The Academic Program
Contemporary Issues seminars are taught in English by scholars from leading academic institutions in China and the U.S. Each course is taught one-at-a-time and features extensive field trips, experiential learning, and travel study. With daily seminars and discussions of 2-3 hours, along with journaling, presentations, and other challenging assignments, students are immersed in an intellectually exciting and in-depth engagement with China.

While students take only one course at a time, the pace of study is very demanding. Lectures and reading assignments cover large amounts of material in a short amount of time. You should be prepared for an intense learning experience with continual integration and reflection on what you are learning throughout the semester. To help facilitate this integration, the Center will organize weekly roundtable discussions with staff, faculty, and on occasion, local experts.

IES CONTEMPORARY ISSUES
IES students begin the program with intensive language training, followed by a two-week Introduction to Chinese History and Civilization seminar. Following this initial set of introductory courses, the students embark on a series of three rigorous seminars taught at an accelerated pace, while they continue with their daily Chinese studies. Students take 11 credits in area studies classes and 4 credits of Chinese language during the term. The Contemporary Issues in China Program is structured around six distinctive “blocks”, which all students must take. The last three blocks of the semester each feature a 3-credit 300-level course on China as well as a continuation of the Chinese language classes. Each block lasts three and a half weeks and a long weekend is provided at the end of blocks 4 and 5 to allow students time to travel independently in China.

COURSE INFORMATION
Courses: Students attend classes Monday through Friday. Language classes are a mandatory and key component of the curriculum.

Language classes are offered at beginning through advanced levels. Students are placed in appropriate language classes based on a proficiency examination given in Beijing at the beginning of the program.

Most weeks you will have four hours of private tutorial with a Chinese student tutor who will help you with pronunciation, conversation, and course work and with whom you may work on any extra materials of your own choosing. Your tutor may also form an important social contact for you.

Registration:
IAP will register you for a special “Study Abroad Course” for the term(s) you will be studying abroad; therefore, it is not necessary for you to register on the UW-Madison campus. This is a
temporary registration, which will be converted into graded UW-Madison credit after the completion of your program.

Registration information for classes you will take abroad will be provided by IES. In general, IES will communicate with you by email. You will receive detailed information on courses and requirements in your online IES acceptance materials. Read all of the IES materials carefully and return all IES forms directly to IES by their deadline date.

**Course Equivalents and My Study Abroad:** Each course you take abroad must be assigned a UW-Madison “equivalent” course in order for your grades and credits to be recorded on your UW-Madison transcript. In order to establish UW-Madison course equivalents for your study abroad courses, you will submit a Course Equivalent Requests through your My Study Abroad account. Detailed information on the UW course equivalent process that you will use through your My Study Abroad account is available in the IAP Study Abroad Handbook.

**CREDITS**

*Conversions:* Students take 11 credits in area studies classes and 3-4 credits of Chinese language during the term. 1 credit on the program is equal to 1 credit at UW Madison.

*Limits and Load:* The recommended course load for UW-Madison students is 15 credits per semester. Students can enroll in up to 18 credits.

**PASS/FAIL/DROP/AUDIT**

Please refer to the IAP Study Abroad Handbook for academic policies.

**GRADES AND GRADE CONVERSIONS**

In content courses, students are graded on the basis of attendance, quizzes, exams, presentations, and sometimes a final paper. In the language courses, assessment is based on a mid-term and final exam, quizzes, homework, and participation. Final examinations or term papers count up to 40%. Letter grades of A, B, C, D to F are given with pluses or minuses.

IES will report grades to UW Madison using their IES equivalent grades. The grade conversion scale for this program is as follows:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>IES Equivalent</th>
<th>UW-Madison Equivalent</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A+/A</td>
<td>A</td>
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<tr>
<td>A-/B+</td>
<td>AB</td>
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<td>B</td>
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<td>B-/C+</td>
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<td>C</td>
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<td>D+/D/D-</td>
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<td>F</td>
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