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**EMP 709: Introduction to Scientific Feng Shui
(3 Credits)**

OVERVIEW OF COURSE:

Feng Shui is an ancient culture of China, still being practiced today at almost all corners of the world. Feng Shui studies the harmony between heaven, earth and men. In modern terms, it is a study of the relationship between human beings, the natural environment and the built environment. There was no such term as architecture in ancient China, Feng Shui being the appropriate terminology for such area of study. So, in a modern sense, Feng Shui could be regarded as a combination of architecture and environmental science, though there are elements within whose principles and effectiveness are still unclear to us. The western interpretation of Feng Shui (Skinner 2006) is “To be in the right place facing the right direction doing the right thing at the right time” (p. 4). Scientific Feng Shui means the adoption of a scientific way to study Feng Shui. In this course, the fundamental principles of Feng Shui related Chinese philosophy will be introduced, followed by a discussion on modern physics and various scientific methods that could be used to study Feng Shui. Then, the two Schools of Feng Shui, namely Form School and Compass School, will be presented in more details with a hope that students could make use of the rules of the Form School learnt to select a good *cave*, (i.e.) the spot, somewhere and then design the general layout, the orientation in particular, of a good house based on the rules of the Compass School.

COURSE TOPICS:

The syllabi of the six lectures / tutorials are as follows:

- Lecture 1 – Introduction to Chinese Philosophy and Feng Shui (Ch 1, 2 & 5) (1st week of a semester).
- Lecture 2 – Modern physics and scientific approach to Feng Shui study (Ch 3 & 13) (3rd week of a semester).
- Lecture 3 – Introduction to Form School of Feng Shui (Ch 7) (5th week of a semester).
- Lecture 4 – Form School Practices and Models (Ch 8 & 9) (7th week of a semester).
- Lecture 5 – Compass School and Eight Mansion Method (Ch 12 & 15) (11th week of a semester).
- Lecture 6 – Flying Stars Method (Ch 16) (13th week of a semester).

LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

- a) To introduce philosophical fundamentals of ancient China related to Feng Shui and present scientific methods to study Feng Shui in a logical, consistent and scientific way.
- b) To introduce basic rules and techniques of the two schools of Feng Shui, namely Form School and Compass School.
- c) To let students apply the rules and techniques learnt to pick and study a good scenic spot and design the general layout of a house accordingly.

AUDIENCE:

Open to all students in the Distance Certificate or Distance Masters or PhD program.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Feng Shui is the study of the harmony between the heaven, the earth and human beings. According to ancient Chinese philosophy, a man can obtain great benefits if he/she is always working in harmony with the natural environment. This concept is widely accepted today due to the hottest subjects of environmental friendliness and sustainability. This is not a course purely on theories. Students will learn rules of Feng Shui and apply them on a daily basis. But at the same time, students will not just follow the rules as religious dogma or superstition because critical thinking and criticism are the key spirit of studying Feng Shui scientifically. Teaching materials are based on the instructor's book, *Scientific Feng Shui for the Built Environment – Fundamentals and Case Studies* published by City University of Hong Kong Press in 2011, available from Amazon.com. Besides reading assigned chapters, students are expected to attend six 2-hour lectures / tutorials through a video conferencing medium with a Powerpoint presentation which will be sent to students. These lectures will be conducted during selected weekends throughout the first four months of the semester. Students will complete two assignments; the first will be submitted two months after the commencement of the course which is synchronous with the semester while the second will be submitted four months after the commencement.

NEED STATEMENT:

Students will:

- 1) Have a clearer understanding of the history of development of Feng Shui and its related Chinese philosophy.
- 2) Understand the meaning of Scientific Feng Shui and learn how to study, check, criticize, improve, compare and apply rules of Feng Shui.
- 3) Have a hands-on practice and skill to apply fundamental principles in the two schools of Feng Shui by looking for a good spot and designing a good orientation of a house right on the spot.
- 4) Carry out research work in a selected area of Feng Shui to conduct a master level project with preparation to attempt a doctorate level project.

FACULTY-STUDENT COMMUNICATION

- **Telephone Contact:** Students should arrange all telephone communications with the instructor by email beforehand. An initial phone contact to clarify course objectives and develop a schedule could be made prior to beginning the course. This contact should be scheduled within the first few weeks of commencement of the semester. After this, periodic telephone communication can be arranged with the instructor. To

avoid telephone expense, students could meet the instructor face-to-face on a video conferencing platform, or Skype, for at least six times during the semester.

Email Contact:

- Reflection on and questions about the coursework papers should be addressed via email monthly or as needed. Students are always encouraged to contact the instructor via email whenever a problem arises.
- **Communications:** It is requested that students stay in weekly or every other week correspondence with the instructor using email. The student should also set up periodic telephone conversations, or Skype, to discuss problems, concerns, or determine the direction of their course work. Students are always encouraged to contact the instructor by email, telephone, or Skype whenever a concern may arise. It should be understood that as mature students, it is the responsibility of the students to stay in contact with their instructors. The instructor may be able to set up one-on-one discussions with the student using Skype. Students should check email frequently for professor and EMU messages.
- All lessons, coursework and papers must be copied to lessons@energymedicineuniversity.org from both the student and professor.
- **All submissions are preferably in PDF format though Word documents are accepted.**

Internet Forums: Please contact our Registrar to be included in the EMU Internet forums.

Length of Course:

Length of this Energy Medicine course is five (5) months or one (1) semester.

COURSE DELIVERY STYLE

Distance Education - Coursework is completed at a location determined by the student utilizing a computer that has the ability to play audio and video clips, with Microsoft Office Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Adobe Reader, along with a current web browser, internet connection and email address. Contact and communication with distance students is typically conducted by telephone, Internet, Skype, text chat, and email.

- **There are six online lectures / tutorials for this course.**

1) Reading Assignments

Students are expected to read assigned chapters in the textbook for every lecture, and they are encouraged to conduct literature survey in libraries.

2) Course Papers/Projects

Students are given quizzes from time to time but they will not be graded. There are two projects for this course.

Prepare a scholarly paper of approximately 30 double spaced pages, 12 point, Times Roman Font, for each project. Papers must be written in the APA style. Students will make use of a library and conduct field trips to complete the paper. Photographs and Google aerial photos or other maps are expected to be included in the two papers for illustration. Grades will be given on literature survey, content, compliance with established Feng Shui rules, innovation and use of source materials, also grammar, spelling, APA, and originality. The submission is preferably in PDF format though Word documents are acceptable.

3) Essay Examination

There is no essay examination for this course.

COURSE ASSIGNMENTS

Assignment #1: The first term paper is to be submitted 2 months after the commencement of the course; the exact date will depend on the first day of the semester calendar.

Students need to visit a good scenic spot at a suburban area and take photos and comment on the Feng Shui of it, based on principles of the Form School. Aerial photos and maps are expected to be included in the submission.

Assignment #2: The second paper is to be submitted 4 months after the commencement of the course; the exact date will depend on the first day of the semester calendar.

Students are required to design a house on the scenic spot chosen in the first coursework and analyze it based on principles of the Compass School. The most important feature is the orientation and shape of the house. Internal space utilization is also under consideration.

INDIVIDUALIZATION OF STUDENT ASSIGNMENTS

Both projects are individual projects though students are welcome to discuss with classmates to exchange ideas.

COURSE EVALUATION

The course grade will be based upon the quality of the two project submissions.

COURSE GRADING DETERMINANTS

Grades are based on the following elements of a student's participation and accomplishment. In determining a grade for this course, the following formula will be used:

Assignment #1	50%
Assignment #2	50%

Using this technique, there will be 100 points assigned to the course. Final semester grades will be calculated as follows:

81-100 points	= A range
66-80 points	= B range
51-65 points	= C range
40-50 points	= D range
Under 40 points	= F range

COURSE COMPLETION TIMETABLE

◆ Week #1	Lecture 1
◆ Week #3	Lecture 2
◆ Week #5	Lecture 3
◆ Week #7	Lecture 4
◆ Week #9	Submission of Assignment #1
◆ Week #11	Lecture 5
◆ Week #13	Lecture 6
◆ Week #18	Submission of Assignment #2

SPECIAL NOTES AND INSTRUCTIONS

All coursework must be completed in a timely fashion. Students are encouraged to phone or email the instructor whenever they need advice, comments, or instruction.

TEXTS

Michael Y. Mak and Albert T. So, *Scientific Feng Shui for the Built Environment – Fundamentals and Case Studies*, City University of Hong Kong Press, 2011. Every student is expected to have or buy one copy. Kindle version is available.

ADDITIONAL RECOMMENDED SOURCES

Michael Y. Mak and Albert T. So, *Research in Scientific Feng Shui and the Built Environment*, City University of Hong Kong Press, 2009.

Derek Walter, *Feng Shui Handbook: A Practical Guide to Chinese Geomancy*, Thorsons, 1991.

Stephen Skinner, *Feng Shui: The Living Earth Manual*, Tuttle Publishing, 2006.

Stephen Skinner, *Flying Star Feng Shui: Change your Energy; Change your Luck*, Tuttle Publishing, 2002.