

Home Institution

- Middlebury College
- Other Institution

If other than Middlebury, please indicate your home institution:

.....

Your year of (expected) graduation:

- 2009
- 2010
- 2011
- 2012
- 2013

At which site did you study?

- Beijing (not J-term)
- Hangzhou
- Kunming
- Beijing then Hangzhou
- Beijing then Kunming
- Hangzhou then Beijing (for spring semester)
- Hangzhou then Kunming
- Kunming then Beijing (for spring semester)
- Kunming then Hangzhou

What was the period of your study abroad?

- 2008-2009 Fall Semester
- 2008-2009 - Spring Semester
- 2008-2009 - Academic Year
- 2007-2008-2009 - Spring then Fall Semester

Given that overseas educational systems differ significantly from our own, please reflect on your adjustment to your host country's educational environment. What effects did this different academic environment have on how you learned, both inside and outside the classroom? In what ways did you benefit from being in a different academic environment.

I really appreciated how well-informed our Hangzhou professors were. They absolutely had general perspectives that were shaped by the somewhat restrictive social environment that they live in, but they were usually able to transcend general social prejudices, understanding that we foreigners were all used to a very different lifestyle and consequently had perspectives that differed significantly from theirs. I sometimes felt frustrated by some of the differences I encountered studying in China -- less classroom discussion, more dictated facts -- but I also found that I was able to learn as much about the way Chinese people tend to view a particular topic as I did about the class's basic material. Studying in China also helped me to appreciate a bit more the academic environment and learning opportunities I have in the U.S., particularly that I can express my opinions on all things without needing to worry too much about the restrictive political environment or social repercussions.

AFTER studying abroad, how do you now view the differences/similarities between the culture of your host country and that of your own?

	Identical	Very Similar	Mostly Similar	Somewhat Different	Very Different
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Please Comment:

It really depends on what aspect of Chinese/American culture anyone is referring to -- I found that I had some "values" in common with my Chinese friends and others that I met during my travels, etc. (time with family and friends, finding success, etc.), but the way we all manifest these in our daily lives are a bit different.

How has study abroad influenced your understanding of your host culture? In what ways has it influenced your perceptions of American culture?

Studying abroad has very significantly deepened my understanding of Chinese culture. Reading about Chinese culture and really experiencing it are two entirely different things, especially if you really get involved in the culture (rather than remaining a tourist by viewing it from the outside) during study abroad. I feel like I have a much more solid understanding of a "Chinese perspective" than I did previously. Perspectives vary among different people, of course, but I think that there is a very definite Chinese approach to many problems that differs from the general American one, and I think that without this developing understanding, a lot of what I saw and experienced in China would not have made very much sense. My perception of American culture has also changed quite a bit -- the U.S. has a lot of things right, but it seems like a few of our cultural priorities are in the wrong place. I do, though, very much appreciate my freedoms here, especially the lack of restriction I feel in discussing relatively heated or "taboo" topics, and the knowledge that my opinion will, in some way, end up being heard and considered.

In what ways has study abroad contributed to your personal growth? What personal characteristics did you find most useful during your time abroad?

Study abroad has absolutely made me more independent and confident in myself. I have never been a particularly passive person, but I certainly leaned pretty heavily on my group of friends and classmates for a constant source of support. I now feel that I am more able to more deeply appreciate my friendships and relationships with my family members without relying on them to such a great extent. Actually, I think it is my new ability to be comfortable on my own that has allowed me to realize and more fully appreciate the truly wonderful relationships that I do have. During study abroad, I found that the most important personal characteristics to draw upon include a sense of adventure, desire for exploration and independence, and most of all, keeping an open mind. These are all pretty key to a good abroad experience -- otherwise, I think it would be really easy to be overwhelmed and unhappy abroad. If you regard each day as a new adventure and something to look forward to by involving yourself locally, it is much easier to adjust to life abroad, easier to make living abroad more manageable, and possible to make being abroad really fun.

How has study abroad influenced your academic and career goals? How has it influenced your personal goals?

My academic goals have remained pretty consistent throughout my abroad experience -- I want to continue studying Chinese and other related fields (literature, history, culture, etc.). However, I have decided to pursue a more definite career path related to Chinese, possibly something in translating, interpreting, or teaching. I know that I don't want to live in China, but I want to make sure to stay involved in China and Chinese while living in the U.S. Otherwise, study abroad has encouraged me to stay independent, stay committed to the good priorities I have kept and developed, and continue to pursue things that I see as truly worthwhile and meaningful in life.

What was your housing situation during your study abroad?

- Homestay
- Dormitory/Student Residence/Foyer
- Apartment
- Other (please describe)

Do you feel that your housing situation provided you with an opportunity to integrate into the host culture, and/or provided you a context for gaining insight into the host culture?

					Very helpful in terms of fostering insights and/or my integration
	Not at all - it was isolating	Somewhat helpful, but less than I expected	As helpful as I expected	Somewhat more helpful than I'd expected	
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>

Please comment on your response to the question above.

I had an absolutely wonderful Chinese roommate during my time in Hangzhou, and spending a great deal of time with her did a lot to help me integrate into the local culture. She was very supportive without being overbearing, and introduced me to many of her friends, who I ended up spending lots of time with as well. It was nice to have the build-in support and initial social connection at the start of the semester, and as the semester continued, I really appreciated knowing that I had, no matter what, a local friend and companion that I could count on for general support and honest friendship.

Did you take courses alongside students from the host country?

- Yes
- No

Did you participate in any extra-curricular activities or internships?

- Yes
- No

If you answered yes to the question above, were your extra-curricular activities helpful in assisting your integration into the host culture?

	Not helpful		Somewhat helpful		Very helpful
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Please describe the extra-curricular activities or internship in which you participated, and make any additional comments about these activities that you think would be helpful to Middlebury staff or future students.

I took a cooking class and a calligraphy class while in Hangzhou, and I would definitely recommend these to future program participants. These classes had Chinese teachers but were only open to the other Americans on my program, so in that sense they didn't do much to help with integration into the host culture. But, I was very happy to have the connection to both of these teachers, since I learned a great deal from them (both about the subject they taught me and about Chinese culture/their particular views about life), and taking these classes also helped to provide me with a few topics of conversation (other than school-related things) to discuss with other local Chinese that I met.

What kind of progress did you make in your listening comprehension of the language?

	No improvement	Little improvement	Improved somewhat	Improved	Very much improved
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>

What kind of progress did you make in your ability to read in the language?

	No improvement	Little improvement	Improved somewhat	Improved	Very much improved
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

What kind of progress did you make in your ability to write in the language?

	No improvement	Little improvement	Improved somewhat	Improved	Very much improved
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

What kind of progress did you make in your ability to speak in the language?

	No improvement	Little improvement	Improved somewhat	Improved	Very much improved
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>

Please comment on the progress you made in your target language. Was it greater or less than you had expected? What do you think were some of the factors that contributed to your progress (or lack thereof), either on your own part or on the part of the program? Do you have any specific suggestions for the program and/or for future students that pertain to language learning?

I definitely made a lot of progress in all of the areas mentioned above, but my most significant progress was definitely in my speaking and listening abilities. I was fairly proficient in writing and reading Chinese before going to China (although I certainly made a lot of progress on these fronts as well), but needing to speak the language every day made a huge impact on my level of improvement in that area. My progress, especially in speaking, which I had always had a bit of a hard time with before going to China, was much greater than I had expected -- I feel almost completely fluent now, and definitely attribute that to the approach I took to life in China. The program definitely did a lot to contribute to the progress I made, but I think that the biggest factor in my progress was the fact that I really only spoke Chinese during my time in China. I kept the language pledge quite rigorously, and, for the most part, only associated with Chinese friends outside of classes. This helped me to get used to the way the language was spoken outside of an academic environment, but also helped to reduce any remaining temptation to speak English with other English speakers on the trip. I would definitely suggest spending as much time as possible with local people to future students on the trip -- not only do you get to learn about the culture in a lot more depth, you also will improve massively in your speaking abilities (out of necessity, partly, but also simply out of frequent, intense language use).

Are there any particular academic strengths of your host university/program that you would recommend to other students?

- Yes
- No

Please explain:

All of my classes were great, but the one-on-one is something that is a wonderful opportunity -- take as much advantage of this chance as possible.

Are there any particular academic weaknesses of which other students should also be aware?

- Yes
- No

Please explain:

The program is a bit of a foreign bubble -- do what you can to make your way out of it.

Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

"I learned a great deal in this course."

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

"The instructor's teaching in this course was effective."

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Hangzhou Studies: Please tell us about this course.

Means of assessment (e.g., papers, exams, homework, etc.)

Assessment was totally in the form of oral reports at the end of each week and also included randomly selected students to take a small "quiz" from the reading at the start of each class period.

Describe course content

An introduction to various elements of life in Hangzhou, which usually related to Hangzhou's place context and unique qualities within China.

Please describe the means by which the material/concepts for this course were conveyed, particularly if the teaching style was different from what you are used to.

We mostly needed to learn the course material individually. We received packets of information at the start of each week, read them, and then committed necessary information to memory for the oral exam at the end of the week. Class time was mostly spend re-reading/reviewing the packet matieral and perhaps viewing some related photographs.

Other comments about this course:

It got pretty repetative (always a packet of information, always the same approach in class), but the information was all pretty interesting.

Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

"I learned a great deal in this course."

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

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One-on-One Tutorial: Please tell us about this course.

Course Title

Traditional Chinese Theater and Popular Chinese Music

Means of assessment (e.g., papers, exams, homework, etc.)

Either an oral exam or a paper was due at the end of each week (the two alternated every other week), I had a small memorization quiz and had to answer questions at the beginning of each class, and we had an oral midterm and final presentation, as well as a final paper.

Describe course content

My course's content focused in traditional theater forms in China and the development of Beijing opera, as well as the development of popular music after the Cultural Revolution and the many musical styles that evolved out of this period.

Please describe the means by which the material/concepts for this course were conveyed, particularly if the teaching style was different from what you are used to.

Like most of my other courses, I had a packet of information, read it, and then memorized necessary information. My teacher also supplemented during classes with videos and recordings, which helped a great deal to bring the material more to life.

Other comments about this course:

Very enjoyable -- a very worthwhile opportunity.

Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

"I learned a great deal in this course."

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

"The instructor's teaching in this course was effective."

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Selected Readings in Modern Literature: Please tell us about this course.

Means of assessment (e.g., papers, exams, homework, etc.)

An exam once per week, occasional homework, dictation quizzes, and a paper every other week.

Describe course content

An introduction to the short fiction of modern China -- stories by Lu Xun, Hu Shi, etc.

Please describe the means by which the material/concepts for this course were conveyed, particularly if the teaching style was different from what you are used to.

This was more of a language course than a literature course. The focus was on the vocabulary and grammar in the story rather than on discussion of the stories themselves.

Other comments about this course:

Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

"I learned a great deal in this course."

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

"The instructor's teaching in this course was effective."

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Chinese Newspaper Reading: Please tell us about this course.

Means of assessment (e.g., papers, exams, homework, etc.)

An exam at the end of each week, weekly homework, and dictation quizzes at the beginning of each class period.

Describe course content

Selections from current Chinese newspapers that usually dealt with a particularly important issue from that week; other material was more entertaining (marriage patterns, sports stories, etc.).

Please describe the means by which the material/concepts for this course were conveyed, particularly if the teaching style was different from what you are used to.

The focus was on the grammar and vocabulary of the articles we read, but we also saw a short TV news clip at the end of class that was useful for applying what we were learning on paper.

Other comments about this course:

This was a great way to learn useful vocabulary and use it to learn about the Chinese view of current events.

Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

"I learned a great deal in this course."

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

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	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>

For the following questions, please rate your experience with Middlebury staff and staff abroad using the five-point scales provided.

Did Middlebury provide you with adequate information prior to departure?

	Poor		Good		Excellent
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>

Did Middlebury provide you with an appropriate orientation on arrival?

	Poor		Good		Excellent
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Did Middlebury provide you with sufficient support while you were abroad?

Poor

Good

Excellent

Were the on-site staff (Resident Director, Academic Director, Resident Coordinator, support staff, etc.) helpful to you during your study abroad?

Not helpful

Somewhat helpful

Very helpful

Were your on-site staff concerned about your general well being and success, and approachable?

- Not concerned or approachable
- Approachable, but not concerned
- Concerned, but not approachable
- Somewhat concerned and approachable
- Very concerned and approachable

Did you see or experience any form of discrimination or harassment in your host country?

- Yes
- No

If you answered yes to the question above, what advice would you give to future students? Likewise, if you have advice for Middlebury staff, please share that as well.

I wouldn't necessarily call this evident discrimination, but I got a lot of attention in China for being a white female. Most of this was totally innocent, but there were a few times that someone around me made me really uncomfortable (incessant, creepy staring; wouldn't appease my request for some personal space; followed me around, etc.). I would recommend that future students be reminded that, since China is a pretty homogeneous place, people who look different get a bit more attention since they don't fit in completely. I would also recommend general caution -- integration to Chinese life and independence are both important, but protecting yourself is too.

Would you recommend that other students attend this program or university? Why or why not?

- Yes
- No

Please explain:

A great way to learn about China and to experience being abroad in a safe, supportive, and intellectually challenging environment. A great experience overall.

What advice would you give to other students considering study abroad in general, and this program or university in particular?

I think that it is most important for students going abroad to keep an open mind and to be willing to participate in the local culture. Make your way outside the foreign bubble, stay independent and adventurous, and do the things you want to do to make your experience abroad as fulfilling as possible.



Middlebury

Middlebury Schools Abroad Evaluation for the 2008-2009 Academic Year/Spring Semester

Evaluating your period of study abroad is one of the most valuable services you can render Middlebury College and future students planning to study abroad, and it is one of the most important ways you can help us maintain the highest possible standards. For this reason, until this form is submitted to International Programs and Off Campus Study a hold will be placed on official Middlebury transcript requests for Middlebury College students who studied at Middlebury Schools Abroad. Please note: If you studied abroad for two semesters on two different programs, you must submit two separate evaluations.

The staff of International Programs and Off Campus Study welcomes the opportunity to hear about your experiences abroad; please feel free to stop by or call and talk with us!

This document contains respondents between 1 and 5 inclusive.

Home Institution

- Middlebury College
- Other Institution

If other than Middlebury, please indicate your home institution:

.....

Your year of (expected) graduation:

- 2009
- 2010
- 2011
- 2012
- 2013

At which site did you study?

- Beijing (not J-term)
- Hangzhou
- Kunming
- Beijing then Hangzhou
- Beijing then Kunming
- Hangzhou then Beijing (for spring semester)
- Hangzhou then Kunming
- Kunming then Beijing (for spring semester)
- Kunming then Hangzhou

What was the period of your study abroad?

- 2008-2009 Fall Semester
- 2008-2009 - Spring Semester
- 2008-2009 - Academic Year
- 2007-2008-2009 - Spring then Fall Semester

Given that overseas educational systems differ significantly from our own, please reflect on your adjustment to your host country's educational environment. What effects did this different academic environment have on how you learned, both inside and outside the classroom? In what ways did you benefit from being in a different academic environment.

China's college education system is actually a lot more lax than most people think it is. This made me feel a bit resentful towards my roommate, especially since I don't think our roommates were very aware of the level of work required and the amount of effort that we had no choice but to put into our work. The Chinese educational environment actually put me a little more at ease because they lacked the "play hard" concept that is apparent in American institutions, so I didn't feel like an antisocial wierdo for not going out drinking until 3 AM on weekends. I know that I was fairly exceptional in this though - most of my classmates would have preferred a much more lively atmosphere.

AFTER studying abroad, how do you now view the differences/similarities between the culture of your host country and that of your own?

	Identical	Very Similar	Mostly Similar	Somewhat Different	Very Different
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Please Comment:

Priorities (i.e. work, school, family) are quite different from in the U.S. Hierarchies of respect and deference and much stricter and more prevalent - authority isn't something to be questioned or challenged in any way (though you can gripe about unfairness and whatnot as much as you like so long as it's behind the backs of those with the authority). Attitudes about the proper purpose and methods of education are also very different. Relationships are much more easily forged, are more numerous, and are more carefully and steadily maintained (if only in terms of fulfilling the necessary conventions). But people are people no matter where they are and Chinese people as a whole have the same faults and strengths as the people of any other nation in the world.

How has study abroad influenced your understanding of your host culture? In what ways has it influenced your perceptions of American culture?

I feel like I have gained a more realistic sense of the paradoxes that exist in Chinese culture and why they exist. Studying abroad has caused me to think a lot about how to define American culture and how it came into being. It's also made me more aware of how complex and personal a thing culture really is, how many subsets it has, how much it exist in any certain environment, how it's changing in response to a changing world. It's also made me think about American economic and cultural dominance in a new way. Being immersed in "Chinese" culture has also made me more aware of (and yet more critical of) the idea of "preserving culture" and using it as a rallying point and method of identification.

In what ways has study abroad contributed to your personal growth? What personal characteristics did you find most useful during your time abroad?

Having to function on my own in a society and place that is unfamiliar to me has really boosted my confidence in my own abilities and has made me a bit more outgoing and trusting. My acute observational skills served me very well, helped me avoid bad situations and find good ones. The same can also be said of my inherent politeness and awareness of people around me.

How has study abroad influenced your academic and career goals? How has it influenced your personal goals?

Studying abroad helped me renew my career ambitions and made me want to scrap a lot of my academic ones. It made me hungry for life, but I was stuck in a classroom or doing homework in my room most of the time. Because of this conflict I also became painfully aware of the need to build on my self-discipline and find a way to reach better interior balance.

What was your housing situation during your study abroad?

- Homestay
- Dormitory/Student Residence/Foyer
- Apartment
- Other (please describe)

Do you feel that your housing situation provided you with an opportunity to integrate into the host culture, and/or provided you a context for gaining insight into the host culture?

					Very helpful in terms of fostering insights and/or my integration
	Not at all - it was isolating	Somewhat helpful, but less than I expected	As helpful as I expected	Somewhat more helpful than I'd expected	
	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Please comment on your response to the question above.

Chinese roommates are a great idea, but because all the foreign students lived in the same building, we either couldn't or wouldn't get away from each other. Thus we became isolated from the rest of the Chinese students and several of us didn't connect with our roommates as well as we had hoped. Instead of our roommates acting as liaisons into Chinese culture, many of them instead became liaisons into American culture for their friends and family

Did you take courses alongside students from the host country?

- Yes
- No

If you answered yes to the question above, how well do you feel that your mainstream classes helped you to develop relationships with nationals of the host country or integrate into the host culture?

- Poor
- Neutral
- Helpful
- Very Helpful
- Not Applicable

Comments

Did you participate in any extra-curricular activities or internships?

Yes

No

If you answered yes to the question above, were your extra-curricular activities helpful in assisting your integration into the host culture?

Not helpful

Somewhat helpful

Very helpful

Please describe the extra-curricular activities or internship in which you participated, and make any additional comments about these activities that you think would be helpful to Middlebury staff or future students.

Because the extra-curriculars I took part in were all with foreign students only, they weren't very "immersive." I learned a lot about Chinese culture, but didn't really make my way into it.

What kind of progress did you make in your listening comprehension of the language?

No improvement

Little improvement

Improved somewhat

Improved

Very much improved

What kind of progress did you make in your ability to read in the language?

No improvement

Little improvement

Improved somewhat

Improved

Very much improved

What kind of progress did you make in your ability to write in the language?

No improvement

Little improvement

Improved somewhat

Improved

Very much improved

What kind of progress did you make in your ability to speak in the language?

No improvement

Little improvement

Improved somewhat

Improved

Very much improved

Please comment on the progress you made in your target language. Was it greater or less than you had expected? What do you think were some of the factors that contributed to your progress (or lack thereof), either on your own part or on the part of the program? Do you have any specific suggestions for the program and/or for future students that pertain to language learning?

My progress was perhaps a little more than I expected. My fluency, pronunciation, and usage are miles better than it was and improved significantly more than I expected them to, but I felt like my foundational grammar never really got the boost up that it needed. Because most of the classes that I took didn't focus on grammatical practice, I feel like my grammar may even have gotten a bit worse and more convoluted because of the many different levels of grammar that I was encountering in my classes without much of a structure to put them into.

Are there any particular academic strengths of your host university/program that you would recommend to other students?

- Yes
- No

Please explain:

.....

Are there any particular academic weaknesses of which other students should also be aware?

- Yes
- No

Please explain:

.....

Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

"I learned a great deal in this course."

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Speaking & Pronunciation (1 on 2): Please tell us about this course.

Means of assessment (e.g., papers, exams, homework, etc.)

1 oral exam per week

Describe course content

dialogues vocabulary, set phrases and some grammar points

Please describe the means by which the material/concepts for this course were conveyed, particularly if the teaching style was different from what you are used to.

teaching style was about the same as what I was used to from summer school and some aspects of 1st and 2nd year Chinese, but with much heavier emphasis on correct pronunciation and fluency

Other comments about this course:

Effective in terms of fluency, usage, and pronunciation, but I would have liked more emphasis on grammar

Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

"I learned a great deal in this course."

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

"The instructor's teaching in this course was effective."

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

One-on-One Tutorial: Please tell us about this course.

Course Title

Traditional Chinese Holidays and Ceremonies

Means of assessment (e.g., papers, exams, homework, etc.)

1 oral exam and 1 essay every two weeks, 2 memorization quizzes per week

Describe course content

long essays researched and written by the instructor on topics which I usually suggested

Please describe the means by which the material/concepts for this course were conveyed, particularly if the teaching style was different from what you are used to.

teaching style somewhat unfamiliar; included both a structure read-through of the course materials and more free-from discussion stemming from points in the course material

Other comments about this course:

Got better as it went along, especially when we stopped going through the course material readings together sentence by sentence

Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

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Selected Readings in Modern Literature: Please tell us about this course.

Means of assessment (e.g., papers, exams, homework, etc.)

2 weekly quizzes, 1 short essay every two weeks, 1 long essay and 1 oral presentation every two weeks

Describe course content

several short stories in Modern Chinese by various authors throughout the 20th century

Please describe the means by which the material/concepts for this course were conveyed, particularly if the teaching style was different from what you are used to.

structured read through, analysis, and discussion of short stories, similar in content and depth to an advanced high school lit course

Other comments about this course:

Loved the course content - highly relevant, interesting, and thought-provoking; wanted more vocab lists! would've made my life so much easier

Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

"I learned a great deal in this course."

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>

Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

"The instructor's teaching in this course was effective."

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>

Classical Chinese: Please tell us about this course.

Means of assessment (e.g., papers, exams, homework, etc.)

2 quizzes, 2 translation assignments, and 1 exam (including, grammar, vocab, and essay sections) per week

Describe course content

several readings from various influential texts in their original Classical Chinese, spanning over 1000 years of Chinese history

Please describe the means by which the material/concepts for this course were conveyed, particularly if the teaching style was different from what you are used to.

structured in-class translation that also emphasized grammar and vocabulary, shorter discussions of context and theme

Other comments about this course:

Great all around: strengthened my interest in the language itself and included very relevant and thought-provoking texts

Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

"I learned a great deal in this course."

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>

Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

"The instructor's teaching in this course was effective."

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>

For the following questions, please rate your experience with Middlebury staff and staff abroad using the five-point scales provided.

Did Middlebury provide you with adequate information prior to departure?

	Poor		Good		Excellent
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Did Middlebury provide you with an appropriate orientation on arrival?

	Poor		Good		Excellent
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Did Middlebury provide you with sufficient support while you were abroad?

	Poor		Good		Excellent
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Were the on-site staff (Resident Director, Academic Director, Resident Coordinator, support staff, etc.) helpful to you during your study abroad?

	Not helpful		Somewhat helpful		Very helpful
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Were your on-site staff concerned about your general well being and success, and approachable?

- Not concerned or approachable
- Approachable, but not concerned
- Concerned, but not approachable
- Somewhat concerned and approachable
- Very concerned and approachable

Did you see or experience any form of discrimination or harassment in your host country?

- Yes
- No

If you answered yes to the question above, what advice would you give to future students? Likewise, if you have advice for Middlebury staff, please share that as well.

I got propositioned by a Chinese man at a bus stop once and there were several times when guys on the street called after me or asked me for my phone number.
It's kind of unavoidable as a skinny, pale white girl - just learn to say no and walk away.

Would you recommend that other students attend this program or university? Why or why not?

- Yes
- No

Please explain:

.....

What advice would you give to other students considering study abroad in general, and this program or university in particular?

Come here if you really want to learn the language and get a pretty good taste of the culture. If it's total immersion you're looking for, this isn't it, but it's probably the closest you'll be able to come to immersion with an intermediate-advanced level of Mandarin

Home Institution

- Middlebury College
- Other Institution

If other than Middlebury, please indicate your home institution:

.....

Your year of (expected) graduation:

- 2009
- 2010
- 2011
- 2012
- 2013

At which site did you study?

- Beijing (not J-term)
- Hangzhou
- Kunming
- Beijing then Hangzhou
- Beijing then Kunming
- Hangzhou then Beijing (for spring semester)
- Hangzhou then Kunming
- Kunming then Beijing (for spring semester)
- Kunming then Hangzhou

What was the period of your study abroad?

- 2008-2009 Fall Semester
- 2008-2009 - Spring Semester
- 2008-2009 - Academic Year
- 2007-2008-2009 - Spring then Fall Semester

Given that overseas educational systems differ significantly from our own, please reflect on your adjustment to your host country's educational environment. What effects did this different academic environment have on how you learned, both inside and outside the classroom? In what ways did you benefit from being in a different academic environment.

The style of teaching in CHina is very different from the US. There is not much emphasis on critical thinking and creativity. It is much more focused on memorization. This was a bit hard to adjust to. In fact, you were usually graded down somewhat when trying to be creative. Not having as many extracurricular activities made it easier to focus but a less rich experience. I would have liked to have to opportunity to travel more.

AFTER studying abroad, how do you now view the differences/similarities between the culture of your host country and that of your own?

	Identical	Very Similar	Mostly Similar	Somewhat Different	Very Different
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Please Comment:

China and the US, while similar in some respects are fundamentally different in others. Freedom of speech is limited in China, while restrictions on other things are much less regulated. The US and China seem to have a mutually dependent relationship that both seem to not be perfectly happy with.

How has study abroad influenced your understanding of your host culture? In what ways has it influenced your perceptions of American culture?

i think it helped but there was not as great a chance to get to really be immersed in the host culture as i would have liked. interesting to see how the chinese view americans and american culture

In what ways has study abroad contributed to your personal growth? What personal characteristics did you find most useful during your time abroad?

flexibility is incredibly important. and the desire to be adventurous

How has study abroad influenced your academic and career goals? How has it influenced your personal goals?

made me question why i am learning chinese and what i want to do with it in the future.

What was your housing situation during your study abroad?

- Homestay
- Dormitory/Student Residence/Foyer
- Apartment
- Other (please describe)

Do you feel that your housing situation provided you with an opportunity to integrate into the host culture, and/or provided you a context for gaining insight into the host culture?

	Not at all - it was isolating	Somewhat helpful, but less than I expected	As helpful as I expected	Somewhat more helpful than I'd expected	Very helpful in terms of fostering insights and/or my integration
	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Please comment on your response to the question above.

even though i had a chinese roommate it was hard to meet other chinese students

Did you take courses alongside students from the host country?

Yes

No

Did you participate in any extra-curricular activities or internships?

Yes

No

If you answered yes to the question above, were your extra-curricular activities helpful in assisting your integration into the host culture?

	Not helpful		Somewhat helpful		Very helpful
	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Please describe the extra-curricular activities or internship in which you participated, and make any additional comments about these activities that you think would be helpful to Middlebury staff or future students.

they were primarily arranged through the program so there was not much chance to actually meet chinese people since they were with the american students

What kind of progress did you make in your listening comprehension of the language?

	No improvement	Little improvement	Improved somewhat	Improved	Very much improved
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>

What kind of progress did you make in your ability to read in the language?

	No improvement	Little improvement	Improved somewhat	Improved	Very much improved
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>

What kind of progress did you make in your ability to write in the language?

	No improvement	Little improvement	Improved somewhat	Improved	Very much improved
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>

What kind of progress did you make in your ability to speak in the language?

	No improvement	Little improvement	Improved somewhat	Improved	Very much improved
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>

Please comment on the progress you made in your target language. Was it greater or less than you had expected? What do you think were some of the factors that contributed to your progress (or lack thereof), either on your own part or on the part of the program? Do you have any specific suggestions for the program and/or for future students that pertain to language learning?

about what i expected. language pledge helped a lot.

Are there any particular academic strengths of your host university/program that you would recommend to other students?

- Yes
- No

Please explain:

.....

Are there any particular academic weaknesses of which other students should also be aware?

- Yes
- No

Please explain:

.....

Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

"I learned a great deal in this course."

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

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Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

"The instructor's teaching in this course was effective."

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	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Speaking & Pronunciation (1 on 2): Please tell us about this course.

Means of assessment (e.g., papers, exams, homework, etc.)

oral test once a week

Describe course content

dialouges and field trips

Please describe the means by which the material/concepts for this course were conveyed, particularly if the teaching style was different from what you are used to.

lots of repitition

Other comments about this course:

would have liked to know progress as my grade was lower than i thought it would be

Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

"I learned a great deal in this course."

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

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One-on-One Tutorial: Please tell us about this course.

Course Title

Traditional chinese medicine

Means of assessment (e.g., papers, exams, homework, etc.)

papers, readings and orals

Describe course content

read article and discuss

Please describe the means by which the material/concepts for this course were conveyed, particularly if the teaching style was different from what you are used to.

pretty much re read the articel in class

Other comments about this course:

interesting but not much room for creativity

Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

"I learned a great deal in this course."

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

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Selected Readings in Modern Literature: Please tell us about this course.

Means of assessment (e.g., papers, exams, homework, etc.)

homework, papers, tests

Describe course content

read a story and went over grammar and ideas in class

Please describe the means by which the material/concepts for this course were conveyed, particularly if the teaching style was different from what you are used to.

lecture

Other comments about this course:

Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

"I learned a great deal in this course."

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

"The instructor's teaching in this course was effective."

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Chinese Newspaper Reading: Please tell us about this course.

Means of assessment (e.g., papers, exams, homework, etc.)

tests, homework

Describe course content

went over article in class

Please describe the means by which the material/concepts for this course were conveyed, particularly if the teaching style was different from what you are used to.

lecture, every class was structured exactly the same

Other comments about this course:

Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

"I learned a great deal in this course."

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

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For the following questions, please rate your experience with Middlebury staff and staff abroad using the five-point scales provided.

Did Middlebury provide you with adequate information prior to departure?

	Poor		Good		Excellent
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Did Middlebury provide you with an appropriate orientation on arrival?

	Poor		Good		Excellent
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Did Middlebury provide you with sufficient support while you were abroad?

	Poor		Good		Excellent
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Were the on-site staff (Resident Director, Academic Director, Resident Coordinator, support staff, etc.) helpful to you during your study abroad?

	Not helpful		Somewhat helpful		Very helpful
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Were your on-site staff concerned about your general well being and success, and approachable?

- Not concerned or approachable
- Approachable, but not concerned
- Concerned, but not approachable
- Somewhat concerned and approachable
- Very concerned and approachable

Did you see or experience any form of discrimination or harassment in your host country?

- Yes
- No

Would you recommend that other students attend this program or university? Why or why not?

- Yes
- No

Please explain:

definitely learn the language even if you dont get much chance to travel

What advice would you give to other students considering study abroad in general, and this program or university in particular?

travel as much as you can. try new things. don't get too fed up with the repetition of class

Home Institution

- Middlebury College
- Other Institution

If other than Middlebury, please indicate your home institution:

.....

Your year of (expected) graduation:

- 2009
- 2010
- 2011
- 2012
- 2013

At which site did you study?

- Beijing (not J-term)
- Hangzhou
- Kunming
- Beijing then Hangzhou
- Beijing then Kunming
- Hangzhou then Beijing (for spring semester)
- Hangzhou then Kunming
- Kunming then Beijing (for spring semester)
- Kunming then Hangzhou

What was the period of your study abroad?

- 2008-2009 Fall Semester
- 2008-2009 - Spring Semester
- 2008-2009 - Academic Year
- 2007-2008-2009 - Spring then Fall Semester

Given that overseas educational systems differ significantly from our own, please reflect on your adjustment to your host country's educational environment. What effects did this different academic environment have on how you learned, both inside and outside the classroom? In what ways did you benefit from being in a different academic environment.

At times, I became very frustrated with the educational system and the teaching methods of our Chinese professors. Our homework every night consisted of no more than about 3 hours of rote memorization and a weekly essay. I felt that I was not being intellectually stimulated the way that I am at Middlebury, with more analytical classes. At some point, I felt that I had hit a wall, and that my brain would not absorb any new information without a bit of stimulation. I also sometimes felt unsupported by my professors, none of whom offered open office hours, and the academic director, who often grew aggravated if asked for help. That said, I understand that pure language learning is much different than other subjects, and that hours of memorization is required in order to successfully acquire a second language.

AFTER studying abroad, how do you now view the differences/similarities between the culture of your host country and that of your own?

	Identical	Very Similar	Mostly Similar	Somewhat Different	Very Different
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>

Please Comment:

Of course there are aspects of individuals and personalities that are universal, in a sense, but I felt that my overall impression was that Chinese history, customs, values, and, perhaps most importantly, government, differed more than agreed with American culture.

How has study abroad influenced your understanding of your host culture? In what ways has it influenced your perceptions of American culture?

I did not make a strong connection with Chinese culture, in the way that I was perhaps expecting, or hoping to, but studying abroad in China definitely peaked my fascination with the state of China and all of its current changes.

As for my perceptions of American culture, I began to appreciate aspects of American culture to which I had never given complete thought, such as our general acceptance of democracy, and our plural and multifaceted society.

In what ways has study abroad contributed to your personal growth? What personal characteristics did you find most useful during your time abroad?

I definitely learned to be more independent, and grew more confident in myself, and my language skills. I found that I was often rejected or put down because of people's confusion over my Chinese appearance and my Americanism, and this spurred me to really improve my Chinese and try hard to fit in with Chinese culture. I learned that I'm able to take this criticism and better myself with it.

I found that my ability to step back and objectively assess a situation, and try my hardest to understand a culture and a people, and why they might act a certain way, really helped me in my time abroad.

How has study abroad influenced your academic and career goals? How has it influenced your personal goals?

Studying abroad has convinced me that I should go back to China and research what I'm really fascinated by. Because although I never fell in love with Chinese culture the way some people seem to, I became fascinated with the place Chinese culture is in right now, and I can't imagine living my life without trying to learn more about it.

What was your housing situation during your study abroad?

- Homestay
- Dormitory/Student Residence/Foyer
- Apartment
- Other (please describe)

Do you feel that your housing situation provided you with an opportunity to integrate into the host culture, and/or provided you a context for gaining insight into the host culture?

					Very helpful in terms of fostering insights and/or my integration
	Not at all - it was isolating	Somewhat helpful, but less than I expected	As helpful as I expected	Somewhat more helpful than I'd expected	
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Please comment on your response to the question above.

My roommate, though very caring and considerate, was very conservative, and soon after arriving, we both found that we have many, many differences in ideals and personalities. In the end, though, through many misunderstandings and conflicts, we did learn a lot from one another, and we ended up being good friends.

Did you take courses alongside students from the host country?

- Yes
- No

Did you participate in any extra-curricular activities or internships?

- Yes
- No

If you answered yes to the question above, were your extra-curricular activities helpful in assisting your integration into the host culture?

	Not helpful		Somewhat helpful		Very helpful
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Please describe the extra-curricular activities or internship in which you participated, and make any additional comments about these activities that you think would be helpful to Middlebury staff or future students.

Cooking class-- Lots of fun and very impressive when I got home! But there were only Americans in the class, so it didn't particularly help us make Chinese friends.

What kind of progress did you make in your listening comprehension of the language?

	No improvement	Little improvement	Improved somewhat	Improved	Very much improved
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>

What kind of progress did you make in your ability to read in the language?

	No improvement	Little improvement	Improved somewhat	Improved	Very much improved
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

What kind of progress did you make in your ability to write in the language?

	No improvement	Little improvement	Improved somewhat	Improved	Very much improved
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

What kind of progress did you make in your ability to speak in the language?

	No improvement	Little improvement	Improved somewhat	Improved	Very much improved
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>

Please comment on the progress you made in your target language. Was it greater or less than you had expected? What do you think were some of the factors that contributed to your progress (or lack thereof), either on your own part or on the part of the program? Do you have any specific suggestions for the program and/or for future students that pertain to language learning?

I really improved a lot in my target language. The language pledge definitely did its job, and really helped us all communicate more fluently in Chinese. People who don't follow the language pledge are crazy. I did my best to communicate with as many people as I could in the street, and it definitely benefited my language acquisition.

Are there any particular academic strengths of your host university/program that you would recommend to other students?

Yes

No

Please explain:

Definitely good for language acquisition

Are there any particular academic weaknesses of which other students should also be aware?

Yes

No

Please explain:

Professors are not particularly sensitive to students' state in a foreign culture; the classroom environment was also VERY competitive.

Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

"I learned a great deal in this course."

Strongly disagree

Disagree

Neither agree nor disagree

Agree

Strongly agree

Hangzhou Studies: Please tell us about this course.

Means of assessment (e.g., papers, exams, homework, etc.)

Once a week there was an oral test which consisted of memorizing about 3 pages of text and reciting it for the academic director. It was my most dreaded part of every week.

Describe course content

Historical significance of Hangzhou, once weekly field trips to special sights and museums

Please describe the means by which the material/concepts for this course were conveyed, particularly if the teaching style was different from what you are used to.

One weekly topic, such as Hangzhou's tea, economy, or historical house, presented in a 3-4 page handout and then a lecture Monday and Wednesday, then a field trip Thursday and an oral exam Friday

Other comments about this course:

I did not enjoy this class very much. The idea is good, but the style of learning that was expected did not suit me

Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

"I learned a great deal in this course."

Strongly disagree

Disagree

Neither agree nor disagree

Agree

Strongly agree

Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

"The instructor's teaching in this course was effective."

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

One-on-One Tutorial: Please tell us about this course.

Course Title

Youth Sociolinguistics and Current Language Change

Means of assessment (e.g., papers, exams, homework, etc.)

Papers, oral midterm and final exams, daily quizzes

Describe course content

Exploration of the modern Chinese sociolinguistics, with special consideration given to gender linguistics, internet linguistics, and taboo

Please describe the means by which the material/concepts for this course were conveyed, particularly if the teaching style was different from what you are used to.

Casual conversation and explanation of topics I didn't understand

Other comments about this course:

I loved it!

Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

"I learned a great deal in this course."

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

"The instructor's teaching in this course was effective."

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>

Selected Readings in Modern Literature: Please tell us about this course.

Means of assessment (e.g., papers, exams, homework, etc.)

Papers, exams, homework

Describe course content

Reading short stories and essays about significant social issues in Chinese culture, discussing them together as a class, and discussing these social issues as a class.

Please describe the means by which the material/concepts for this course were conveyed, particularly if the teaching style was different from what you are used to.

Mostly lecture, similar to a small Middlebury seminar class

Other comments about this course:

Very interesting material

Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

"I learned a great deal in this course."

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

"The instructor's teaching in this course was effective."

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Chinese Newspaper Reading: Please tell us about this course.

Means of assessment (e.g., papers, exams, homework, etc.)

Homework, exams

Describe course content

Reading about current Chinese social issues from a Chinese perspective, though focusing on grammar and vocab

Please describe the means by which the material/concepts for this course were conveyed, particularly if the teaching style was different from what you are used to.

Mostly lectures, in the same pattern every day, lectures focused only on grammar and vocab, not on the social issues of the reading material. That said, though, the grammar patterns we learned were extremely useful.

Other comments about this course:

This class was jokingly called by some students the "propoganda class," which in some ways it indeed greatly resembled, but it was also interesting to see the say issues are presented to the Chinese general public.

Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

"I learned a great deal in this course."

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

"The instructor's teaching in this course was effective."

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

For the following questions, please rate your experience with Middlebury staff and staff abroad using the five-point scales provided.

Did Middlebury provide you with adequate information prior to departure?

	Poor		Good		Excellent
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>

Did Middlebury provide you with an appropriate orientation on arrival?

	Poor		Good		Excellent
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>

Did Middlebury provide you with sufficient support while you were abroad?

Poor

Good

Excellent

Were the on-site staff (Resident Director, Academic Director, Resident Coordinator, support staff, etc.) helpful to you during your study abroad?

Not helpful

Somewhat helpful

Very helpful

Were your on-site staff concerned about your general well being and success, and approachable?

- Not concerned or approachable
- Approachable, but not concerned
- Concerned, but not approachable
- Somewhat concerned and approachable
- Very concerned and approachable

Did you see or experience any form of discrimination or harassment in your host country?

- Yes
- No

If you answered yes to the question above, what advice would you give to future students? Likewise, if you have advice for Middlebury staff, please share that as well.

For Asian Americans- Many people do not understand that someone who looks Asian can also have an American identity. This was a huge challenge for me in China. I became very defensive of my American identity, and became very upset with people when they assumed that I was Chinese. However, it's important to keep in mind, that with the almost 1.4 billion people who look Chinese and are Chinese, it's not such a bad guess that you will be Chinese. It never stopped being a touchy subject for me, especially when people would treat me differently from my white friends, but I learned that it's something that can't be avoided in such a homogeneous society, and that it's not an insult to not believe you're American; they just don't understand. Patience is very important.

Would you recommend that other students attend this program or university? Why or why not?

- Yes
- No

Please explain:

IF your main goal is language acquisition. I often spent so much time doing homework that I didn't have time to go out and experience Hangzhou.

What advice would you give to other students considering study abroad in general, and this program or university in particular?

Be accepting and open-minded, and know that you are there to learn about them and to do your best to understand them. Also, don't work too hard.

Home Institution

Middlebury College

Other Institution

If other than Middlebury, please indicate your home institution:

.....

Your year of (expected) graduation:

2009

2010

2011

2012

2013

At which site did you study?

Beijing (not J-term)

Hangzhou

Kunming

Beijing then Hangzhou

Beijing then Kunming

Hangzhou then Beijing (for spring semester)

Hangzhou then Kunming

Kunming then Beijing (for spring semester)

Kunming then Hangzhou

What was the period of your study abroad?

2008-2009 Fall Semester

2008-2009 - Spring Semester

2008-2009 - Academic Year

2007-2008-2009 - Spring then Fall Semester

Given that overseas educational systems differ significantly from our own, please reflect on your adjustment to your host country's educational environment. What effects did this different academic environment have on how you learned, both inside and outside the classroom? In what ways did you benefit from being in a different academic environment.

China's education environment was very different from the US, but the adjustment was not as difficult as I had imagined. The classes were much like what I experienced in Summer school and regular Chinese classes at Middlebury. There was a lot of drilling, repetition etc.

AFTER studying abroad, how do you now view the differences/similarities between the culture of your host country and that of your own?

	Identical	Very Similar	Mostly Similar	Somewhat Different	Very Different
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>

Please Comment:

I learned so much about Chinese culture and its differences to my own culture. There are so many aspects of Chinese culture that are so far from anything in the US-from relationships between friends and teachers to normal activities.

How has study abroad influenced your understanding of your host culture? In what ways has it influenced your perceptions of American culture?

It has helped my understanding of Chinese culture tremendously. Before, I had read about cultural traditions in books and heard about them from my teachers, but after being abroad I was able to see first hand. It has definitely influenced my perception of American culture, since the differences are so vast it's hard not to compare both on a daily basis.

In what ways has study abroad contributed to your personal growth? What personal characteristics did you find most useful during your time abroad?

Studying abroad has helped me see where Chinese and China fit into my life, and have helped me appreciate everything in America a lot more than ever before. I learned to have a lot more patience for things in China.

How has study abroad influenced your academic and career goals? How has it influenced your personal goals?

It's made me even more determined to improve my Chinese, since being here has taught me despite having a good grasp on the language, I have a long way to go before I reach the level I want to.

What was your housing situation during your study abroad?

- Homestay
- Dormitory/Student Residence/Foyer
- Apartment
- Other (please describe)

Do you feel that your housing situation provided you with an opportunity to integrate into the host culture, and/or provided you a context for gaining insight into the host culture?

	Not at all - it was isolating	Somewhat helpful, but less than I expected	As helpful as I expected	Somewhat more helpful than I'd expected	Very helpful in terms of fostering insights and/or my integration
	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Please comment on your response to the question above.

The dorms in Hangzhou are for foreign students only, except for the Chinese roommates. The dorms were also further away from the center of campus, so I did feel isolated. In addition, very few other people were allowed into the dorm, so I think that limited the chances to integrate with the host culture.

Did you take courses alongside students from the host country?

- Yes
- No

Did you participate in any extra-curricular activities or internships?

- Yes
- No

If you answered yes to the question above, were your extra-curricular activities helpful in assisting your integration into the host culture?

	Not helpful		Somewhat helpful		Very helpful
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Please describe the extra-curricular activities or internship in which you participated, and make any additional comments about these activities that you think would be helpful to Middlebury staff or future students.

I participated in a Chinese watercolor class that I found very interesting. It was nice to be doing something related to Chinese, but not actually studying and taking tests for it.

What kind of progress did you make in your listening comprehension of the language?

	No improvement	Little improvement	Improved somewhat	Improved	Very much improved
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

What kind of progress did you make in your ability to read in the language?

	No improvement	Little improvement	Improved somewhat	Improved	Very much improved
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

What kind of progress did you make in your ability to write in the language?

	No improvement	Little improvement	Improved somewhat	Improved	Very much improved
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

What kind of progress did you make in your ability to speak in the language?

	No improvement	Little improvement	Improved somewhat	Improved	Very much improved
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Please comment on the progress you made in your target language. Was it greater or less than you had expected? What do you think were some of the factors that contributed to your progress (or lack thereof), either on your own part or on the part of the program? Do you have any specific suggestions for the program and/or for future students that pertain to language learning?

I think I made a lot of progress in certain aspects. My writing and reading definitely improved. However, I stayed in Shanghai over the summer for an internship, and discovered that the things I learned in Hangzhou were not as helpful in real life than I thought they would be. Speaking Chinese on a daily basis is a lot different from the Chinese you learn in class, so that was a little frustrating.

Are there any particular academic strengths of your host university/program that you would recommend to other students?

- Yes
- No

Please explain:

.....

Are there any particular academic weaknesses of which other students should also be aware?

- Yes
- No

Please explain:

.....

Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

"I learned a great deal in this course."

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

"The instructor's teaching in this course was effective."

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Speaking & Pronunciation (1 on 2): Please tell us about this course.

Means of assessment (e.g., papers, exams, homework, etc.)

Exams were hard to judge if you did well. Maybe another form of testing would be better.

Describe course content

Simple conversations and topics that we would use in a casual setting.

Please describe the means by which the material/concepts for this course were conveyed, particularly if the teaching style was different from what you are used to.

Teaching was little slow

Other comments about this course:

.....

Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

"I learned a great deal in this course."

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

"The instructor's teaching in this course was effective."

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

One-on-One Tutorial: Please tell us about this course.

Course Title

Chinese Consumerism

Means of assessment (e.g., papers, exams, homework, etc.)

Lectures and daily quizzes

Describe course content

Some parts were interesting, could have used more direction

Please describe the means by which the material/concepts for this course were conveyed, particularly if the teaching style was different from what you are used to.

Reading essays/having lectures everyday makes it hard to be really interested in the topic

Other comments about this course:

.....

Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

"I learned a great deal in this course."

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

"The instructor's teaching in this course was effective."

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Business Chinese: Please tell us about this course.

Means of assessment (e.g., papers, exams, homework, etc.)

Daily quizzes, essays.

Describe course content

Study of chinese businesses entering other countries, and foreign businesses entering China

Please describe the means by which the material/concepts for this course were conveyed, particularly if the teaching style was different from what you are used to.

The teaching was very effective, in both understanding the lecture as well as learning the words and grammar

Other comments about this course:

Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

"I learned a great deal in this course."

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

"The instructor's teaching in this course was effective."

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

For the following questions, please rate your experience with Middlebury staff and staff abroad using the five-point scales provided.

Did Middlebury provide you with adequate information prior to departure?

	Poor		Good		Excellent
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Did Middlebury provide you with an appropriate orientation on arrival?

	Poor		Good		Excellent
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Did Middlebury provide you with sufficient support while you were abroad?

Poor

Good

Excellent

Were the on-site staff (Resident Director, Academic Director, Resident Coordinator, support staff, etc.) helpful to you during your study abroad?

Not helpful

Somewhat helpful

Very helpful

Were your on-site staff concerned about your general well being and success, and approachable?

- Not concerned or approachable
- Approachable, but not concerned
- Concerned, but not approachable
- Somewhat concerned and approachable
- Very concerned and approachable

Did you see or experience any form of discrimination or harassment in your host country?

- Yes
- No

Would you recommend that other students attend this program or university? Why or why not?

- Yes
- No

Please explain:

Weather was horrible, classes were boring, city was boring.

What advice would you give to other students considering study abroad in general, and this program or university in particular?

To try to travel as much as possible, and leave the dorm a lot.