

## **CHIN3696: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY IN CHINA**

CHINESE LBAT; MAY 18 — JULY 27, 2026

**Class hours: Monday, Wednesday: 11:30-13:30**

(Class schedule may be subject to change.)

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### **Course Description**

This course employs the prism of Xi'an, Qingdao, and Shanghai to diversify students' first-hand experience of China's impressive economic development in the past few decades and problems that came along with it, such as people and environment, natural resources and sustainability, pollutions of air, soil, water, global warming, etc. Xi'an is full of ancient Chinese history, furnishing a competitive-based culture, industry, and tourism. Qingdao headquarters the well-known companies such as Hai'er, Siemens, which is one of China's cities with the lowest air pollution rate, as well as water and energy consumption. Shanghai is a leading global economic hub, with important foci in entrepreneurial, finance, technology, industry, etc. Taking the advantage of being in these cities that each stands out with its own unique characteristics; the course offers an expanded milieu for students to gain an appreciation of the complexities of development/sustainability issues in contemporary China. This course can only touch the bases, but it should be a good beginning for students to explore the issues.

### **Course Objectives**

1. Students will be able to identify and explain, in Chinese, basic environmental issues that China, as well as the rest of the world, faces today.
2. Drawing from personal experiences, students will understand China's developmental activities, be able to articulate problems facing both Chinese and Americans; and see first-hand how the Chinese confront environmental and economic problems.
3. Students will come to appreciate the importance of effective intercultural communication skills, both verbal and nonverbal, in dealing with some of the sustainable development issues that the world faces in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

## Course Materials

Learning materials will be provided with electronic textbooks drawn from Chinese sources including Internet, newspaper articles, and video programs. The instructor will provide readings for each class. Students will prepare handouts for the class based upon their research.

## Course Activities

In addition to in class lectures and discussions, students are expected to conduct team research, via Internet and fieldwork, deliver presentations of their experiences, and participate in discussions based on their findings. Students' research may encompass both Chinese and English sources, but presentations will be in Chinese. Through this process, students will simultaneously hone their understanding of pertinent economic and environmental sustainability issues and enhance language skills as well as cultural awareness.

The first-class period during which a topic is introduced is built around lectures that explain vocabulary, grammar, and cultural ramifications, and provide background information on each study topic. The second period of that topic will concentrate upon instructor-students, students-students interactions, including instructor-led Internet research; discussion of readings and visual materials; and application/practice of language skills. Preparation out of class, either individually or as a group, is crucial for your success for this course.

## Final Project:

Whatever topic you choose for your final project, it needs to be on basic environmental issues that China, as well as the rest of the world, faces today. Based upon your China experiences, it **must include** personal observation, analysis, and opinions. Topics include, but are not limited to, man and nature, population problems, natural resources - land, forest, water, energy, air pollution, acid rain, sandstorms, greenhouse effect, ozone damage, global warming, waste collection and handling, species diversity crisis, etc.

The paper should be at least 2,000, but not more than 3,000, characters (including spaces). The PPT presentation (about 10 slides) in class should reflect what you write in the paper. Please keep in mind that the paper plus the presentation constitute a major part of this course's final summation.

In keeping with the GT Honor Code, you must neither give nor receive help from others. You can consult a dictionary and conduct interviews with local people. Any quotations from other sources should be footnoted. Please note that the paper is due (via Canvas) on July 13.

## Grading:

Class/discussion participation and Dictation (3)	30%
Quizzes (3)	30%
<b><u>Final Project</u></b> (Final Class Presentation 期末课堂报告)	40%

**SCHEDULE**  
**CHIN 3696 TENTATIVE SCHEDULE (Summer 2026)**

<b>Week</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Content</b>	<b>Dictations and Tests</b>
<b>1</b>	5/18	Course Introduction  第 1 课 环境保护与节约能源 Environmental protection and energy conservation (生词)	
	5/20	第 1 课 环境保护与节约能源 Environmental protection and energy conservation (课文)	
<b>2</b>	5/25	第 1 课 环境保护与节约能源 Environmental protection and energy conservation (生词听写)	Dictation #1
	5/27	第 1 课 环境保护与节约能源 Environmental Protection and energy conservation	
<b>3</b>	6/1	第 1 课 环境保护与节约能源 Review Lesson 1 (小考一)	Review Lesson 1 Quiz #1
	6/3	第 2 课 全球一半的电动汽车在中国 53% of Global Electric Cars Registered in China (生词, 课文)	Review Lesson 1 Quiz #1(For students who missed the quiz on Monday, June 1 <sup>st</sup> )
<b>4</b>	6/8	第 2 课 全球一半的电动汽车在中国 53% of Global Electric Cars Registered in China (课文, 语法)	
	6/10	第 3 课 世界上最大的冰山突然移动 <b>World's Largest Iceberg Breaks Free After 30 Years</b> (生词, 课文)	
<b>5</b>	6/15	第 3 课 世界上最大的冰山突然移动 <b>World's Largest Iceberg Breaks Free After 30 Years</b> (课文, 语法)	

	6/17	第 2, 3 课 ( 听写 二 )	Dictation #2
6	6/22	第 2, 3 课 ( 小考 二 )	Quiz #2
	6/24	第 4 课 中国经历了 60 年以来最热的夏天 China Experiences Hottest Summer in Over 60 Years (生词, 课文)	
7	6/29	第 4 课 中国经历了 60 年以来最热的夏天 China Experiences Hottest Summer in Over 60 Years (课文, 语法)	
	7/1	第 5 课 服装公司用回收的塑料水瓶做衣服 Fashion Brand Converts Water Bottles into Clothes (生词, 课文)	
8	7/6	第 5 课 服装公司用回收的塑料水瓶做衣服 Fashion Brand Converts Water Bottles into Clothes (课文, 语法)	
	7/8	第 4, 5 课 ( 听写 三 )	Dictation #3
9	7/13	第 4, 5 课 ( 小考 三 )	Quiz #3
	7/15	第 6 课 世界卫生组织: 中国污染排名靠前 China Top's WHO List for Most Polluted Country (生词, 课文)	
10	7/20	第 6 课 世界卫生组织: 中国污染排名靠前 China Top's WHO List for Most Polluted Country (课文, 语法)	
	7/22	第 7 课 <b>中国的经济 China's Economy</b> (生词, 课文)  第 8 课 <b>可持续性发展 Sustainable Development</b> (生词, 课文)	
11	7/27	期末报告 Final Class Presentation	