native speakers. Experiential activities such as field trips to markets or temples and guided interaction with native speakers will supplement formal classroom instruction. Course grade and level of proficiency will be determined by an exam given at the end of instruction.

### **Modern Chinese History: From 1911 to Present: Interdisciplinary Course in History and Political Science**

This course strives to provide students with a solid background in the tumultuous events of the past 100 years of Chinese history. The course will begin with a brief introduction to the events that led to the fall of the Qing Dynasty and the establishment of the Republic of China in 1911. It then covers the period of chaos and upheaval from 1911-1949, chronicling the formation and rise of the Chinese Communist Party, the Chinese Civil War, the Japanese invasion and the establishment of the People's Republic of China (PRC) in 1949. It also examines the sweeping reforms and devastating campaigns of the Maoist era, including the Great Leap Forward and the Cultural Revolution. Moving on to the post-Mao era, the course looks closely at Deng Xiaoping's economic reforms of the 1980s, which led to the staggering economic growth that has catapulted China on to the world stage as a major player. The final section of the course looks closely at the social, political and economic reality of contemporary China and the challenges that lie ahead, considering the implications of China's rapid economic growth for China, the U.S. and the world.

### **Social Issues in Modern China: Interdisciplinary Course in the Humanities**

The Modern Chinese History course sets the stage for a grounded understanding of the events that have led to the myriad social issues that China faces today. Our Social Issues in Modern China course surveys issues related to education, public health, the environment, civil society, economic development, law, gender, ethnic minorities, human rights, and popular culture. This course is taught by Where There Be Dragons instructors and guest lecturers, which include local professors, development workers, activists, business professionals, health care practitioners, scholars and artists. Guest lecturers will also introduce various Chinese arts and pastimes, such as calligraphy, martial arts, ink painting and culinary design, addressing the importance of these art forms in modern Chinese society. Lectures will be supplemented with readings, films and field trips. Field trips include visits to schools, health clinics or local non-governmental organization (NGO) project sites. In addition, our travels in China will take us to communities where these issues are often vividly displayed, providing invaluable opportunities for study and reflection. Students are required to complete various writing assignments throughout the course and will be required to prepare a final research paper on a social issue of their choice.

### **Independent Study Project**

The Independent Study Project (ISP) offers each student the opportunity to conduct in-depth study of a subject of his or her choice. ISP topics must be approved by the China Semester Instructors in order to ensure that appropriate internships and advisors in the community can be arranged. Students will be matched with two ISP advisors – a Dragons Course Instructor who has experience and knowledge relevant to the student's ISP topic and a local mentor with whom the student will study, intern or apprentice. A student's ISP study can take many forms. Example A: A student may choose to study Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM) as an ISP. ISP advisors would assign readings in order to give the student a basic foundation in the theory and practice of TCM. Research might include hunting for Chinese herbs with a local medicine man, visiting a local clinic to accompany doctors on their rounds, or undergoing a series of treatments with herbs, massage or acupuncture and writing a paper about the experience. The student would be required to examine the differences between TCM and Western medicine and demonstrate an understanding of the primary healing methods of TCM, including herbal treatments, diet therapy, massage and acupuncture. The student should also demonstrate an understanding of the Daoist philosophy on which TCM is based. Example B: A student who decides to pursue Chinese calligraphy as an ISP would be paired with a well-respected teacher. The final presentation could include an exhibition of the student's work from different stages of study. The student would also be required to demonstrate an understanding of the history of the Chinese writing system, different writing styles and their character and purpose, main strokes and development and rules of technique. The student should also demonstrate an understanding of calligraphy as a form of aesthetic expression that uses Chinese characters to communicate the moral integrity, character and emotions of the artist. Final grade/evaluation will be based on effort and progress as well as the final presentation and paper.



