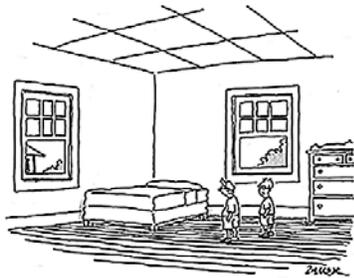


ANT 265: Contemporary Chinese Society and Culture
Fall 2012, M 9:30am-12:00pm

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"My parents sent back all my stuff that came from China."

This seminar examines Chinese society from the “bottom up,” with an emphasis on the structure of everyday life. The course will explore current issues in Chinese society and culture by examining in detail particular ethnographic case studies from contemporary China, including a study of one of China’s minority groups. The goal of this course is to introduce you to the social and cultural issues that are facing the people who live in a rapidly-changing Chinese society. In the first week, as a class we will select two additional topics, and I will provide readings then that address these issues.

Contemporary China will be studied from the anthropological perspective – largely a “bottom-up,” comparative examination of particular social processes that is presented in the form of ethnographic monographs and articles that describe everyday life in detail. Our emphasis will be on understanding how Chinese traditions and culture have shaped Chinese society today. What is uniquely Chinese in Chinese culture? How have over three thousand years of history and tradition and its recent emergence out of Maoist socialism shaped everyday life in China? How do social units like the family or practices such as life-cycle rituals give structure to Chinese society? What will China be like in the 21st century?

Course Readings

- Chen, Nancy, Constance Clark, Suzanne Gottschang, and Lyn Jeffery. 2001. *China Urban: Ethnographies of Contemporary Culture*. Durham: Duke University Press.
- Palmer, David A., Glenn Shive, and Philip Wickeri. 2011. *Chinese Religious Life*. New York: Oxford University Press.
- Lin, Yi-Chieh Jessica. 2011. *Fake Stuff: China and the Rise of Counterfeit Goods*. New York: Routledge.
- Economy, Elizabeth C. 2011. *The River Runs Black: The Environmental Challenge to China’s Future*, 2nd ed. Ithaca: Cornell University Press.
- Leung, Angela Ki Che and Charlotte Furth. 2010. *Health and Hygiene in Chinese East Asia: Policies and Publics in the Long Twentieth Century*. Durham: Duke University Press.

Additional articles will be available on moodle.

Course Requirements

The most important work in this course is to be prepared for each class meeting; this means having thoroughly read the material and being prepared to discuss particular points from the reading. Readings are due on the day listed in the class schedule. Your engagement with the material is vital for the success of this learning experience.

Class Participation: 15%

The most important work in this course is to be prepared for each class; this means having thoroughly read the material and being prepared to discuss particular points from the reading. Readings are due on the day listed in the class schedule. I will not summarize the readings in lecture, but will discuss the implications and difficult points in the material. Remember, there is no such thing as a dumb question or comment. A good strategy is to mark a part of the reading that you feel is important, unclear, or thought-provoking – you can then share the passage with the class.

Response Papers: 20%

You will write weekly response papers throughout the term, no more than two pages and double-spaced. They will be graded ($\sqrt{+}$, $\sqrt{}$, $\sqrt{-}$) and require timely submission for full credit. Response papers will serve as a diagnostic for me to help me see how much you understand the reading and the concepts that we will discuss in class.

Research Paper (total 65%: proposal 5%, final paper 60%): Based on your research interests, you will select a particular topic for more in-depth research and analysis. I will distribute handouts on the proposal and citing format for this term paper of no more than fifteen pages. This can be an expansion of either of your review essays. I would recommend that you meet with me individually or email me to discuss possible topics before submitting your proposal. The proposal is due on **25 September** and the final paper is due on, **11 December**.



Submission of Writing Assignments: All assignments must be submitted to me electronically. You can do this in two ways: as an email attachment; or through the digital drop box in Blackboard. If you are not using Microsoft Word, please save the file as in "rich text format." If you have any questions about how to submit assignments, please see me individually. I will be returning your work to you electronically as well, with comments visible in Adobe Acrobat.

Grading System:

Grades will follow the college system using the 4.0 scale (i.e., A=4.0, A-=3.7, B+=3.3, etc. – see the college catalog) and weighted for each assignment as described above.

While students working with each other outside of class is highly encouraged, all graded, written work must be your own and pledged accordingly. All work is subject to the Davidson College Honor Code as stated in the student handbook. If there are individual accommodations for

special needs, please let me know and authorize the Dean of Students to contact me so that we can work something out.

Class Schedule (subject to modification)

Week 1 10 September	Reading: <i>China Urban</i> : Introduction, Part 1, and Part 4
Week 2 17 September	Reading: <i>China Urban</i> : Part 2 and Part 3
Week 3 24 September	Reading: <i>Chinese Religious Life</i> , Introduction, Part I, and Part IV Assignment: Proposal Due
Week 4 1 October	Golden Week No Class
Week 5 8 October	Reading: <i>Chinese Religious Life</i> , Part II, Part III
Week 6 15 October	Reading: <i>The River Runs Black</i> , Chapters 1-4
Week 7 22 October	Reading: <i>The River Runs Black</i> , Chapters 5-8
Week 8 29 October	Reading: <i>Fake Stuff</i> , Chapters 1-3
Week 9 5 November	Reading: <i>Fake Stuff</i> , Chapters 4-6
Week 10 12 November	Reading: <i>Health and Hygiene</i> , Introduction, Parts I and II
Week 11 19 November	Reading: <i>Health and Hygiene</i> , Part III and Afterword
Week 12 26 November	Reading: TBD
Week 13 3 December	Reading: TBD
Week 14 10 December	Final Paper Due