

The Culture of Taiwan

The course aims to provide basic information about the culture of Taiwan. The students will be introduced to the historical development of Taiwanese culture and its modern manifestations. They will learn to recognize the diversity of Taiwanese culture and its contemporary characteristics. The students will be encouraged to share and discuss their own perspectives on various similarities and differences between the culture of Taiwan and other cultures.

The topics covered in the course will include, among others:

1. The history of Taiwan
2. The customs of Taiwan
3. The languages of Taiwan
4. Religions of Taiwan
5. Taiwanese cuisine
6. Taiwanese festivities and holidays
7. The „night market” culture of Taiwan
8. Classical music and dance performed in Taiwan
9. Traditional martial arts
10. Traditional dress

Classroom attendance (50 %) – min. 80 % of the classes

Final report (50 %) - students will be asked to present their own reflections about some aspects of Taiwanese culture or cultural differences that they found particularly interesting.

Literature:

Taiwan lishi yu wenhua 台灣歷史與文化, ed. Liu Yanli 劉燕儷, Taipei 2019

Caltonhill, M. *Private Prayers and Public Parades- Exploring the religious life of Taipei*, Taipei 2002

Moskowitz, M. , *Popular Culture in Taiwan: Charismatic Modernity*, London 2011

Ross, J.G. *Taiwan in 100 Books*, Manchester 2020

Routledge Handbook of Contemporary Taiwan, ed. G. Schubert, London/New York 2016

Taiwan: A New History, ed. M.A. Rubinstein, New York 2015

