Week 6 – February 28

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

II. Academic
   a. PBS program: Resource and Environmental Problems and Policies in China
      Group discussion

III. Case Study Groups:
   a. Divide into groups
   b. Continue work on case study questions
   c. Hand in background paper on case study topic

IV. Cultural
   a. A few Chinese words: Difei Shen
      i. Chinese language website: http://www.csulb.edu/~txie/online.htm
   b. Cross-cultural differences scenario and discussion (group 2)

V. Safety tips
   a. Handout: Personal Safety of Pedestrians (excerpt from ISU student study abroad
      handbook)
   b. Review website for student study abroad handbook:
      http://www.studyabroad.iastate.edu/Students/S_Handbook/personalsafety/personal01.html

VI. 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; please check
          AccessPlus to make sure you are registered.
      iii. Travel Updates
          a. Airline tickets: The Ag Study Abroad office has made a deposit on airline
             tickets for those with no travel deviations. Those deviating—departing or
             returning from a city other than Des Moines or extended travel beyond
             the dates of the program (May 15–June 9)—need to finalize plans no later
             than March 1 and share those plans with the Ag Study Abroad Office.
          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

VI. Questions?
VII. Reminders –

c. 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.

VIII. Next meeting: Wednesday, March 7, 6:00-8:30 p.m., 202 Science II

  a. Group presentations on main components of case study research design
  b. PBS presentation on rural economic development issues in China
  c. Group 3 discussion on intercultural communication scenario (describe scenario and discuss possible reasons for misunderstandings portrayed in the scenario).
  d. Safety issues related to travel in China—sexual harassment and sexual assault

Case Study Assignments for remainder of the semester

March 7: Present the main components of your case study research design
  • Questions – reflecting your background analysis and your own interests
  • Propositions, if any
  • Unit(s) of analysis
  • Design, single case, multiple case

March 7-21: Case study preparation (in or outside class)
  • Draft protocol – how are you going to get the job done? Who is going to do what?
  • Refine questions and other design consideration
  • What do you need help with? From whom?

March 14: Spring break—no class

March 21: Case study preparation (in or outside class); group reports on progress (verbal)

March 28: Case study preparation (in or outside class); group reports on progress (verbal)

April 4: Presentation of team proposals (written outlines and verbal)

April 11: Review and revised proposals (in or outside class)

April 18: Final proposal presentations (written outlines and verbal)

April 25: Group dinner at New China restaurant in Boone (no cost for students)