# Chinese Language and Culture

## Prof. Elisa Giunipero

***COURSE AIMS AND INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES***

The course provides students with an introduction to the history of China and the fundamentals of modern and contemporary Chinese culture. At the end of the course, students will have acquired the knowledge and concepts they need to understand the cultural universe and the dynamics of the historical and cultural development of contemporary China.

***COURSE CONTENT***

– Written Chinese: the origin and development of the “graphic language”

– Confucianism, Daoism and Buddhism in Imperial history.

– The Chinese empire, its dynasties, and the contacts with the outside world

– *Tianxia* and the imperial system

– Chinese authors in history and literature

***READING LIST***

Students who attend the course are required to know the topics studied in class and to study the following texts:

K. Vogelsang, *Cina. Una storia millenaria*, Einaudi, Torino 2014.

A. Lavagnino-S. Pozzi, *Cultura cinese*, Carocci, Rome 2013 (or later editions).

Non-attending students are required to study also the following text:

T. Lippiello, *Il confucianesimo*, il Mulino, Bologna 2009.

***TEACHING METHOD***

Lectures. There will be group discussion on assigned readings and ‘open lectures’ with both Italian and Chinese guest speakers.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

Oral exam. Only attending students will take a written interim test (February 2023).

The final exam will be marked out of 30 and aims to assess students on their understanding of topics studied in class and their reasoning skills, as well as their speaking and argumentative skills. The acquisition of a critical and organic perspective of the subject and the appropriate usage of specific language will be taken into consideration with grades of merit, as well as knowledge of the written forms of the characters that make up a glossary of the Chinese terms related to the course topics.

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

Students are expected to have basic knowledge of Chinese physical and political geography, as well as an overview of contemporary history.

Further information on the course, exams and office hours will be available on the university website, on the lecturer’s webpage. Further details on the reading list and texts to be read for subsequent discussion in class will be provided in lectures.

In case the current Covid-19 health emergency does not allow frontal teaching, remote teaching will be carried out following procedures that will be promptly notified to students.

Further information can be found on the lecturer's webpage at http://docenti.unicatt.it/web/searchByName.do?language=ENG or on the Faculty notice board.