



FUDA SOCS260 Issues in Contemporary Chinese Society and Culture

The Alliance for Global Education Contemporary Society and Language

Program, Fall 2009

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Course Overview

This course for American students at Fudan provides a topical introductory survey of the culture and society of China since early times, focusing on contemporary China. It will familiarize students with their surroundings, strengthen their academic knowledge of China, and prepare them for research based in Shanghai on China's current development trends, practices, and policies.

In this course, we will examine the complexities of social issues in contemporary China. Starting from people's everyday life, we will learn to approach Chinese culture and social issues through the lenses of globalization and modernization. We will introduce theoretical tools like the body to explore the state's one-child policies, rural/urban division, health care system in urban China. Throughout this course, we are asking what counts as a better life to Chinese people and how they have been pursuing it over the past thirty years.

Course Requirements

- **Site Visits and Field Report (20%):** Each site visit is a group activity. You will explore people's everyday life with your group partners. You are required to take field notes during each site visit, write a field report and give a presentation afterward (Throughout the whole semester, each of you have at least one opportunity to share your field report with us. According to the schedule and my reading of your presentations, I will choose one or two groups to present your work to the class in order to facilitate the in-class discussion). You are also encouraged to use course reading materials to analyze your field data. I will give you specific instructions before each site visit. Due to some uncertainties, though we have planned some site visits related to the learning topics during our regular class time, some adjustments to the original plans may be necessary. You will be notified of any schedule in advance.

- **Tutorial (20%)**

Tutorial class will meet once per week. The purpose is to discuss readings and the field findings in greater depth to develop an understanding of broader social and cultural influences, including their rapid change, and their potential implications for the future of China. You are required to

write one reflective essays (one page long) on the readings each week and send it to me before 9 p.m. Tuesday night. Grading will be based on your performance of the in-class discussions and your reflective essays.

- Capstone Project (45%)

In Capstone Project, students will be instructed to delve into a particular area of interest over the course of the semester as part of their academic work. The coordinator and the instructor of the course will help students refine their ideas and plans fitting to the course. Students will also develop their ideas for their Capstone Projects during tutorial sessions.

The Capstone Project is intended as a research project that makes use of more than academic readings and secondary source materials (such as published research data and other findings). While these are potentially very important components of any research project and should be part of your project here, your Capstone Project is more importantly intended to be a one in which you take advantage of being in China. Your work will not only be more interesting but you will learn a great deal by using the resources that you would not have access to at your home university. Think of ways to incorporate interviews, participant observation, and other methods to inform your final paper and presentation. In the end, we hope that you can develop this project as part of a senior thesis or broader research project in the future.

Grading of the Capstone Project will be comprised of the following components:

Preliminary Oral Exam (5%):. Each of you is required to talk to me about your project on Sept 28th or Sept. 30th (10 minutes). You should be well prepared for this meeting as it constitutes a preliminary oral exam. You are required to address the following questions:

- What are specific research questions you are going to explore in your project?
- What research methods are you going to use?
- What are your working schedules and how are you going to keep up with them?
- What references you are going to use in your project, specify at least five academic works or papers that are related to your research.

Midterm Report (two pages long) (5%): In this report, you need document the progress of the project you have made so far, showing how you have kept your working schedule, what interesting findings you have discovered in the field and how these findings support or challenge your research hypothesis and the status of your project paper, plus what else you need to do in the field to finish your project. You also need to report the literature you have read so far with regards to your research topics and how they help you to understand the findings. It is due on **Oct 28th**

- PowerPoint presentation (15%) is required to give in **December 7th, 9th and 14th**
- Final paper of 3,000 words, plus citations and full bibliography (20%) due on **December 16th**.

- Final Exam (15%) on **Wednesday, December 16th**.

The final exam will be a closed book test. You will be asked to answer a range of questions based on lectures and reading materials in three hours. The exam format will be a combination

of multiple choice, short answer, and essay questions.

Part I: Introduction, Understanding Chinese Culture

Week One (08/31, 09/02) : Introduction and Historical background on “transition”

<http://www-chaos.umd.edu/history/toc.html>

Film: To Live

Recommended Readings:

Tang, Wenfang and William L. Parish. 2000. *Chinese Urban Life Under Reform*. New York:Cambridge University Press; Chapter 1, “Socialist and Market Contracts;” Chapter 2, “The Urban Social World;” Chapter 3, “Life Chances: Education and Jobs”; and Chapter 4, “Economic Rewards”.

Week Two (09/07, 09/09): Start from everyday life: Getting to know the field, Methodology

Marx, Patricia. “Buy Shanghai! A City for Sale. *The New Yorker* July 21st 2008 (http://www.newyorker.com/reporting/2008/07/21/080721fa_fact_marx?currentPage=all)

Lu, Hanchao. 1995. *Away from Nanking Road: Small Stores and Neighborhood Life in Modern Shanghai*. In *Journal of Asian Studies*, Volume 54 Issue 1 93-123

Lu, Hanchao. 2003. *The Significance of the Insignificant: Reconstructing the Daily Lives of the Common People*. In *China: An International Journal*, Vol 1 (March 003): 144-158

Site Visit:

At weekends and your free time, you are required to explore ideas of “localization” in global chain stores and restaurants- Starbucks, McDonalds, KFC, Subway, Wal-Mart, Pizza Hut, with the other group members (3-4 students each group). On **Wed** each student group makes a 5-10 minutes power point presentation during class. This is an independent fieldtrip which aims to help you get some ideas of how to do fieldwork for your Capstone Project Research in Shanghai.

Recommended Readings:

Sun Sheng Han. 2000. Shanghai Between State and Market in Urban Transformation. *Urban Studies*, Vol. 37, No. 11: 2091-2112

Harwit, Eric. 2005. Telecommunications and the Internet in Shanghai: Political and Economic Factors shaping the network in a Chinese City. *Urban Studies*, Vol.2, No. 10 1837-1858.

Week Three(09/14, 09/16): China, Modernization, Globalization

Hsu, Carolyn. 2005. A taste of “modernity”: Working in a western restaurant in market socialist China. *Ethnography*. Vol.6: 543-565.

Yan, Yunxiang. 2000. Of hamburger and social space: Consuming McDonalds in Beijing. In *The Consumer Revolution in Urban China*, Edited by Deborah S. Davis, University of California. 201-225

Site Visit: You are required to spend one and half hours in a grocery store nearby, observe how Chinese people do their grocery shopping. What kind of food you are familiar with and what are not. You are encouraged to talk with local people and find out their opinions on imported food. Write a field report and give presentation on Friday.

Recommended Readings:

Rofel, Lisa. 1992. [Rethinking Modernity: Space and Factory Discipline in Contemporary China](#). *Cultural Anthropology* Vol. 7, No.1 :93-114.

Rofel, Lisa. 1994. “Yearnings”: Televisual Love and Melodramatic Politics in Contemporary. *American Ethnologist* Vol. 21, No. 4: 700-722.

Zhan, Mei. 2005. Civet Cats, Fried Grasshoppers, and David Beckham’s Pajamas: Unruly Bodies after SARS. *American Anthropologist*. Vol.107, No. 1: 31-42.

Yan, Yunxiang. 1997. ‘McDonald’s in Beijing: The Localization of Americana’, in J.L. Watson (ed.) *Golden Arches East*, pp. 39–77. Stanford, CA: Stanford University Press.

Week Four (09/21, 09/23): Consumption

“Introduction: A Revolution in Consumption” Deborah Davis;

Davis and Sensenbrenner 2000. “Commercializing Childhood: Parental Purchases for Shanghai’s Only Child,” in *The Consumer Revolution in Urban China*. Pp.54-79.

Ngai, Pun. 2003. Subsumption or Consumption? The Phantom of Consumer Revolution in "Globalizing" China. *Cultural Anthropology*. Vol.18, No.4:469-492 .

Site Visit:

Xintiandi (新天地) and Tian Zi Fang (田子坊)

Recommended Readings:

Fleischer, Friderike. 2007. “To Choose a House Means to Choose a Lifestyle.” *The Consumption of Housing and Class-Structuration in Urban China*. *City& Society* Vol.19, No.2:287-311.

Week Five: (09/28, 09/30): Prepare for the Trip

Guest Speaker (pending)

Individual meeting (Preliminary Oral Exam) regarding the topic of Capstone.

Week Six (10/05, 10/07): National Holiday

Part II Body, Power, Nation-State

Week Seven(10/12, 10/14): A Unique approach to Culture: Body and Power

Foucault, Michel. 1995. "Panopticism." (pp195-228). In *Discipline and Punish*. New York: Vintage.

Yang, Mayfair Mei-Hui. 1998. The Modernity of Power in the Chinese Socialist Order. *Cultural Anthropology*, Vol. 3, Nov. 408-427.

Kipnis, Andrew. 2008. Audit cultures: Neoliberal governmentality, socialist legacy or technologies of governing? *American Ethnologist*, Volume 35 Issue 2: 275-289.

Site Visit: Propoganda Poster Art Center

Recommended Readings:

Brownell, Susan. 1995. Training the Body for China: Sports in the Moral Order of the People's Republic of China. Chicago: University of Chicago Press

Anagnost, Ann. 1997. National Past-Times: Narrative, Representation, and Power in Modern China. Durham, NC: Duke University Press

Week Eight(10/19, 19/21) : Sports, Education, Nation

Brownell, Susan, 2001, "Making dream bodies in Beijing: athletes, fashion Models, and Urban mystique in China." In Nancy N. Chen, Constance D. Clark, Suzanne Z. Gottschang, and Lyn Jeffery, eds., *China Urban: Ethnographies of Contemporary Culture*. 123-142. Durham & London: Duke University Press.

Lozada, Eriberto P. 2006. Cosmopolitanism and Nationalism in Shanghai Sports. *City & Society*, Vol. 18, No. 2: 207-231.

Site Visit: Observe one class at Fudan University

Recommended Readings:

Brownell, Susan. 2000. Why Should an Anthropologist Study Sports in China? In *Game, Sports and Cultures: anthropological Perspectives on Sport*. Noel Dyck Ed. Pp 43-65

Week Nine(10/26 10/28): Growing up as the only child in the family

Fong, Vanessa. 2007. Morality, Cosmopolitanism, or Academic Attainment? Discourses on “Quality” and Urban Chinese-only-Children’s claims to Ideal Personhood. *City & Society*. Vol.19, No.1:86-113

Woronov, T.E. 2007. Performing the Nation: China’s Children as Little Red Pioneers. *Anthropological Quarterly*, Vol. 80. No. 3: 647-672.

Site Visit: Interview one or two of your Chinese friends at about your age and ask them to tell you their life stories of growing up as the only child in their family and write down their stories .

Recommended Readings:

Anagnost, Ann. 1995. “A Surfeit of Bodies: Population and the Rationality of the State in Post-Mao China.” (pp. 22-41.) *In* *Conceiving the New World Order: The global Politics of Reproduction*. F.D.G.a.R. Rapp, eds. Berkeley: University of California Press.

Greenhalgh, Susan. 2003. [Planned births, unplanned persons: "Population" in the making of Chinese modernity](#). *American Ethnologist* Vol.30,No.2:196-215.

Handwerker, Lisa. 1998. “The consequences of modernity for childless women in China: medicalization and resistance.” (pp178-205). *In* *Pragmatic women and body politics*, eds. Margaret Lock and Patricia Kaufert. Cambridge university press.

Week Ten (11/02,11/04): No Class

Week Eleven (11/09, 11/11) Classifying Bodies: Rural/Urban Division, low/high quality population

Yan, Hairong. 2003. [Specialization of the rural: Reinterpreting the labor mobility of rural young women in post-Mao China](#). *American Ethnologist*, Vol. 30, No. 4: 578-596.

Zhang, Li. 2001 Migration and Privatization of Space and Power in Late Socialist China. *American Ethnologist*, Vol. 28. Issue one: 179-205

Recommended Readings:

Woronov, T. E. 2004. *In the Eye of the Chicken: Hierarchy and Marginality Among Beijing’s Migrant Schoolchildren*. *Ethnography*, Vol.5, No. 3: 289-313.

Yan, Hairong. 2003. Neoliberal Governmentality and Neohumanism: Organizing Suzhi/Value Flow through Labor Recruitment Networks. *Cultural Anthropology*. Nov 2003, Vol.18, No.: 93-523

Siu, Helen. 2007. Grounding displacement: Uncivil urban spaces in postreform South China. *American Ethnologist*. Vol. 34, No. 2: 329-350.

Zheng, Tiantian. 2003. Consumption, Body Image, and Rural-Urban Apartheid in Contemporary China. *City and Society* 15(2):143-163.

Week Twelve (11/16, 11/18): Gendered Body

Gateano, Arianne. 2007. Rural Woman and Modernity in Globalizing China: Seeing Jia Zhangke's *The World*. *Visual Anthropology Review*, Volume 25, Issue 1 25-39

Film:

The World

Part III: Health, Self and life

Week Thirteen (11/23, 11/25): AIDS, SARS and Public Health

Shao, Jing. 2006. Fluid Labor and Blood Money: The Economy of HIV/AIDS in Rural Central China. *Cultural Anthropology*. Vol. 21, No.4: 535-569.

Kleinman and Watson. "SARS in Social and Historical Context;" Kaufman "SARS and China's Health-Care Response;"

Erwin, Kathleen. 2006. The Circulatory System: Blood Procurement, AIDS, and the Social Body in China. *Medical anthropology Quarterly* Vol.20, No.2: 139-159.

Guest Speaker (pending)

Recommended Reading

Watson "SARS and the Consequences for Globalization" IN Kleinman, Arthur and James Watson, eds. 2006. *SARS in China: Prelude to Pandemic* (excerpts).

Week Fourteen (11/30 12/02): Care of Self: Seek for a better life

Building Better Health (BBC)

Farquhar, Judith and Qicheng Zhang. 2005. Bio-political Beijing: Pleasure, Sovereignty, and Self-Cultivation in China's Capital. *Cultural Anthropology*, Vol. 20, No. 3: 303-327

Site Visit: You are required to do fieldwork in Lu Xun Park in the morning, from 6:00am to 8:00am.

Recommended Readings:

Anderson, James G. 1992. Health Care in the People's Republic of China: A Blend of Traditional and Modern. *Central Issues in Anthropology*, Vol. 10, No. 1: 67-75.

Chen, Nancy N. 2001 Health, Wealth, and the Good Life. In *China Urban: Ethnographies of Contemporary Culture*, edited by Nancy N. Chen, Constance D. Clark, Suzanne Z. Gottschang and Lyn Jeffery. Durham and London: Duke University Press.

Week 15 & 16 (12/07,12/09, 12/14) Student Capstone Project Presentations

Week 16 (12/16): Final Exam