

## The Cultures of Three Kingdoms and Wudang Mountains in Hubei

**Time:** July 19<sup>th</sup> at 8p.m

**Language:** English

**Speaker:** CHEN Zexuan

### Introduction of the Speaker



CHEN Zexuan is a native of Wuhan, Hubei, China. As a junior English major, she is the incumbent monitor of Class 5 in the school of foreign language of Hubei University. She was honored as an excellent member of the Communist Youth League of Hubei University and an outstanding volunteer of Hubei University Library, and won the first class scholarship for the excellent students. As a native in Wuhan, Hubei, she has been living there for more than 20 years and developed a deep affection for her hometown, hoping to show the rich history and culture, rapid development and colorful local life in Hubei to the world.

**Host:** the Confucius Institute at Unesp

### Lecture Introduction:

This session begins with a brief review of the last session with a short video "This is Hubei", after which it focuses on two traditional cultures in Hubei: the culture of the Three Kingdoms and the culture of Wudang Mountains.

### Part 1 the Culture of the Three Kingdoms

Hubei is the setting of more than half of the 120 stories in *Romance of the Three Kingdoms*, one of the China's four great classic novels.

#### 1.Xiangyang and the Ancient Longzhong

- Ancient Longzhong: Locating in Xiangyang, Hubei, the Ancient Longzhong is the residence of Zhuge Liang, an eminent Chinese strategist during the Three Kingdoms Period. Part of the ancient buildings in his times has survived and remained the vestiges of his life, while some other buildings and halls were newly built in memory of him.
- "Three Visits to the Thatched Cottage": Liu Bei, a Chinese hero during the Three Kingdoms Period, visited the Thatched cottage of Zhuge Liang for three time and long waited in the scorching summer sun or freezing winter wind. Zhuge Liang was deeply moved by his sincerity, accepted Liu's appointment as his strategist and

finally helped him found his kingdom.

## **2.Chibi and the Red Cliff Ancient Battlefield**

- Red Cliff Ancient Battlefield: Located in Chibi, Xianning, Hubei, the Red Cliff Ancient Battlefield is the place where the battle of Red Cliff happened during the Three Kingdoms Period. On the cliff remain the big red Chinese characters “chibi”, which is said to be carved by Zhou Yu, another outstanding strategist at that time.
- The Battle of Red Cliff: It is one of the most famous battle in ancient China, in which Zhou Yu commanded his soldiers to defeat the enemy force that was four times larger in number than his own. Under the pretence of surrender, Zhou Yu and his soldiers managed to steered the fleets filled with oiled reeds to the enemy ships, crashed into them and burnt them to the raging waves of the Yangtze River.

## **Part 2 the Culture of the Wudang Mountains**

Hubei enjoys not only the splendid legends of the Three Kingdoms Period but also the fairy land of the Wudang Mountains.

### **1.The Natural Landscape of the Wudang Mountains**

The Wudang Mountains, also named Taihe Mountain, is located in Shiyan, Hubei, and praised as “the first celestial mountains under the heaven”.

- Natural Miracles: the main peak as one pillar reaching the sky, the 72 peaks around the main peak as people submitting to their King, the unpredictable weather, the Wudang cloud sea, the sea horse spitting mist, etc.

### **2.The Taoist Culture of the Wudang Mountains**

- Zhen Wu God and the Wudang Mountains: Zhen Wu was said to be enlightened by his teacher and decided to cultivate himself on the Wudang Mountains, a beautiful place where everything was full of vitality. After going through lots of hardships he finally finished self-cultivation and became the immortal Zhen Wu God in Taoism.
- The Ancient Architecture Complex in the Wudang Mountains: The Wudang Mountains have long been an important place for the Taoist activities. In the Tang Dynasty, the first building in the complex was built and named Wulong Temple. Then the Taoism reached its peak in the Ming Dynasty, during which more buildings were built and gradually formed the general layout, which features the Taoist philosophy of the “harmony” between human and nature.
- The Wudang Martial Art: Created by Zhang Sanfeng, a Wudang Taoist priest, the Wudang Martial Art emphasizes the Taoist idea of “harmony” that everything should follow the natural principle.

The session ends with conclusion and acknowledgment. The speaker does her utmost to take the best from the countless stories of Hubei, while some details may not be covered due to the limited time. If you have any question or want to know something more, please feel free to contact the speaker at 1722123965@qq.com. May the friendship between Brazil and China last forever.