

Contemporary Chinese Society

Sociology 225/East Asian Studies 301, Fall 2014

Time: 11:00-11:50pm, Tuesday/Thursday

Location: Social Sciences 6203

Instructor: Professor Sida Liu

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course provides a basic social science “literacy” of contemporary China, defined loosely as Chinese society since the establishment of the People’s Republic of China in 1949. It is listed in the sociology catalog, but the nature and orientation of the course are interdisciplinary, incorporating readings in history, sociology, political science, anthropology, economics, and law. The aim is to demystify China, to make it accessible to you, and to give you some perspectives to pursue further engagement with China.

The course begins with an introduction on the main institutions of traditional Chinese society and investigates how these institutions have changed in the revolutions and upheavals of the 20th century, particularly under the rule of the Chinese Communist Party. Then we focus on the post-1978 reform period and discuss the social changes in various aspects of contemporary Chinese society, including the economy, family, education, social stratification, politics, law, the urban/rural divide, media and the Internet, and civil society.

REQUIREMENTS

The course is designed as a combination of lectures and section meetings. Careful reading before lectures and active participation in section meetings are both important. The teaching assistant is responsible for organizing discussions in section meetings and giving you participation grade based on your performance. Reading and class participation account for 10% of the final grade.

The exams of the course consist of an in-class mid-term exam, a take-home mid-term exam, and a take-home final exam. The in-class mid-term exam is scheduled on **September 25, 2014**

(Thursday) and it accounts for 20% of your final grade. The take-home mid-term exam is scheduled in Week 9 (**October 23-30, 2014**) and it accounts for 30% of your final grade. The take-home final exam is scheduled in the exam week (**December 11-18, 2014**) and it accounts for 40% of your final grade. Out of a concern for fairness to all students, there will be no make-up exam except in the case of documented extreme illness. Please mark your calendar now with the exam times so that you can ensure your participation.

READINGS

The course readings consist of two textbooks and a number of electronic articles and book chapters. After logging in to the course website at Learn@UW, please click on the “Materials” button and then select “Content”. All the electronic readings are in PDF format under the “Readings” folder. The two textbooks are available for purchase at the University Bookstore. You are required to get these two books if you take this course. Both of them will be thoroughly tested in the exams.

Fei, Xiaotong. 1992. *From the Soil: The Foundations of Chinese Society*, trans. Gary G. Hamilton and Wang Zheng. Berkeley and Los Angeles, CA: University of California Press.
Chan, Anita, Richard Madsen, and Jonathan Unger. 2009. *Chen Village: Revolution to Globalization* (3rd Edition). Berkeley and Los Angeles, CA: University of California Press.

You are expected to do the readings BEFORE every class as lectures will be based on the assumption that you have completed the assigned readings. Lack of reading is likely to generate serious difficulties in understanding the lectures and cause major problems for you in the section meetings and exams.

LECTURES

For your convenience in taking notes and reviewing course materials, PowerPoint will be used in the lectures. The instructor will upload each week’s PowerPoint slides to Learn@UW after the Thursday lecture. Please note that the PowerPoint slides are only brief outlines of the lectures, so note taking is still very important for you to do well in the exams.

Attendance of lectures is crucial in the sense that exams will be based on both lectures and assigned reading materials. You are responsible for all lecture materials and for any announcements made in class, whether or not you are present. Please communicate with the instructor and/or the teaching assistant if you become ill or emergencies arise so that we will be aware of your circumstances. If you miss a class, you should ask a classmate to review their notes from that day. Similarly, you are required to attend section meetings. If you have to miss classes for a prolonged period due to serious illness, you should speak to the teaching assistant and/or the instructor as soon as possible.

Please do not arrive late to class as it is disruptive both to the instructor and to your classmates. Repeated tardiness will result in a lower final grade. Meanwhile, if you must leave early in a

class, please speak to the instructor before the lecture to ask for permission. Otherwise please do NOT pack your things or leave the classroom until the lecture is over. If any emergency arises during the lecture, please raise your hand and inform the instructor.

OFFICE HOURS

The instructor's office hours are 4:00-5:00pm on Tuesdays (and by appointment). The teaching assistant's office hours are 2:00-4:00pm on Tuesdays. You should contact the teaching assistant first with questions about course logistics, but please feel free to come by during the instructor's office hours to discuss course materials and other academic questions. If you cannot come to the regular office hours due to conflicts of schedule, please email to make an appointment and find a different time to meet.

ACCOMMODATIONS

Students with particular needs that might affect participation, coursework, or examination environment should inform the instructor and the teaching assistant about those needs within the first three weeks of the semester so that we reasonably can accommodate those needs properly. We rely on the McBurney Disability Resource Center to determine what academic accommodations a student may require. Students who request accommodations must master all requirements, skills, knowledge, and academic standards of the course. Students who request relief for religious observances also should notify the instructor and the teaching assistant within the first three weeks of the semester.

READING SCHEDULE

Week 1: Introducing China

September 2 (Tuesday)

Course introduction – no reading.

September 4 (Thursday)

Naughton, Barry. 2007. "The Geographical Setting" (Chapter 1), pp. 17-32 in *The Chinese Economy: Transition and Growth*. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press.

Week 2: Foundations of Chinese Society

September 9 (Tuesday)

Fei, *From the Soil*, Chapters 1-7, pp. 37-93.

September 11 (Thursday)

Fei, *From the Soil*, Chapters 8-14, pp. 94-140.

Week 3: The Rise of Communism

September 16 (Tuesday)

Lieberthal, Kenneth. 2004. "The Maoist Era" (Chapter 4), pp. 84-122 in *Governing China: From Revolution through Reform* (2nd edition). New York: W.W. Norton.

Chan, Madsen, and Unger, “Chen Village and Its Leaders” (Chapter 1), pp. 13-40.

September 18 (Thursday)

Chan, Madsen, and Unger, “The Big Four Cleanups” and “Studying Chairman Mao” (Chapters 2-3), pp. 41-102.

Week 4: The Cultural Revolution

September 23 (Tuesday)

Chan, Madsen, and Unger, “The Cultural Revolution” and “The Cleansing of the Class Ranks” (Chapters 4-5), pp. 103-168.

September 25 (Thursday)

Mid-term exam I – in-class exam, no reading.

Week 5: Reform and Opening Up

September 30 (Tuesday)

Chan, Madsen, and Unger, “Plunging into a New Decade” (Chapter 8), pp. 213-235.

Walder, Andrew G. 1989. “Factory and Manager in the Era of Reform.” *China Quarterly* 118: 242-264.

October 2 (Thursday)

Chan, Madsen, and Unger, “The New Era” and “The Midas Touch” (Chapters 10-11), pp. 267-308.

Week 6: The 1989 Tiananmen Student Movement

October 7 (Tuesday)

Zhao, Dingxin. 2001. “A Brief History of the 1989 Movement” (Chapter 6), pp. 145-207 in *The Power of Tiananmen: State-Society Relations and the 1989 Beijing Student Movement*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

October 9 (Thursday)

Zhao, Dingxin. 2001. “State Legitimacy, State Behaviors, and Movement Development” and “Ecology-Based Mobilization and Movement Dynamics” (Chapters 7-8), pp. 209-266 in *The Power of Tiananmen: State-Society Relations and the 1989 Beijing Student Movement*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

Week 7: Building the Socialist Market Economy

October 14 (Tuesday)

Huang, Yasheng. 2008. “Just How Capitalist is China?” (Chapter 1), pp. 1-49 in *Capitalism with Chinese Characteristics: Entrepreneurship and the State*. New York: Cambridge University Press.

October 16 (Thursday)

Wank, David L. 1996. “The Institutional Process of Market Clientelism: Guanxi and Private Business in a South China City.” *China Quarterly* 147: 820-838.

Tsai, Kellee S. 2000. “Banquet Banking: Gender and Rotating Savings and Credit Associations in South China.” *China Quarterly* 161: 142-170.

Week 8: Family and Romance

October 21 (Tuesday)

Chan, Madsen, and Unger, “The Great Betrothal Dispute” (Chapter 7), pp. 186-212.

Farrer, James, and Sun Zhongxin. 2003. "Extramarital Love in Shanghai." *China Journal* 50: 1-36.

October 23 (Thursday)

Fong, Vanessa L. 2002. "China's One-Child Policy and the Empowerment of Urban Daughters." *American Anthropologist* 104: 1098-1109.

Evans, Harriet. 2010. "The Gender of Communication: Changing Expectations of Mothers and Daughters in Urban China." *China Quarterly* 204: 980-1000.

Week 9: Film and Mid-Term Exam

October 28 (Tuesday)

Film screening: *China's Lost Girls* – no reading.

October 30 (Thursday)

Mid-term exam II – take-home exam, no reading.

Week 10: Education and Social Stratification

November 4 (Tuesday)

Hannum, Emily, and Meiyang Wang. 2006. "Geography and Educational Inequality in China." *China Economic Review* 17: 253-365.

Bai, Limin. 2006. "Graduate Unemployment: Dilemmas and Challenges in China's Move to Mass Higher Education." *China Quarterly* 185: 128-144.

November 6 (Thursday)

Whyte, Martin K. 2010. "China's Post-Socialist Transition and Rising Inequality" and "Beyond the Myth of the Social Volcano" (Chapters 1 and Conclusion), pp. 11-32 and 181-200 in *Myth of the Social Volcano: Perceptions of Inequality and Distributive Injustice in Contemporary China*. Stanford, CA: Stanford University Press.

Week 11: The Political System

November 11 (Tuesday)

Lieberthal, Kenneth. 2004. "The Organization of Political Power and Its Consequences: The View from the Outside" and "The Organization of Political Power and Its Consequences: The View from the Inside" (Chapters 6-7), pp. 171-242 in *Governing China: From Revolution through Reform* (2nd edition). New York: W.W. Norton.

November 13 (Thursday)

Stern, Rachel E., and Kevin J. O'Brien. 2012. "Politics at the Boundary: Mixed Signals and the Chinese State." *Modern China* 38: 174-198.

Week 12: The Legal Reform

November 18 (Tuesday)

Liebman, Benjamin L. 2007. "China's Courts: Restricted Reform." *China Quarterly* 191: 620-638.

Minzner, Carl F. 2011. "China's Turn against Law." *American Journal of Comparative Law* 59: 935-984.

November 20 (Thursday)

Liu, Sida. 2011. "Lawyers, State Officials, and Significant Others: Symbiotic Exchange in the Chinese Legal Services Market." *China Quarterly* 206: 276-293.

Stern, Rachel E. 2011. "From Dispute to Decision: Suing Polluters in China." *China Quarterly* 206: 294-312.

Week 13: Transforming Rural China

November 25 (Tuesday)

Chan, Madsen, and Unger, "Globalization and Transformation" and "Lifestyle of a Middle Class Community" (Chapters 13-14), pp. 330-375.

Michelson, Ethan. 2008. "Justice from Above or Below? Popular Strategies for Resolving Disputes in Rural China." *China Quarterly* 193: 43-64.

November 27 (Thursday)

Happy Thanksgiving! – no reading.

Week 14: Migration and Urbanization

December 2 (Tuesday)

Zhang, Li. 2001. "The Floating Population as Subjects" and "Commercial Culture, Social Networks, and Migration Passages" (Chapters 1-2), pp. 23-68 in *Strangers in the City: Reconfigurations of Space, Power, and Social Networks within China's Floating Population*. Stanford, CA: Stanford University Press.

Chan, Madsen, and Unger, "Outsiders" (Chapter 15), pp. 376-393.

December 4 (Thursday)

Rithmire, Meg. 2013. "Land Politics and Local State Capacities: The Political Economy of Urban Change in China." *China Quarterly* 216: 872-895.

Ren, Xuefei. 2008. "Architecture and Nation Building in the Age of Globalization: Construction of the National Stadium of Beijing for the 2008 Olympics." *Journal of Urban Affairs* 30: 175-190.

Week 15: Media, the Internet, and Civil Society

December 9 (Tuesday)

Shirk, Susan L. 2007. "The Echo Chamber of Nationalism: Media and the Internet" (Chapter 4), pp. 79-104 in *China: Fragile Superpower*. New York: Oxford University Press.

Yang, Guobin, and Craig Calhoun. 2007. "Media, Civil Society, and the Rise of a Green Public Sphere in China." *China Information* 21: 211-236.

December 11 (Thursday)

Spires, Anthony J. 2011. "Contingent Symbiosis and Civil Society in an Authoritarian State: Understanding the Survival of China's Grassroots NGOs." *American Journal of Sociology* 117: 1-45.