



Fall 2013
Professor Szto¹

Seminar: Introduction to Chinese Law
(3 credits)
Tuesdays, 2.30-4.30pm
Room: Law 6



Required Text

Albert HY Chen, *An Introduction to the Legal System of the Peoples' Republic of China* (Hong Kong: LexisNexis Butterworths, 4th edition 2011) ISBN: 978-962-885-515-5

Schedule (Subject to Change)

<i>Date</i>	<i>Topic</i>
August 27	Introduction/Welcome Be prepared to introduce yourself and areas of interest Research Methodology (Research Guides posted on TWEN; TWEN site available after class begins)
September 3	Chinese Cosmology & History Reading: Chen, pages 1-47 [Student Profiles with photos due (available on TWEN after class begins); bring hard copy to class]

¹ Pronunciation: SEE' tow.

September 10	Constitution & Contemporary Legal Institutions Reading: Chen, pages 49-94 [One paragraph research paper proposals due; bring to class]
September 17	Movie: The Story of Qiu Ju (1993) Reading: Chen, skim pages 171-215, 259-264
September 24	Student Presentations: Criminal Law [Private conference two weeks before; first draft due two days before presentation; to be posted on TWEN site] Reading: First drafts [Mid-Autumn Festival Celebration]
October 1	Student Presentations: Family Law/Dispute Resolution Reading: First drafts
October 8	Student Presentations: Contract Law/Foreign Investment & Trade Reading: First drafts
October 15	Student Presentations: Intellectual Property Law Reading: First drafts
October 22	Student Presentations: Human Rights Reading: First drafts
October 29	Student Presentations: Environmental Law Reading: First drafts
November 5	Student Presentations: Chinese Legal Education Reading: First drafts; Chen, skim pages 217-258
November 12	Student Presentations: Chinese Legal Profession. Reading: First drafts.
November 19	Conclusion/Banquet

Monday, December 2	Final Papers due by 4pm. Submit on TWEN.
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Learning Objectives and Methods

HUSL Policies on attendance, lateness and preparation

The program of instruction at the School of Law is based on an active and informed exchange between instructor and student and between student and student. Regular, prepared class attendance helps develop skills essential to the competent practice of law. A student who violates the attendance policy, including the instructor's specification of class expectation described below, may lose his or her right to take the exam in the course, to receive course credit or may receive other penalties described below and in Academic Rule 108. Persistent or frequent lateness or unpreparedness may also be the basis for reduction of the grade awarded in a course. See Academic Rule 108 for further details.

Welcome to Chinese Law! I look forward to a tremendous time together. This semester we will learn how to "think as Chinese lawyers". Our goals are to (1) study Chinese law within its cultural and historical context; and to (2) refine research, writing, presentation, and discussion skills.

China has become the world's second largest economy and provides endless business and other exchange opportunities. In one way or another your professional future will be influenced by China's development. China has grown, however, despite the fact that its current legal system is only around thirty years old. What lies behind China's explosive growth and contemporary legal culture? What principles have guided Chinese civilization for the past several thousand years and are still at work? China's traditional legal system (before 1911) was the longest, continuous system in the world.

We will first focus on the foundations and context of ancient and emerging Chinese law: cosmology, history, jurisprudence, and contemporary events. Then participants will have an opportunity to research and present on various aspects of Chinese law, ancient or modern.

Substantial research papers and a class presentation are required. Topics must first be approved by the instructor. In the past students have presented on a wide range of cutting edge topics such as intellectual property protection, securities law, women's rights, and elder care. The best topics are areas that you are passionate about and provide future professional opportunities for you.

Papers should be between 20-25 pages in length, double-spaced, with proper Bluebook citations. A first draft of at least 15 pages must be provided two days before your class presentation. Each participant will also meet with the instructor two weeks before his/her class presentation to discuss your paper and presentation. A final draft is due on Monday, December 2 by 4pm on Twen². Absent compelling circumstances (e.g., hospitalization), late final papers will not be accepted.

Your assigned readings on presentation days are the first drafts of the presenters. Each presenter will also assign relevant readings from our Chen text for the date of their presentation.

Each participant will also provide one formal oral commentary in class on another paper and presentation the day of that presentation. Each participant will also give one weekly "news update" (a summary of two news articles relating to China).

We will end the semester with an off-campus Chinese meal. Most Chinese business and negotiations are done over sumptuous meals. Volunteers are needed to plan this exciting occasion (venue, budget, menu and date if we choose an evening). Last year we went to the elegant Tea House.
<http://www.ourteahouse.com/>

The above is a tentative schedule for this semester. Our final schedule and topics are based on your interests, future goals, and imagination. ☺

Grade

Your grade will be based on your paper (70%); presentation, commentary and news report (20%); attendance and other participation (10%). You will be marked down if your first draft is submitted late.

² TWEN Technical support 1-800-850-9378
Send an email (<mailto:west.support@thomson.com>)

TWEN Non-technical support 1-800-486-4876
Send an email (<mailto:west.twensupport@thomson.com>)

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Attendance and Laptop Policies

Students who miss more than two full class periods beginning September 11 may be administratively withdrawn from the class. Attendance will be verified by sign-in sheets. Accommodations may be made for students who must be absent for religious reasons and in cases of truly compelling hardship. Please inform me of this as soon as possible in person and by email to mszto01@hamline.edu

Laptops may be used only for note-taking and directed class exercises. Laptop privileges may be withdrawn for violation of this policy. No other technology may be used except in connection with a class presentation.

Office Hours

I am available after class and by appointment. My office is 234 East Hall. My email address is mszto01@hamline.edu My phone number is 651 523 2850.