

SUSTAINABILITY IN CHINA

Summer 2018

a new interdisciplinary study abroad/travel experience

Program Dates: May 8 – June 24, 2018

The Courses: Students may choose two or three of the courses below

- HST 342: Environmental History (fulfills CAP Advanced History, CAP Integrative and SEE minor requirements)
- GEO 208: Environmental Geology (satisfies CAP natural science, CAP inquiry and SEE minor requirements)
- ECO 435: Environmental Economics (fulfills SBA upper economics elective and SEE minor requirements)

This unique study abroad opportunity—offered only once every three years (so not again until Summer 2021)—considers the tectonics involved when human economic and environmental priorities collide. Students will travel throughout China to better appreciate the diversity of its economy and environment.

We start in Shanghai, where the Yangtze River flows into the East China Sea, visit Suzhou to see China’s Grand Canal, then move southwest to **Guilin** in **Guangxi** province to spend a week among limestone caves, bamboo boats, *rice terraces*, and stunning *karst limestone* formations. Then we relocate to **Chengdu** in **Sichuan** province, visiting China’s oldest extant irrigation project in Dujiangyan (256 BCE) and the *panda breeding facility*. Before leaving the Yangtze watershed, we will *cruise the Yangtze River (Chang Jiang) for three days, from Chongqing to Yichang* past the controversial **Three Gorges Dam**.

After appraising competing claims on water and the geological risk entailed in large dam construction, we head north, to **Xi’an**, in **Shaanxi**, home to the Terra Cotta warriors and departure point of the Silk Road. This diverse city (once called Chang-an) now suffers more from water shortages than from flooding.

We will visit the loess plateau (staging a comeback from desertification), and visit Hukou Falls near Ya’nan (the legendary caves where Mao and other Communist leaders settled after the Long Walk). We then trek westward into **Gansu** Province (where glaciers have melted and the desertification process is more unrelenting) to *float on goat skin rafts* in the Yellow River (*Huang He*), *hike among the Rainbow Rocks* in the Geopark (Danxia) in *Zhangye*, explore the Great Wall fortress in Jiayuguan, and spend a night camping in the desert (and riding on camels) in Dunhuang, the western gateway to the Central Asian steppes. We fly out by way of Beijing (visiting the Forbidden Palace and an eastern portion of the Great Wall) to complete our understanding of the natural and policy constraints informing China’s environmental predicament.

For more information, contact:

- Chris Agnew, Director of the International Studies Program: cagnew1@udayton.edu
- Shuang Ye Wu, Geology: swu001@udayton.edu
- Barbara Heroy John, Economics: bjohn1@udayton.edu
- Sean McCarthy, Assistant Director of China Initiatives: mccarthys1@udayton.edu

