China Study Abroad – Summer 2007
Pre-Trip Orientation
202 Science II

Week 3 – February 7

I. What’s up in China? News reports from students.

II. Case Study Groups:
   a. Determine case study groups (at least tentatively . . .)
   b. Pulse check on case study methods
   c. Case study group work on in-class exercise (distributed last week)

III. Academic
   a. Overview of China’s Economy
   b. Review “China’s economy” discussion questions distributed last week

IV. Cultural
   a. A few Chinese words: Difei Shen
   b. Overview of cross-cultural differences
   c. Assignment handouts (for next week)

V. Preparation
   a. Housekeeping
      i. Course website: 
         http://www.econ.iastate.edu/classes/econ496/jolly/index.htm
      ii. Course registration: Student list submitted to registrar’s office last week; please check
         AccessPlus to make sure you are registered.
      iii. Travel Updates
         a. Airline tickets: The Ag Study Abroad office will make a deposit on airline tickets
            on February 9 – this Friday. **We need to know by February 9 if you plan to depart
            or return from a city other than Des Moines, or if you plan extended travel
            beyond the dates of the program (May 15-June 9).** The final payment will be
            made no later than April 26.
         b. Passports: Bring passports to group leaders or to Ag Study Abroad Office, 111
            Curtiss Hall, no later than Monday, April 2. Passports will be sent to Chinese
            Consulate in Chicago to obtain visas. You **cannot** enter China without a passport and
            visa!
      iv. Immunizations
         a. Visit your regular doctor or student health travel clinic to obtain information about
            recommended immunizations.
         b. Please review these websites:
            http://www.cdc.gov/travel/eastasia.htm
            http://www.travel.state.gov/travel/abroad.html

V. Questions?

VI. Reminders –
   a. Weekly Warming-Up Activities - Research current events in P.R. China. Each week, each
      member of one group should be prepared to give a brief (1-2 minute) oral overview regarding one
      news article you found interesting.
      Suggested sources:
b. Spring/Summer semester activities - To increase your knowledge of China and enhance your experience, we recommend that you read one book of your choice that focuses on China (fiction, nonfiction, biography, history, etc.) during the course of the program. If time permits during our weekly meetings in China, each student may give a 5-8 minute review of his/her book and discuss the similarities and differences between book and observations during the trip. Check the course website for book suggestions.

VI. Next meeting: Wednesday, February 14, 6:00-8:30 p.m., 202 Science II

a. Group 1 discussion on intercultural communication scenario (describe scenario and discuss possible reasons for misunderstandings portrayed in the scenario).

b. Overview of Chinese Agriculture—discussion questions

c. Chinese Currency