TO: Committee on Educational Policy and Planning  
FROM: Cori Filson, Director of Off-Campus Study & Exchanges  
Ruben Graciani, Chair of the Advisory Committee on Off-Campus Programs (ACOP)  
DATE: April 29, 2011  
RE: PROPOSAL FOR RESTRUCTURING OF SKIDMORE IN BEIJING PROGRAM AND DEVELOPMENT OF PILOT PROGRAM TO EXPAND PROGRAM TO INCLUDE SHANGHAI

The Office of Off-Campus Study & Exchanges, in consultation with the Advisory Committee on Off-Campus Programs and the Office of the Dean of the Faculty, propose to the Committee on Educational Policies and Planning (CEPP) the establishment of an expansion of the current Skidmore in Beijing program. We propose to offer a pilot program that would consist of opportunities in two cities – Beijing and Shanghai – with two distinct tracks in each city. (See Appendix A for a schematic of the proposed program structure.)

The proposed changes have been precipitated by dwindling student interest and the lack of sufficient student enrollments in the program for the past two years, resulting in canceling the program for fall 2010 and 2011. (See Appendix B for program enrollments from fall 2006 to fall 2011.) Enrollments show sporadic peaks in interest in Beijing (and not always on Skidmore’s program) and consistent interest in Shanghai even though students must petition to participate in those programs. Feedback from students and faculty indicates that students perceive the language pre-requisite and required field studies course to be significant barriers to participation in the current Skidmore in Beijing program. Even those who are interested in Chinese studies chose not to participate due to these factors. Faculty have mentioned the same barriers. Conversations with faculty from various disciplines over the years have confirmed that certain departments would prefer options in Shanghai, specifically Management & Business.

With this in mind, OCSE proposes this new program structure. We would continue to partner with IES Abroad to deliver the Skidmore in China program. IES Abroad has program centers in Beijing and Shanghai and would be able to host our students in both centers. We have been very pleased with our relationship with IES Abroad and have found them to be extremely accommodating to the academic and student services needs of our students. Therefore, we are confident that they will continue to offer a high quality program for our students. (See Appendix C for details on IES Abroad and their Customized programs.)

Specific changes to the restructured program would include:

- Expanded locations to include programs in Beijing and Shanghai.
- Expanded curricular tracks to include an Intensive Language Program and an Area Studies Program in Beijing and a Business Studies Program and 21st Century China Program in Shanghai.
- Programs open to students of all language levels with a prerequisite of 1 year of Mandarin for the language intensive track in Beijing only; all other tracks will have no language pre-requisite.
- Required common course, “Understanding China”, to provide all students with a context for their academic and co-curricular work.
- Week-long pre- and post-program seminars in Beijing and Shanghai respectively.
- Expanded internship options in both cities.

Please note: We are proposing a three-year pilot program. Given the struggles we have faced in recruiting for this program, we believe it is time to make significant changes to the program itself in an attempt to serve the needs of a larger cohort of students. We believe the enhancements outlined here will help us do just that. However, if in three years we do not see an increase in enrollments, Skidmore must seriously reconsider the need for a Skidmore presence in China.

**ACADEMIC PROGRAM - BEIJING**

Students will continue to attend courses at the IES Beijing Center, which is located on the campus of Beijing Foreign Studies University (Bei Wai). All courses are taught at the IES Center and provide for cultural activities in Beijing that complement students' formal classroom study. The IES courses are taught by faculty from local universities who are contracted by IES. Credits and grades from the Skidmore in Beijing Program will work as they do for other Skidmore programs: students will receive Skidmore credits and grades received will count toward their Skidmore GPA.

The proposed expansion will include a new “track” in Beijing. In the new program model students will be able to access two tracks: the Intensive Language Program and the Area Studies Program.

**Intensive Language Program:**

This program track is very similar to our current Beijing program and will provide the following curriculum:

- **Mandarin Language** (10 credits): Students take an intensive Mandarin language course at the intermediate level or above. In addition to the classroom time, students meet four hours per week with Chinese students who serve as peer tutors to assist our students in language acquisition. At all language levels there is an emphasis on China and Beijing as classroom. (This change increases the required language credits on site.)
- **Understanding China course** (3 credits): This is a new required course for all Skidmore program participants. It is yet to be fully developed but it will mirror the course IES delivers for our London First-Year Experience called “Understanding Britain”. The course will explore a range of issues, both contemporary and historical, in an attempt to grapple with China’s past, present and future. The course will provide the broadest possible overview of Chinese history, politics and society to prepare students for their courses, travel and semester in China. Lectures will be supplemented by relevant field visits throughout Beijing.
- **One (1) IES program course** (3 credits): Students choose one (1) content course from those offered to all IES Beijing program students. In these classes, Skidmore students are integrated with other IES Beijing students. All courses are taught in English. Course
options could include an internship placement. See Appendix D for current course offerings for the IES Beijing program. (This change decreases the number of IES program courses students take to allow for an increase in language credits.)

- This track will have a language pre-requisite of one year of Mandarin. (This is the same requirement the current program has for all students.)

**Area Studies Program:**

This program track will be a new addition to the Beijing program. The curriculum will include the following courses:

- *Mandarin Language* (6 credits): Students take an intensive Mandarin language course at the beginning level or above. In addition to the classroom time, students meet four hours per week with Chinese students who serve as peer tutors to assist our students in language acquisition. At all language levels there is an emphasis on China and Beijing as classroom.

- *Understanding China course* (3 credits): This is a new required course for all Skidmore program participants. It is yet to be fully developed but it will mirror the course IES delivers for our London First-Year Experience called “Understanding Britain”. The course will explore a range of issues, both contemporary and historical, in an attempt to grapple with China’s past, present and future. The course will provide the broadest possible overview of Chinese history, politics and society to prepare students for their courses, travel and semester in China. Lectures will be supplemented by relevant field visits throughout Beijing.

- *Two (2) IES program courses* (3 credits each): Students choose two (2) content courses from those offered to all IES Beijing program students. In these classes, Skidmore students are integrated with other IES Beijing students. All courses are taught in English. Course options could include an internship placement. See Appendix D for current course offerings for the IES Beijing program.

- This track will not have a language pre-requisite but can accommodate all language levels.

**ACADEMIC PROGRAM - SHANGHAI**

The Shanghai program is developed for students interested in international business and those wanting to explore economic and social development in China. Programming focuses on the city’s economic influence and prominence in the increasingly influential Chinese economy. The program also focuses on how the city’s growth has affected its culture and people.

The Skidmore in China program will provide two “tracks” in Shanghai: the Business Studies Program and the 21st Century China Program. These two tracks mirror IES Abroad’s tracks and will allow students to integrate into many of the preexisting courses for all IES students.

**Business Studies Program:**

This track will allow students to learn more about the intricacies of Chinese business mentality and strategies through classroom lectures focusing on topics such as the political economy of China and marketing; internship placements in international and local companies; and interactions with both Chinese and overseas business professionals. This program is ideal for
students interested in Chinese and international business practices, and leverages all that Shanghai has to offer as an economic hub.

This track is organized by IES Abroad in partnership with the Shanghai University of Finance and Economics (SUFE), a highly ranked university in China. This research university focuses on applied economics and management and has been associated with Shanghai’s rapid rise in recent years as a major world center for business and finance.

The curriculum consists of the following courses:

- **Mandarin Language** (6 credits): Students take an intensive Mandarin language course at the beginning level or above. In addition to the classroom time, students meet four hours per week with Chinese students who serve as peer tutors to assist our students in language acquisition. At all language levels there is an emphasis on China and Shanghai as classroom.

- **Understanding China course** (3 credits): This is a new required course for all Skidmore program participants. It is yet to be fully developed but it will mirror the course IES delivers for our London First-Year Experience called “Understanding Britain”. The course will explore a range of issues, both contemporary and historical, in an attempt to grapple with China’s past, present and future. The course will provide the broadest possible overview of Chinese history, politics and society to prepare students for their courses, travel and semester in China. Lectures will be supplemented by relevant field visits throughout Shanghai.

- **Two (2) IES program courses** (3 credits each): Students choose two (2) content courses from those offered to all IES Shanghai program students. In these classes, Skidmore students are integrated with other IES Shanghai students. All courses are taught in English. Course options could include an internship placement. See Appendix E for current course offerings in the Shanghai Business Studies Program.

- This track will not have a language pre-requisite but can accommodate all language levels.

It is important to note the internship opportunities in this track. Students will be able to participate in the IES Shanghai internship course and placements. Placements are supervised and offered as academic options earning 3 credits. They are designed to introduce students to the practical realities of Chinese society and professional life. Past placement locations have included:

- Bureau of Statistics
- Jungdu Futures Brokerage
- PriceWa
terHouseCooper – China
- Deloitte
- Ping’an Insurance
- Bank of Shanghai
- Industrial and Commercial Bank of China
- Pepsi Co. International
- Welldone Law Office
- U.S. Embassy – Commercial Section
- *The Economist* magazine
- China Radio International
- *L.A. Times*
21st Century China Program:

This track will be organized by IES Shanghai in partnership with the School of Social Development and Public Policy at Fudan University. Founded in 1905, Fudan University is one of the highest ranked universities in China. It is located just north of downtown Shanghai and is near Shanghai’s extensive subway system allowing for easier access to the city at large. Fudan offers a modern campus with many facilities open to our students.

The curriculum is designed to allow first-hand study of Shanghai in comparison to other great Asian cities and to capitalize on China’s changing society, history and booming economic climate. One of the distinctive features of this program are the elective joint IES-Fudan courses taught in English give student the rare opportunity to study alongside Chinese peers.

Specific courses will include:

- **Mandarin Language** (6 credits): Students take an intensive Mandarin language course at the beginning level or above. In addition to the classroom time, students meet four hours per week with Chinese students who serve as peer tutors to assist our students in language acquisition. At all language levels there is an emphasis on China and Shanghai as classroom.

- **Understanding China course** (3 credits): This is a new required course for all Skidmore program participants. It is yet to be fully developed but it will mirror the course IES delivers for our London First-Year Experience called “Understanding Britain”. The course will explore a range of issues, both contemporary and historical, in an attempt to grapple with China’s past, present and future. The course will provide the broadest possible overview of Chinese history, politics and society to prepare students for their courses, travel and semester in China. Lectures will be supplemented by relevant field visits throughout Shanghai.

- **Two (2) IES program courses** (3 credits each): Students choose two (2) content courses from those offered to all IES Shanghai program students. In these classes, Skidmore students are integrated with other IES Shanghai students. All courses are taught in English. Course options could include an internship placement. See Appendix F for current course offerings in the Shanghai 21st Century China Program.

- This track *will not have a language pre-requisite* but can accommodate all language levels.

**FIELD TRIPS, EXCURSIONS AND ACTIVITIES**

The Skidmore in China program will provide students with important opportunities to experience Beijing and Shanghai in significant ways. The program will begin and end with intensive pre- and post-program seminars in Beijing and Shanghai. The goal is to orient students to China in Beijing and to provide an opportunity to bring together their academic and personal experiences in Shanghai. All students studying in both cities will participate in these sessions. In addition, the program will provide regular cultural activities in both Beijing and Shanghai that will be linked to the curriculum and developed specifically to enhance students’ knowledge of topics being studied in class.

Students in the Beijing program will participate in a two-week excursion organized for all IES Beijing students. Typically, the excursion allows students to explore the Silk Road route or Northeastern China. Students witness natural landscapes that remain untouched by development, visit and observe ethnic minority groups in the region, and live with families from
local villages. Students can also participate in long weekend trips to areas of cultural interest, including Anyang, Pingyao, Shaolin, and Wutai Shan. The excursion and field trips are designed to balance the urban Beijing living experience with exposure to the vastness of China's countryside and the diversity of its ethnic mix.

In Beijing students also participate in cultural events and guest lectures. Visits to historical sites in and around Beijing may be supplemented with a movie festival, a food festival, a singing contest and/or a quiz show. All activities involve the local community to encourage students to meet new people and expand their social network.

Students in the Shanghai program will participate in an excursion directly related to the core curriculum that serves as an extension of the classroom and provides students a comparative contrast between Shanghai and Taiwan. They will visit Taipei, the capital of Taiwan, a highly modern example of pre-communist Chinese culture that is steeped in religious, culinary and traditional values. The trip will consist of lectures and visits highlighting Taiwan's past and present role in international relations and its contemporary politics, economy and culture.

In Shanghai, many clubs and events are also open to our students on their respective campuses, enhancing their opportunities for engaging with local and international students. These include student clubs, volunteer opportunities, and informal sports teams. The program also hosts cultural events and guest lectures for the general student body and for individual courses. Throughout the semester, there will be short trips to sites of historic and cultural interest in and around Shanghai.

**HOUSING AND FACILITIES**

In Beijing students may choose to share a room in a residence hall on the Bei Wai campus with a Chinese student or to reside in a homestay with a Chinese family. Students who elect to live in a residence hall may opt to stay with a Chinese family for a short period during the semester, perhaps over the fall break or during one or more weekends. Students have full access to the IES facilities in Beijing, located on the campus of Beijing Foreign Studies University (Bei Wai). Our students have access to IES computers networked for high-speed internet access. Library access is more restrictive than what our students might be used to. Students will have access to an English-language library at the IES Center and to the general facilities at Bei Wai.

Students in Shanghai may choose to live with a Chinese family or live in student apartments at the Tonghe International Student Village, which is adjacent to Fudan University where the IES Shanghai Center is based. Our students will live with other IES and international students. Computer and internet access is available in the apartments, as well as on the Fudan campus. Students have access to the Fudan campus library.

Both programs provide a living stipend to cover meals and local transportation. Students are covered by both Skidmore’s and IES’s medical and emergency insurance.

**PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION AT SKIDMORE**

Following the structure we have in place for our current China program, the OCSE will work with IES Abroad in China and Chicago to coordinate admission, housing, and billing issues. OCSE has a Program Manager who works with IES to ensure that all matters of pre-departure advising
and preparation are covered. The OCSE Program Manager also serves as the liaison between students and parents and the staff of IES in Chicago and China.

**PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION IN CHINA**

In line with the current structure, the program will be administered and supported in China by the staff of the IES Beijing and IES Shanghai Centers. In consultation with Skidmore’s OCSE, the IES staff oversees the academic components of the program, manages the administration of the program, and provides significant support to our students. IES provides pre-departure information and support, including arranging housing for the students; distributing the students’ living stipends; providing on-site orientation; arranging cultural activities throughout the program; and providing a re-entry debriefing for the students before they return to the States.

**PROGRAM FEE AND FINANCIAL AID**

As with other Skidmore programs overseas, students will be charged Skidmore’s comprehensive fee for participating on the Skidmore in China program. Students may use their entire financial aid package toward this program. Students will be billed directly by the Bursar’s Office.

**FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS**

IES Abroad currently charges Skidmore between $14,000 and $16,500 per student. The amount depends on the number of students we enroll each fall and decreases with a larger number of students. IES has agreed to a minimum of 6 students across all four tracks of the Skidmore in China program. This means we must have at least six students combined across both cities to run the program. They have not set a maximum for the number of students we may send. Given the enhancements to the program, we expect the per student fee to reach the higher end of this scale. Obviously, even an increase in the fee would still result in a net revenue to the College.
APPENDIX A: PROPOSED SKIDMORE IN CHINA PROGRAM MODEL

SKIDMORE IN CHINA

BEIJING

- Language Program
  - language pre-requisite = 1 year Mandarin
  - 9 credits of Mandarin
  - 3 credit Understanding China course
  - 3 credit IES program course

- Area Studies Program
  - no language prerequisite
  - 6 credits Mandarin
  - 3 credit Understanding China course
  - 6 credits IES program courses

SHANGHAI

- Business Studies Program
  - no language prerequisite
  - 6 credits Mandarin
  - 3 credit Understanding China course
  - 6 credits IES program courses

- 21st Century China Program
  - no language prerequisite
  - 6 credits Mandarin
  - 3 credit Understanding China course
  - 6 credits IES program courses

All programs:
- Required on-site language course
- Understanding China course
- Week-long pre- and post-program "seminars" in Beijing and Shanghai respectively
- Internship options
- Homestay or residence halls option
## APPENDIX B: STUDENT ENROLLMENTS IN CHINA FALL 2006-FALL 2011

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<th>City of Study</th>
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<tr>
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<td>2 non-Skidmore programs</td>
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<td>Non-Skidmore program</td>
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<td>2011</td>
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<td>Non-Skidmore programs</td>
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APPENDIX C: IES ABROAD

THE INSTITUTE FOR THE INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION OF STUDENTS (IES)

Skidmore has had a successful affiliation with The Institute for the International Education of Students (IES) since 1981. As an institution, Skidmore has a long history of active participation in and support of IES. During the 2003-2004 academic year, over 30% of Skidmore students who studied abroad participated on an IES program. Throughout the years our faculty and administrators have served on any number of committees, including the Academic Council, Curriculum Committee, Program Development Advisory Committees, and Curriculum Audit Committees. Skidmore faculty and administrators have also participated in a variety of site evaluations, conferences, and workshops. In addition, former Skidmore president David Porter currently chairs the IES Board of Directors.

IES, founded in 1950, is a global non-profit study abroad organization with 27 academic programs worldwide. As a consortium comprised of more than 155 selective U.S. universities and colleges, IES enrolls more than 3,500 students annually in their study abroad programs. Their mission is “to provide students and U.S. colleges and universities with high-quality academic study abroad programs that foster intercultural development.” IES is one of the leaders in the field of study abroad due to their continued dedication to academic rigor, health and safety, and to providing a wide range of opportunities for students.

IES is a solid academic organization with a governance system similar to that seen on most campuses. The IES Academic Council, comprised of elected Consortium Members and IES staff, oversees IES program quality control by setting educational policy for IES, advising the IES President concerning all academic matters, and providing for systematic contact between the member institutions and IES both abroad and in the U.S. Member school faculty participate in the IES Curriculum Committee, which reviews all IES syllabi and compliance with the standards set forth by the IES assessment model, as well as in several other academic task forces. IES also conducts regular curriculum audits. The current areas under review are Psychology, Education, Biology, Health Sciences, and Communications. (See Attachment “IES Governance” for details.)

IES CUSTOMIZED PROGRAMS

For more than 50 years, IES has offered programs that are specifically designed to meet the exclusive needs of a college or university. Their customized programs provide a strong framework that attracts students and engages faculty; the appropriate location to ground the academic focus; quality resources and facilities, including appropriate classroom and living spaces to ensure a successful experience; on-site support for academics, health and safety, and field study; and a positive intercultural experience. IES does the groundwork so that the school can focus on teaching, recruiting, and advising students.

In the 2003-2004 academic year, IES carried out 33 customized programs with a total enrollment of 500 students. Schools with whom IES worked on these programs included Austin College, Brandeis University, Carleton College, East Carolina University, Furman University, Indiana University, North Carolina State University, Northwestern University, Purdue University, Santa Clara University, Simmons College, University of California San Diego, University of
Chicago, University of Illinois at Chicago, University of Iowa, University of Minnesota, University of Missouri-Columbia, and University of Texas at Austin.

HEALTH AND SAFETY CONSIDERATIONS

While the safety and security of our students are always important considerations in the development and administration of a program overseas, the current global climate forces us to concentrate on this area with even greater intensity. A benefit of working with IES Abroad is that they have a solid support staff in place in Beijing and Shanghai with whom our students and faculty directors can work during emergencies or times of crisis. The staff in China will be available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week to support our students with any health issues. IES Abroad also will provide health and medical evacuation insurance for our students.

In addition, the IES staff has extensive experience with crisis management and is well aware of the appropriate measures to take in a major or minor emergency. We will depend on the staff at the IES Beijing and Shanghai Centers to maintain communication with several important constituents: with the American Embassy to register our students and to receive updates about local and global situations; with the Office of International Programs at Skidmore to ensure adequate preparation for and timely response to emergencies; with colleagues within the field of international education here and in China and Asia to stay informed about ongoing local and international concerns; and with our students in China to educate them regarding personal safety concerns. IES Abroad has a well-developed emergency response and evacuation plan and will also provide extensive materials on personal safety and emergency response during the on-site orientation.
# APPENDIX D: IES BEIJING PROGRAM COURSES FOR 2010-2011

This is a list of potential course offerings. Final course offerings will be available during the pre-registration or registration process, after admission to the IES program.

All Syllabi are in PDF Format.

### ARTS
- AR180 Chinese Calligraphy (Fall, Spring)
- AH301 Contemporary Art in China (Fall)

### CHINESE
- CN220-452 Intermediate-Advanced Chinese (Fall, Spring)
- CN380 Classical Chinese (Spring)
- CN381 Theater Performance Workshop (Spring)
- **CN 382 Advanced Topics in Chinese-English Literary Translation (Fall, Spring)**

### FILM STUDIES
- FS381 Cinematic Reflections of Social Change in Modern China (Spring)

### GENDER STUDIES
- LT/WS/GS321 Gender and Sexuality in Modern Chinese Literature (Spring)

### GOVERNMENT
- GO315 Chinese Government and Politics (Fall)
- GO/SO331 Labor Movement and Social Change in China (Spring)

### HISTORY
- HS331 Late Imperial China: The Age of Empires and Imperialism
- HS332 20th Century China: A Century of Revolution (Spring)

### INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS
- IB/MG325 Doing Business in China (Fall, Spring)

### INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS
- IR303 A Changing China in International Affairs (Spring)

### INTERNSHIP
- IN395 Internship Seminar (Fall, Spring)

### LITERATURE
- LT/WS/GS321 Gender and Sexuality in Modern Chinese Literature (Spring)

### MANAGEMENT
IB/MG325 Doing Business in China (Fall, Spring)

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<th>SOCIOLOGY</th>
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<tr>
<td>SO301 Contemporary Issues in China (Fall, Spring)</td>
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<td>GO/SO331 Labor Movement and Social Change in China (Spring)</td>
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<td>SO303 Gender and Sexuality in Modern Chinese Literature (Spring)</td>
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<th>WOMEN’S STUDIES</th>
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<td>LT/WS/GS321 Gender and Sexuality in Modern Chinese Literature (Spring)</td>
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</table>
This is a list of potential course offerings. Final course offerings will be available during the pre-registration or registration process, after admission to the IES Abroad program.

### CHINESE LANGUAGE

**Beginning**
- CN101 - Beginning Chinese

**Intermediate**
- CN201 - Intermediate Chinese I
- CN301 - Advanced Intermediate Chinese I
- CN302 - Advanced Intermediate Chinese II

**Advanced**
- CN401 - Advanced Chinese

### ASIAN STUDIES

**IB/MK/AS325** - Marketing in China (Fall, Spring)

**PH/AS/RL120** - An Introduction to Classical Chinese Philosophy and Religion

### ECONOMICS

**IB/EC315** - International Trade (Fall, Spring)

### FINANCE

**FI/IB345** - International Corporate Finance (Fall, Spring)

### INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS

**IB301** - Corporate Strategy (Fall, Spring)

**FI/IB345** - International Corporate Finance (Fall, Spring)

**IB/EC315** - International Trade (Fall, Spring)

**IB/MK/AS325** - Marketing in China (Fall, Spring)

### INTERNSHIP

**IN395** - Business Internship Seminar (Fall, Spring)

### MARKETING

**IB/MK/AS325** - Marketing in China (Fall, Spring)

### PHILOSOPHY

**PH/AS/RL120** - An Introduction to Classical Chinese Philosophy and Religion (Fall, Spring)

### RELIGIOUS STUDIES

**PH/AS/RL120** - An Introduction to Classical Chinese Philosophy and Religion (Fall, Spring)
APPENDIX F: IES SHANGHAI 21ST CENTURY CHINA PROGRAM COURSES 2010-2011

This is a list of potential course offerings. Final course offerings will be available during the pre-registration or registration process, after admission to the IES Abroad program.

All Syllabi are in PDF Format.

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<td>IB/MK/AN345 - The Chinese Market (Fall, Spring)</td>
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AS/US350 The Chinese Metropolis: Shanghai in Comparative Perspective (Fall, Spring)