**LBS 502: China:**
From Celestial Kingdom to World Power

This course, designed especially for graduate students without background on China, offers an opportunity to explore China’s recent past, its cultural traditions, and its contemporary society with a focus on topics of greatest interest to Americans today. These include readings on, and discussion of, China’s growing economic and political dominance, trade relations, human rights, population policy, religious policy, and women’s status. Recent films and documentaries viewed as part of the course will offer further insight into the dramatic changes which have taken place in China during our life times.

Requirements for the course include: basic geographic knowledge quiz; short essays on specific topics due throughout the term; a descriptive, historically-based paper focusing on one specific area of interest; short oral presentations on assigned topics; and a formal presentation of findings as documented in the course paper.

As your instructor, I bring both academic background and personal experience in Asia to the classroom. Having lived in Hong Kong and Taiwan, and having traveled extensively in China over the years since, I understand and value travel as an educational experience. But be warned: taking this course could lead you on the kind of journey you may never before have imagined. Currently, some of my former OU students teach English in rural China and in the capital, Beijing; work and teach in Shanghai; and pursue graduate studies in Inner Mongolia. Who knows where this course might take YOU!

**Texts:**
A contemporary novel, and a recent biography by Chinese authors. Primary sources in translation.