

ANT 2410/UGA2180: Chinese Culture and Society
Spring 2010

Instructor: Dr. Ju-chen Chen

Office: NAH 411

Email: jccljh@gmail.com

TA: WU, Huanyu (Anna)

TA email: xiongdexiaotuzi@yahoo.com.cn

Time: Thursday 10.30 AM - 12.15 PM

Tutorial: Tuesday 1.30 – 2.15 PM

Location: MMW LT2

Office Hours: By arrangement

COURSE OVERVIEW

This course introduces students to an anthropological perspective to Chinese culture and society. We will focus on differences among the Chinese, fundamental structures and values at the core of Chinese cultural traditions, and contemporary transformations under the impacts of both China's socialist state and the global capitalism. The aim of this course is to help you think about what it means to be Chinese and how basic building blocks of culture may or may not evolve in time. Through our discussions, students are encouraged to critically think about taken-for-granted concepts of China, Chinese culture, society, and people.

Our lectures will generally contain brief presentation of basic anthropological concepts and debates related to the week's theme and also time for small group discussions. Tutorials will be primarily devoted to more detailed review of the required readings and related activities to encourage further thoughts regarding the week's theme.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Assignments and evaluation:

Book Review	40%
Term Paper	40%
Class Participation	20%

Book Review of no more than 10 double-spaced pages. Choose a book from the list of ethnographies and write a critique, integrating the theories discussed in the course and your self reflections. You will have chance to share your thoughts on the ethnography during tutorials. **Due on February 25th.**

Term Paper of no more than 10 double-spaced pages. Write a critical essay on a topic related to an aspect of Chinese culture or society. You will do a short oral presentation of your paper *in progress* in either **week 11 or week 12**. You will present your idea in class and will hand in a draft of your essay at the end of that class. Do not worry that your essay is still drafty or incomplete – it is expected to be so! The draft will not be graded or marked individually but to help me learn more about your idea for final essays. **Due on April 30th.**

Required Readings:

Assigned readings are reserved in University Library. Materials having electronic versions as well as those not available in the library will be available through our class Moodle site.

COURSE OUTLINE

Several readings will be taken from the following two volumes:

Fei, Xiaotong, Gary G. Hamilton, and Zheng Wang

1992 From the soil, the foundations of Chinese society : a translation of Fei Xiaotong's *Xiangtu Zhongguo*, with an introduction and epilogue. Berkeley: University of California Press.

Dutton, Michael Robert

1998 Streetlife China. Cambridge, UK ; New York: Cambridge University Press.

WK1 (Jan. 14): Introduction

Fei, Xiaotong, Gary G. Hamilton, and Zheng Wang

1992 Chapter 1: Special Characteristics of Rural Society. *In* From the soil, the foundations of Chinese society: a translation of Fei Xiaotong's *Xiangtu Zhongguo*, with an introduction and epilogue. Pp. 37-44. Berkeley: University of California Press.

Diamond, Jared M.

2005 CH16: How China Became Chinese. *In* Guns, germs, and steel: the fates of human societies. J.M. Diamond, ed. Pp.322-333. New York: Norton.

Part I: Who are the Chinese?

WK2 (Jan. 21): Who are the Chinese?

Blum, Susan Debra, and Lionel M. Jensen

2002 Ch1 Introduction: Reconsidering the Middle Kingdom. *In* China off center: mapping the margins of the middle kingdom

Pp. 1-24. Honolulu: University of Hawai'i Press.

Schein, Louisa

2000 Making *Minzu*: The State, The Category, and the Work (Ch. 3). *In* Minority Rules: The Miao and the Feminine in China's Cultural Politics. Pp. 68-99. Durham: Duke University Press.

WK 3 (Jan. 28): The Political: the family, the “all under heaven,” and the modern nation-state

Cohen, Myron

- 1990 Being Chinese: The Peripheralization of Traditional Identity. *Daedalus* 120:113-134.
- Fei, Xiaotong
 1992 Patrilineages. *In* From the soil, the foundations of Chinese society : a translation of Fei Xiaotong's Xiangtu Zhongguo, with an introduction and epilogue. X. Fei, G.G. Hamilton, and Z. Wang, eds. Pp. 80-86. Berkeley: University of California Press.
- Dutton, Michael Robert
 1998 Naming: Revolutionary Culture & What's in a Name: Revolutionary China and the New Cosmology of the Name. *In* Streetlife China. Pp. 165-170. Cambridge, UK; New York: Cambridge University Press.

Part II: Building Blocks

WK 4 (Feb. 4): The Economic I: village life and family reproduction

- Huang, Shu-min
 2002 Economic Culture and Moral Assumptions in a Chinese Village in Fujian. *Asian Anthropology* 1:59-85.
- Watson, James L.
 2004 From the common pot: feasting with equals in Chinese society. *In* Village life in Hong Kong: politics, gender, and ritual in the New Territories. Pp. 105-124. Hong Kong: Chinese University Press.

WK 5 (Feb. 11): The Economic II: the city and the market

** Happy Chinese New Year!*

- Friedmann, John
 2005 CH1: Historical Traces. *In* China's urban transition. Pp. 1-18. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press.
- Skinner, G. William, and Hugh D. R. Baker
 1977 Introduction: Urban and Rural in Chinese Society. *In* The City in late imperial China. 253-274. Stanford, Calif.: Stanford University Press.

** Tutorial on Feb. 23, after the Chinese New Year Vacation*

WK 6 (Feb. 18): NO CLASS (Chinese New Year)

WK 7 (Feb. 25): The Social I: social hierarchy and education

- Fei Hsiao-Tung
 1946 Peasantry and Gentry: An Interpretation of Chinese Social Structure and its Changes. *American Journal of Sociology* (52):1-17.
- Barlow, Tani
 1991 ZHISHIFENZI [Chinese intellectuals] and power. *Dialectical Anthropology* 16:209-32.

WK 8 (Mar. 4): The Cultural I: Chinese cosmology (popular religions, body and medicine)

Dutton, Michael Robert

1998 The traditional Chinese view of the cosmos and the practices of everyday life. *In Streetlife China*. M.R. Dutton, ed. Pp. 31-38. Cambridge, UK ; New York: Cambridge University Press.

Farquhar, Judith

2002 Introduction. *Appetites: Food and sex in postsocialist China*. 1-33. Durham & London: Duke University Press.

WK 9 (Mar. 11): The Cultural II: *guanxi* and the Chinese “self”

Fei, Xiaotong

1992 *Chaxu geju: the Differential mode of association*. *In From the soil, the foundations of Chinese society : a translation of Fei Xiaotong's Xiangtu Zhongguo*, with an introduction and epilogue. X. Fei, G.G. Hamilton, and Z. Wang, eds. Pp. 60-70. Berkeley: University of California Press.

Kipnis, Andrew B.

1997 Everyday *Guanxi* Production. *In Producing Guanxi: Sentiment, Self, and Subculture in a North China Village*. Pp. 23-38. Durham: Duke University Press.

WK 10 (Mar. 18): The Social II: Social Positions (Gender and Kinship)

Fei, Xiaotong

1992 CH7: Between Men and Women, there are only differences. *In From the soil, the foundations of Chinese society : a translation of Fei Xiaotong's Xiangtu Zhongguo*, with an introduction and epilogue. X. Fei, G.G. Hamilton, and Z. Wang, eds. Pp. 87-93. Berkeley: University of California Press.

Dutton, Michael Robert

1998 Defining ‘Outsiders’, Labelling *Liumang*: To be Defined a *Liumang*. *In Streetlife China*. 62-64. Cambridge, UK ; New York: Cambridge University Press. [the section of Defining ‘outsiders,’ *labeling liumang*]

Watson, James L., and Rubie S. Watson

2004 The named and the nameless. *In Village life in Hong Kong : politics, gender, and ritual in the New Territories*. J.L. Watson and R.S. Watson, eds. Pp. 199-220. Hong Kong: Chinese University Press.

Part III: Contemporary China

WK 11 (Mar. 25): Socialist Legacy: Hukou and Urban-rural Differences

Knight, John, and Lina Song

2002 Rural-urban Divide: Economic Disparities and Interactions in China. *In China: adapting the past, confronting the future*. T.M. Buoye, ed. Pp.. Ann Arbor, Mich.: Center for Chinese Studies.

Yan Hairong

2003 Spectralization of the rural: Reinterpreting the labor mobility of rural young women in post-Mao China. *American Ethnologist* 30(4):1-19.

Dutton, Michael Robert

1998 Out of the Work Unit. *In Streetlife China*. Pp. 214-221. Cambridge, UK; New York: Cambridge University Press.

WK 12 (Apr. 1): Dengist Economic Reform and Consumerism

**Happy April Fools' Day and have a good Ching Ming Festival.*

Davis, Deborah S., ed.

2000 Introduction: A Revolution in consumption. *In The Consumer Revolution in Urban China*. Pp. 1-22. Berkeley. Los Angeles. London: University of California Press.

Dutton, Michael Robert

1998 Chinese culture drawn into the market. *In Streetlife China*. M.R. Dutton, ed. Pp. 265-9. Cambridge, UK ; New York: Cambridge University Press.

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1998 Market trainings. *In Streetlife China*. M.R. Dutton, ed. Pp. 273-84. Cambridge, UK ; New York: Cambridge University Press.

** No tutorial on April 6, Public Holiday*

WK 13 (Apr. 8): Domestic Migration and Overseas Chinese

Zhang, Li

2001 The Floating Population as Subjects. Strangers in the City: Reconfigurations of Space, Power, and Social Networks within China's Floating Population. 23-46. Stanford: Stanford University Press.

Tu, Weiming

1994 Cultural China: The Periphery as the Center. *In The living tree : the changing meaning of being Chinese today*. W. Tu, ed. Pp. 1-34. Stanford, Calif.: Stanford University Press.

** Tutorial on April 13 for WK 12 & 13*

WK 14 (Apr. 15): Post Olympics China: rethinking modernization

Brownell, Susan

2008 Introduction. Beijing's Games: What the Olympics Mean to China. Pp. 1-18. Lanham, Boulder, New York, Toronto and Plymouth, UK: Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, Inc.

Rofel, Lisa B.

1999 Preface and Introduction: Modernity and Its Discrepant Desire. Other Modernities: Gendered Yearnings in China After Socialism. Xi – 37. Berkeley: University of California Press. ** Skim for the part on modernity.*

WK 15 (Apr. 22): Conclusion

No required reading.

Recommended Reading Lists:

- Adrian, Bonnie
2003 Framing the bride : globalizing beauty and romance in Taiwan's bridal industry. Berkeley: University of California Press.
- Bosco, Joseph, and Puay-peng Ho
1999 Temples of the Empress of Heaven. Hong Kong ; New York: Oxford University press.
- Brownell, Susan
1995 Training the body for China : sports in the moral order of the People's Republic. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.
- Bruun, Ole
1993 Business and bureaucracy in a Chinese city : an ethnography of private business households in contemporary China. Berkeley: Institute of East Asian Studies, University of California.
- Chau, Adam Yuet
2006 Miraculous response : doing popular religion in contemporary China. Stanford, Calif.: Stanford University Press.
- Constable, Nicole
1994 Christian souls and Chinese spirits : a Hakka community in Hong Kong. Berkeley: University of Calif. Press.
- Farquhar, Judith
2002 Appetites: Food and sex in postsocialist China. Durham & London: Duke University Press.
- Fei, Xiaotong
1939 Peasant life in China : a field study of country life in the Yangtze valley. London: G. Routledge.
- Freedman, Maurice
1965 Lineage organization in southeastern China. London. New York,: University of London Athlone Press;
- Humanities Press.
- Gates, Hill
1996 China's Motor: a Thousand Years of Petty Capitalism. Ithaca: Cornell University Press.
- Gillette, Maris Boyd
2000 Between Mecca and Beijing: Modernization and consumption among urban Chinese Muslims. Stanford, CA: Stanford University Press.
- Hanser, Amy
2008 Service Encounters: Class, Gender, and the Market for Social Distinction in Urban China. Stanford, California: Stanford University Press.
- Hertz, Ellen
1998 The trading crowd : an ethnography of the Shanghai stock market. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

- Huang, Shu-min
1998 *The spiral road : change in a Chinese village through the eyes of a Communist Party leader*. Boulder, Colo.: Westview Press.
- Ikels, Charlotte
1996 *The return of the god of wealth : the transition to a market economy in urban China*. Stanford, Calif.: Stanford University Press.
- Jing, Jun
1996 *The Temple of Memories: History, Power, and Morality in a Chinese Village*. Stanford: Stanford University Press.
- Lin, Yaohua
1974 *The golden wing : a sociological study of Chinese familism*. Westport, Conn.: Greenwood Press.
- Litzinger, Ralph A.
2000 *Other Chinas : the Yao and the politics of national belonging*. Durham, NC: Duke University Press.
- Liu, Xin
2000 *In one's own shadow : an ethnographic account of the condition of post-reform rural China*. Berkeley: University of California Press.
- Mueggler, Eric
2001 *The Age of Wild Ghosts: Memory, violence, and place in Southwest China*. Berkeley: University of California Press.
- Parish, William L., and Martin K. Whyte
1978 *Village and Family in Contemporary China*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.
- Rofel, Lisa B.
1999 *Other Modernities: Gendered Yearnings in China After Socialism*. Berkeley: University of California Press.
- Rudelson, Justin Jon
1997 *Oasis identities : Uyghur nationalism along China's Silk Road*. New York: Columbia University Press.
- Schein, Louisa
2000 *Minority rules : the Miao and the feminine in China's cultural politics*. Durham: Duke University Press.
- Watson, James L., and Rubie S. Watson
2004 *Village life in Hong Kong : politics, gender, and ritual in the New Territories*. Hong Kong: Chinese University Press.
- Welland, Sasha Su-Ling
2006 *A Thousand Miles of Dreams: The Journeys of Two Chinese Sisters*. Lanham, Boulder, New York, Toronto and Plymouth, UK: Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, Inc.
- Yan, Hairong
2008 *New masters, new servants : migration, development, and women workers in China*. Durham: Duke University Press.
- Yan, Yunxiang
1996 *The flow of gifts : reciprocity and social networks in a Chinese village*. Stanford, Calif.: Stanford University Press.
- Yu, LiAnne, Cynthia Chan, and Christopher Ireland
2007 *China's new culture of cool : understanding the world's fastest-growing market*. Berkeley, Calif.: New Riders.
- Zhang, Li

2001 Strangers in the City: Reconfigurations of Space, Power, and Social Networks within China's Floating Population. Stanford: Stanford University Press.

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