

Course Evaluation——Chinese Culture

Rutgers Van Veenen (The Netherland)

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For the course *Chinese culture* I had the luck to get classes from Professor Xie Ling.

Before I came to China, I knew Chinese culture was different from the culture back in the Netherlands. So the opportunity that Shandong University gave me to follow the course on this topic was really welcomed. My expectation about the course was high, because I didn't have any prior understanding of Chinese culture. So everything that professor Xie Ling told me was very useful and helpful to me.

I personally was very interested on the topic of the elderly. In the Netherlands we have a big group of old people and we have a particular way to deal with them. During the course, I found out that Chinese society deal very differently with the elderly than we do. Professor Xie told us about her personal family life and how Chinese Society is dealing with the tradition and value, and how this is translated in the modern society. Because of China's rapid development, things have changed fast and sometime the economic changes don't fit in the cultural values of Chinese people. We had a broad discussion on this topic and other students from other nations like Nigeria and Kazakhstan, etc., told their cultural aspects of their societies. This was very interesting and I found out that other cultures do things very different from us.

In the Netherlands, culture is a mixture of other cultures because we are so small that we are influenced by other cultures and we take pieces from that. Culture itself for us was not so important because we are used to other cultures and their believes, religions and values. However, China is different from this. It is the biggest country in the world and has a very old deep-rooted culture that is still very important for people and society. Therefore I think it is very useful to have courses about Chinese culture especially at

this University.

This opportunity was for me personally great and I really enjoyed the classes given by Professor Xie Ling.

I hope every person from abroad will have the chance to follow the Course of *Chinese Culture* because it provides you with a better understanding of China and its people and this will eventually help you personally.