

Winter 2014
A25 Haines Hall
T & R 11:00AM--12:15PM
Office hours: Wed., 10:30-12:30

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Anthro175Q: Ideology and Social Change in Contemporary China

This course introduces students to social-cultural changes in China from 1949 to the present. It aims to provide students with a framework of understanding by closely examining cases of empirical study and life stories that reflect trends of institutional changes, social transformation and the remaking of both the individual and society. Four sub-themes constitute the general framework: (1) the changing yet still centrally important role played of the party-state in virtually all aspects of social life; (2) the traditional cultural logic that prioritize the web of personal relations, as reflected in notions like *guanxi* (networks), *renqing* (personal obligations) and *mianzi* (face) as well as the primacy of family and kinship; (3) the rise of the individual and the individualization of Chinese society in the era of consumerism and globalization; and (4) political and social tensions brought out by the compressed and rushed project of modernization to catch up with the West since the turn of the 20th century. A systematic survey of contemporary China along these four lines will offer a cultural understanding of the striving individuals, the thriving economy, and various political challenges and social problems in the largest consumer and investment market.

There will be two exams. A mid-term exam is scheduled on **Feb. 6** and the final exam will be on **March 21** (Friday, 11:30 AM). Exam questions will be based on materials drawn from both assigned readings and lectures. The final grade will be determined on the mid-term exam (40%) and final exam (60%).

The **required readings** are all uploaded (in PDF format) to the class website, and so is this syllabus. You may either read them online or print out the materials by yourself. There will be no paper materials distributed in the class, except for the exam questions during the midterm and final.

Lecture Topics and Reading Assignments

Week 1. The Party-State and the Making of New China (Jan. 7 & 9)

Richard McGregor. 2011. The Party: The Secret World of China's Communist Rulers.
Chapter 1, pp. 1-33.

Gregory Ruf. 1998. Cadres and Kin: Making a Socialist Village in West China, 1921-1991, Chapter 3 “Creating a New Village Order,” pp. 62-89.

Jeffrey Wasserstrom. 2007. China’s Brave New World (Bloomington: Indiana University Press), chapter 1 “Burgers, Beepers, and Bowling Alleys,” pp. 3-12.

Film: “To Live”.

Week 2. The Monopoly of Resources and Organized Dependency (Jan. 14 & 16)

Jasper Becker. 1998. Hungry Ghosts: Mao’s Secret Famine (New York: Owl Books), chapter 4 “The First Collectivization,” pp. 47-57.

Andrew Walder, 1983. "Organized Dependency and Cultures of Authority in Chinese Industry." Journal of Asian Studies 43(1): 51-76.

Week 3. Social Engineering and Cultural Changes (Jan. 21 & 23)

Jiangsui He. 2006. “The Death of a Landlord: Moral Predicament in Rural China, 1968-69.” In Joseph Esherick, Paul Pickowicz, and Andrew Walder (eds.) The Chinese Cultural Revolution as History (Stanford: Stanford University Press), pp. 124-152.

Doug Guthrie. 2006. China and Globalization: The Social, Economic, and Political Transformation of Chinese Society (London: Routledge), chapter 2 “Setting the Stage: A Primer to the Study of China’s Economic Reforms,” pp. 27-72.

Thomas Gold. 1993. “Go With Your Feelings: Hong Kong and Taiwan Popular Culture in Greater China.” China Quarterly 136: 907-925.

See also the entry “Cultural Revolution in China” in Wikipedia at http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cultural_Revolution

Week 4. Mobility, Stratification and Changing Patterns of Inequality (Jan. 28 & 30)

Pun Ngai. 1999. “Becoming *Dagongmei*: The Politics of Identity and Difference in Reform China.” The China Journal, no. 42., pp. 1-18.

Leslie Chang. 2008. Factory Girls: From Village to City in a Changing China (New York: Spiegel & Grau), chapters 3-5, pp. 44-119.

Wenfang Tang and William Parish. 2000. Chinese Urban Life under Reform: The Changing Social Contract (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press), chapters 1-2, pp. 3-38.

Film: “Last Train Home.”

Week 5. The *Guanxi* Culture and Its Transformation in a Market Economy (Feb. 4 & 6)

Midterm exam at 11:00 AM on Feb. 6.

Fei Xiaotong 1992 [1947]. From the Soil: The Foundations of Chinese Society, translated by Gary Hamilton and Wang Zheng (University of California Press), chapters 4 and 5, pp. 60-79.

Ambrose Yeo-chi King. 1994. "Kuan-hsi and Network Building: A Sociological Interpretation." In Tu Wei-ming (ed.) The Living Tree: The Changing Meaning of Being Chinese Today, pp. 109-126. Stanford: Stanford University Press.

Pitman Potter. 2002. "Guanxi and the PRC Legal System: From Contradiction to Complementarity." In Gold, Thomas et al (eds.) Social Connections in China: Institutions, Culture, and the Changing Nature of Guanxi, pp. 179-195 (New York: Cambridge University Press).

Week 6. The Transformation of Private Life (Feb. 11 & 13)

Everett Zhang, 2011. "China's Sex Revolution," in Arthur Kleinman and et al Deep China: The Moral Life of the Person, What Anthropology and Psychiatry Tell Us about China Today (University of California Press), pp. 106-151.

William Jankowiak. 2013. "Chinese Youth: Hot Romance and Cold Calculation." In Perry Link, Richard Madsen and Paul Pickowicz (eds.) Restless China (Rowman & Littlefield Publishers), pp. 191-212.

Yunxiang Yan. 2003. Private Life under Socialism: Love, Intimacy, and Family Change in a Chinese Village, 1949-1999 (Stanford: Stanford University Press), Chapters 2-4, pp. 42-111.

Week 7. The Rise of the Individual and the Individualization of Society (Feb. 18 & 20)

Fei Xiaotong 1992 [1947]. From the Soil: The Foundations of Chinese Society, translated by Gary Hamilton and Wang Zheng (University of California Press), chapters 6-9, pp. 80-107.

Mette Hansen and Cuiming Pang. 2010. "Idealizing Individual Choice: Work, Love and Family in the Eyes of Young Rural Chinese." In Mette Hansen and Rune Svarverud (eds.) iChina: The Rise of the Individual in Modern Chinese Society (Copenhagen, NIAS Press), pp. 39-64.

Stig Thøgersen and Ni Anru. 2010. "He is He and I am I: Individual and Collective among China's Elderly." In Mette Hansen and Rune Svarverud (eds.) iChina: The

Rise of the Individual in Modern Chinese Society (Copenhagen, NIAS Press), pp. 65-93.

Week 8. Individual Rights and Social Protests: Negotiating the State-Society Relationship (Feb. 25 & 27)

Yongshun Cai. 2010. Collective Resistance in China: Why Popular Protests Succeed or Fail (Stanford University Press), chapters 2-3, pp. 21-68.

Ching Kwan Lee. 2007. "Is Labor a Political Force in China?" In Elizabeth Perry and Merle Goldman (eds.) Grassroots Political Reform in Contemporary China (Cambridge: Harvard University Press), pp. 228-252.

Yang Lijun. 2013. "Han Han and the Public." In Perry Link, Richard Madsen and Paul Pickowicz (eds.) Restless China (Rowman & Littlefield Publishers), pp. 109-128.

Week 9. Consumerism and Risk Society in the Context of Globalization (Mar. 4 & 6)

Jeremy Brown. 2013. "When Things Go Wrong: Accidents and the Legacy of the Mao Era in Today's China." In Perry Link, Richard Madsen and Paul Pickowicz (eds.) Restless China (Rowman & Littlefield Publishers), pp. 11-35.

Michael Palmer. 2006. "The Emergence of Consumer Rights: Legal Protection of the Consumer in the PRC." In Kevin Latham, Stuart Thompson, and Jakob Klein (eds.) Consuming China: Approaches to Cultural Change in Contemporary China, pp. 56-81 (London: Routledge).

James Watson. 2005. "China's Big Mac Attack," In James Watson and Melissa Caldwell (eds.) The Cultural Politics of Food and Eating, pp. 70-79 (Oxford: Blackwell Publishing).

Yunxiang Yan. 2012. "Food Safety and Social Risk in Contemporary China." Journal of Asian Studies 71(3): 705-729.

Film: "Mardi Gras: Made in China."

Week 10. The Party-State, Nationalism and the Modernization Project (Mar. 11 & 13)

Peter Hays Gries. 2005. China's New Nationalism: Pride, Politics, and Diplomacy (University of California Press), Introduction and chapters 1-3, pp. 1-53.

Zou Keyuan. 2006. "The Party and the Law." In Kyeld E. Brodsgaard and Zheng Yongnian (eds.) The Chinese Communist Party in Reform (London: Routledge), pp. 77-102.