



## **SOCI 260: Contemporary Culture and Social Change in China**

### *Summer in Beijing*

#### **Course Description**

Few countries have experienced as rapid and profound economic, social, and political changes as China has during the past several generations and decades. This course will provide an overview of important social, cultural, political and economic issues in contemporary China. We will use a **multi-disciplinary approach** and **macro and micro perspectives** to examine several **related** and **overlapping** topics:

- China's recent economic and social development; China's "economic miracle"
- U.S.-China cultural relations
- Demographic issues in China; China's "one-child policy", including recent policy changes
- China's ethnic groups; conceptions of ethnicity in China
- Beijing 2008 Olympic Games and sporting events in China
- Women's issues in China
- China's "middle class": "class" issues in contemporary China
- Media and the Internet in China
- Environmental issues in China and attempts to deal with pollution
- China as a business society; doing business in China
- Chinese films; the Chinese film industry

#### **Course Requirements**

##### Class Participation and Discussion.

**The instructor expects all students to attend all sessions of the course.** (Students will be excused for emergencies or medical reasons.) For each class session, students must complete the required readings. **The instructor expects all students to participate actively and intelligently in class discussions.** Intelligent participation does *not* mean merely opening your mouth and speaking a lot. Thoughtful comments, interesting questions, and provocative insights will be highly valued.

During some class sessions, students will serve as discussants and help to lead the discussions about specific assigned readings. Details will be explained during the course.

### Final Exam

Students will write an in-class, closed-book final exam. The exam will include short essays. The instructor will provide a study guide for the final exam. Students will have some choice of questions to answer during the final exam.

### Capstone Research Project, including a Presentation

Students will complete a research project for which they make an in-class presentation of about 20 minutes during the final week of the course. This research project will enable students to learn in greater depth about particular topics that interest them. Students will use published materials, *as well as hands-on field research in Beijing*. During all stages of the research project, students will be encouraged to make use of their Chinese language skills, both oral and written.

### **Grading for the Course**

- (1) General Class Preparation and Discussion: 35 %**
- (2) Final Exam: 35 %**
- (3) Capstone Research Project: 30%**

### **Schedule and assignments for project**

***(NOTE: There might be some modifications of this schedule.)***

**July:** Each student will select a topic for his/her project, consult with the instructor and discuss research strategies. Students will continue to fine-tune their topics.

**Mid-July:** Each student will submit a **proposal** of several pages. The proposal must: (1) explain the topic and research strategies and (2) provide an initial bibliography. The proposal must be submitted to the instructor by email by 1 pm on Sunday, July 13. Please send the proposal to both of the instructor's email addresses.

**Late July:** Each student will give in-class updates about the progress with their projects.

**First week of August:** Each student will give an in-class presentation of about 20-25 minutes about his or her project. After each presentation, we will have a Q & A session.

### **General Guidelines for Students of the Alliance for Global Education**

*Important note on deadlines, original work and class etiquette*

All work must be completed/handed-in on time in order to receive full credit. If you are ill and are not able to hand an assignment in on time, you should notify the instructor by email before the deadline, and we will make alternative arrangements.

All course work must be completely original. You must be careful to cite and reference any work that is not your own. **Plagiarism will be strictly punished. The minimum punishment for plagiarism will be an F for the assignment**, and there will also be the possibility of stricter penalties, including expulsion from the class and the program. Please refer to the Alliance program rules for details.

**Schedule and Readings** (*NOTE: There might be some modifications of this schedule.*)

The class will be a combination of introductory lectures and discussion. You are expected to come prepared for each class and to engage in discussions. You should examine all ideas critically. You are encouraged to question and critically analyze the readings, the instructor's arguments, as well as the comments of fellow students. All of this must be done in a spirit of mutual respect.

**NOTE: (1) No cell phone use is permitted in class, and laptops should be used strictly for class-related purposes. (2) Smoking is absolutely forbidden in or near the classroom.**

Students are encouraged to read (and share!) good articles about Chinese social issues from Chinese media such as *China Daily*, and especially *South China Morning Post* [Hong Kong], as well as from western media such as *The New York Times* and *The Washington Post*.

The readings include the articles by sociologists, anthropologists, demographers, economists, political scientists, journalists, business leaders, and management consultants. The readings include the work of Chinese and non-Chinese authors.

---

## Course Schedule

---

### **Session 1. Introduction to the course**

- Introduction of the topics to be examined;
- Introduction of the instructor; self-introduction of students;
- Discussion of requirements
- Introductory videos.

---

### **Session 2. Overview of Chinese Society and Politics; U.S.-China Cultural Relations.**

Shirk, Susan. "China's Economic Miracle", Chapter 2, *China: Fragile Superpower*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2007, pp. 13-34.

Lautz, Terry. "The Cultural Relationship," in David Shambaugh, editor, *Tangled Titans: The United States and China*. New York: Rowman & Littlefield, 2013, pp. 211-233.

Yang Zhong and Yongguo Chen. "Regime Support in Urban China," *Asian Survey* 53: 2 (2013): 369-392.

Gilboy, George J. and Benjamin L. Read. "Political and Social Reform in China: Alive and Walking." *The Washington Quarterly* 31 (Summer 2008): 143-164.

---

### **Session 3. Demographic issues in China; China's "one-child policy" and recent changes in the policies**

Naughton, Barry. "Population Growth and the One-Child Family", Chapter 7, pp. 162-178. *The Chinese Economy: Transitions and Growth*. Cambridge, Massachusetts: The MIT Press, 2007.

Naughton, Barry. "The Great Leap Forward, 1958-1960", pp. 69-74. *The Chinese Economy: Transitions and Growth*. Cambridge, Massachusetts: The MIT Press, 2007.

Davis, Deborah. "Demographic Challenges for a Rising China," *Daedalus, the Journal of the American Academy of Arts & Sciences*, Spring, 2014.

Banister, Judith. "The Shortage of Girls in China Today," *Journal of Population Research* Vol. 21, No. 4: (2004): 19-45.

Fong, Vanessa. "China's One-Child Policy and the Empowerment of Urban Daughters," *American Anthropologist*, 104, No. 4 (2002): pp. 1098-1109.

Demographic data on China; misc. articles about the "one-child policy"

Zhang, Weiguo. 2006. "Who Adopts Girls and Why? Domestic Adoption of Female Children in Contemporary Rural China." *China Journal*, No. 56 (July 2006): 63-82.

---

### **Session 4. Ethnic Groups and Conceptions of Ethnicity in China**

Data on "American Conceptions of Ethnicity"

Mackerras, Colin. "Ethnic Minorities in China." In *Ethnicity in Asia*, edited by Colin Mackerras. New York: Routledge, 2003.

Mackerras, Colin. "Ethnic Minorities". In *Understanding Chinese Society*, edited by Xiao Zhang, New York: Routledge, 2011.

- Gladney, Dru. 1994. "Representing Nationalities in China: Refiguring Majority/Minority Identities." *Journal of Asian Studies*, Vol. 53, No. 1 (February 1994): 92-123.
- Joniak-Luthi, Agnieszka. "The Han Minzu, Fragmented Identities, and Ethnicity," *The Journal of Asian Studies*, Vol.72, No. 4 (November 2013): 849-871.
- Paik, Wooyeal and Myungsik Ham. "From Autonomous Areas to Non-Autonomous Areas: The Politics of Korean Minority Migration in Contemporary China." *Modern China*, Vol 38, No. 1 (2012): 110-133.
- Caprioni, Elena. "Daily Encounters Between Hans and Uyghurs in Xinjiang: Sinicization, Integration, or Segregation?" *Pacific Affairs*, Vol. 84, No. 2 (June 2011): 267-287.
- Grose, Timothy. "Uyghur Language Textbooks: Competing Images of a Multi-Ethnic China." *Asian Studies Review*. Vol. 36 (Sept. 2012): 369-389.
- Cheng, Yinghong. "From Campus Racism to Cyber Racism: Discourse of Race and Chinese Nationalism." *The China Quarterly*, Vol. 207 (September 2011): 541-560.
- Bodomo, Adams. *Africans in China*. Amherst, N.Y.: Cambria Press, 2012.  
[Chapter 2: Africans in Guangzhou; Chapter 3: Africans in Yiwu; Chapter 5: Africans in Beijing]
- Sebag-Montefiore, Clarissa. "Oh, to be Jewish in China!" *New York Times*, October 2, 2012.

**Session 5. Beijing Olympic Games and other Major Sporting Events in China, such as the Beijing 2008 Paralympic Games and the Shenzhen 2011 Universiade (World University Games)**

- Brady, Anne-Marie.. "The Beijing Olympic Games as a Campaign of Mass Distraction." *The China Quarterly*, Vol. 197 (March 2009): 1-24.
- Karabell, Zachary. "The (In)Glorious Olympics". Chapter 13 of *Superfusion: How China and America Became One Economy and Why the World's Prosperity Depends on It*. New York: Simon & Schuster, 2009. [pp. 259-283]
- de Kloet, Jeroen; Gladys Pak Lei Chong, and Stefan Landsberger. "National Image Management Begins at Home: Imagining the New Olympic Citizen." In *Soft Power in China: Public*

*Diplomacy through Communication*, edited by Jian Wong. New York: Palgrave MacMillan, 2011.

Horne, John and Garry Whannel. "The 'cage torch procession': celebrities, protestors and the 2008 Olympic torch relay in London, Paris, and San Francisco." In *Documenting the Beijing Olympics*, edited by D.P. Martinez. New York: Routledge. 2011, 16-26.

Packet of materials about the Beijing 2008 Olympic Games

Packet of articles about the Beijing 2008 Olympic Games by American journalists

---

## **Session 6. Women's Issues in China**

Students should carefully review the websites of important women's organizations in China, such as:

Beijing Zhongze Women's Legal Aid Center: [www.women-legalaid.org.cn](http://www.women-legalaid.org.cn)

Leader: Guo Jianmei

Cultural Development Center for Rural Women: [www.nongjianv.org](http://www.nongjianv.org)

Leader: Wu Qing

"The Kang Tongbi Commemorative Symposium: Women Changing China," presented by Barnard College, Beijing, China (March 19, 2009).

Interviews with and materials about important Chinese women leaders: Wu Qing, Guo Jianmei, and Yang Lan

Kaufman, Joan. "The Global Women's Movement and Chinese Women's Rights". *Journal of Contemporary China*, Vol. 21, No. 6 (July 2012): 585-602.

Zhang, Lu. "Chinese Women Protesting Domestic Violence: The Beijing Conference, International Donor Agencies, and the Making of a Chinese Women's NGO." *Meridians*, Vol. 9, No. 2 (2009): 66-99.

Jeffreys, Elaine. "Exposing Police Corruption and Malfeasance: China's Virgin Prostitute Cases." *The China Journal*, No. 63 (January 2010): 127-149.

Yan, Yunxiang. "Girl Power: Young Women and the Waning of Patriarchy in Rural North China." *Ethnology*, Vol. 45, No. 2 (Spring, 2006): pp. 105-123.

Yang, Sadie and Ao Li. "Legal protection against gender discrimination in the workplace in China." *Gender and Development*, Vol. 17, No. 2, (July 2009): 295-308.

Zhang, Weiguo. "A Married out Daughter Is like Spilt Water"? Women's Increasing Contacts and Enhanced Ties with Their Natal Families in Post-Reform Rural North China." *Modern China*, Vol. 35, No. 3 (May, 2009): 256-283.

Zheng, Zhenzhen;, Yun Zhou; Lixin Zheng; Yuan Yang; Dongxia Zhao; Chaohua Lou; and Shuangling Zhao. "Sexual Behaviour and Contraceptive Use among Unmarried, Young Women Migrant Workers in Five Cities in China." *Reproductive Health Matters*, Vol. 9, No. 17 (May 2001): 118-127.

Zheng, Tiantian. "Commodifying Romance and Searchin for Love: Rural Migrant Bar Hostesses' Moral Vision in Post-Mao China." *Modern China*, Vol. 34, No. 4 (Octo. 2008): 442-476.

**Readings include both required and recommended readings.**

---

### **Session 7. China's Middle Class and Middle Class Consumerism**

Elfick, Jacqueline. "Class Formation and Consumption among Middle-Class Professionals in Shenzhen." *Journal of Current Chinese Affairs* (January 2011): 187-211.

Davis, Deborah. "Urban Consumer Culture". *The China Quarterly* 183 (2005) 677-694.

Atsmon, Yuval and Max Magni. "Meet the Chinese Consumer of 2020," *McKinsey Quarterly*, March 2012.

Li, Cheng. 2010. "Introduction: The Rise of the Middle Class in the Middle Kingdom," , *China's Emerging Middle Class: Beyond Economic Transformation*. Washington, D.C.: Brookings Institution, pp. 3-31.

---

### **Session 8. Media and Internet Issues**

Students should buy and critically read the *China Daily* and explore the English-language website of CCTV, Chinese Central Television.

Shirk, Susan. 2011. "Changing Media, Changing China." In *Changing Media, Changing China*, edited by Susan Shirk. New York: Oxford University Press.

Shirk, Susan. "The Echo Chamber of Nationalism: Media and the Internet", Chapter 4, pp. 79-104, *China: Fragile Superpower*, pp. 13-34. New York: Oxford University Press, 2007.

- Miao Di. 2011. "Between Propaganda and Commercials: Chinese Television Today." In *Changing Media, Changing China*, edited by Susan Shirk. New York: Oxford University Press.
- Xiao Qiang. 2011. "The Rise of Online Public Opinion and Its Political Impact". In *Changing Media, Changing China*, edited by Susan Shirk. New York: Oxford University Press.
- Hassid, Jonathan. "Four Models of the Fourth Estate: A Typology of Contemporary Chinese Journalists", *The China Quarterly*, Vol. 208, December 2011: pp. 813-832.
- Zhang, Xiaoling. "China's International Broadcasting: A Case Study of CCTV International," In *Soft Power in China: Public Diplomacy through Communication*, edited by Jian Wong. New York: Palgrave MacMillan, 2011.
- Song, Geng. "New Man and New Lad with Chinese Characteristics? Cosmopolitanism, Cultural Hybridity and Men's Lifestyle Magazines in China." *Asian Studies Review*, Vol. 36 (September 2012): 345-367.
- Chu, Roney Wai-chi and Chung-tai Cheng. 2011. "Cultural convulsions: Examining the Chineseness of cyber China." In *On Line Society in China: Creating, Celebrating, and Instrumentalizing the Online Carnival*, edited by David Herold and Peter Marolt. New York: Routledge.
- Chen, Xiaoyan and Peng Hwa Ang. 2011. "The Internet police in China." In *On Line Society in China: Creating, Celebrating, and Instrumentalizing the Online Carnival*, edited by David Herold and Peter Marolt. New York: Routledge.
- Marolt, Peter. 2011. "Grassroots agency in a civil sphere? Rethinking Internet control in China." In *On Line Society in China: Creating, Celebrating, and Instrumentalizing the Online Carnival*, edited by David Herold and Peter Marolt. New York: Routledge.
- Hong, Junhao. 2011. "An Unprecedented Challenge: Can the Internet be Successfully Controlled?" In *The People's Republic of China Today: Internal and External Challenge*, edited by Zhiqun Zhu. Singapore: World Scientific, 2011.

**Readings include both required and recommended readings.**

---

**Session 9. Class field trip to iconic and problematic venues for the Beijing 2008 Olympic Games**



---

**Session 10. Environmental Issues in China and Attempts to Deal with Pollution in China**  
**First briefing for the final exam**

Students should carefully review the websites of several important environmental groups in Beijing:

Center for Legal Assistance to Pollution Victims: Ma Jun, Institute of Public and Environmental Affairs: [www.ipe.org.cn/En/pollution/](http://www.ipe.org.cn/En/pollution/)

Interviews with and materials about Ma Jun, a Chinese environmental activist.

Haffner, John and Ma Jun. "Ma Jun: Information Empowers." February 11, 2013.

<http://www.policyinnovations.org/ideas/innovations/data/000236>

Economy, Elizabeth. 2007. "The Great Leap Backward?" *Foreign Affairs*.

Economy, Elizabeth. 2011. "China's Growing Water Crisis", *World Politics Review*.

Economy, Elizabeth. October 7, 2009. "Human Rights and the Rule of Law in China", Statement Prepared for the Congressional Executive Commission on China."

Lieberthal, Kenneth. June 4, 2009."Challenges and Opportunities for U.S.-China Cooperation on Climate Change." Testimony before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

Yang, Guobin. 2005. "Environmental NGOs and Institutional Dynamics in China." *The China Quarterly*, 47-66.

Jiang, Zhan. 2011. "Environmental Journalism in China." In *Changing Media, Changing China*, edited by Susan Shirk. New York: Oxford University Press.

Sima, Yangzi. "Grassroots Environmental Activism and the Internet: Constructing a Green Public Sphere in China.. *Asian Studies Review*, Vol. 35 (December 2011), pp. 477-497.

The instructor can provide digital versions of the following important materials:

China Greentech Initiative. "The China Greentech Report 2013: China at Crossroads"

Deutsche Bank, Market Research. "China Strategy: Big Bang Measures to Fight Air Pollution," February 28, 2013.

---

**Session 11. China as a Business Culture; Doing Business in China**  
**Second Briefing for the Final Exam**

Ngai, Pun and Jenny Chan. "Global Capital, the State, and Chinese Workers: The Foxconn Experience." *Modern China*, Vol. 38, No. 4 (2012): 383-410.

Lieberthal, Kenneth and Geoffrey Lieberthal. "HBR Spotlight on China: The Grand Transition", *Harvard Business Review*, October 2003.

Graham, John and N. Mark Lam. "The Chinese Negotiation," *Harvard Business Review*, October 2003

Karabell, Zachary. *Superfusion: How China and America Became One Economy and Why the World's Prosperity Depends on It*. New York: Simon & Schuster, 2009.

Chapter 3: "So Good, You Suck Your Fingers", pp. 57-76

Chapter 5: "Up, Up, and Away", pp. 97-114

Chapter 9: "Wow, Yao", pp. 173-192

Hexter, Jimmy and Jonathan Woetzel. *Operation China: From Strategy to Execution*. Boston: Harvard Business School Press, 2007. pp. 3-29, 47-66, 67-88, 89-141.

Jin, Zhiguo. "How I Did It: Tsingtao's Chairman on Jump-Starting a Sluggish Company." *Harvard Business Review*, April 2012.

Bell, David E. and Mary L. Shelman. "KFC's Radical Approach to China." *Harvard Business Review*, November 2011.

Xin, Katherine and Wang Haijie. "Culture Clash in the Boardroom." *Harvard Business Review*, September 2011.

Wakayama Toshiro; Junjiro Shintaku; and Tomofumi Amano. "What Panasonic Learned in China." *Harvard Business Review*, December 2012.

Watson, James L. "China's Big Mac Attack." *Foreign Affairs*, Vol. 79, No. 3 (May - Jun., 2000): 120-134.

**Readings include both required and recommended readings.**

---

**Session 12. Final Exam.**

---

**Session 13. Presentations and Concluding Comments**

---

**Session 14 & 15: Analysis of Chinese Films**

---