

## **CHE2101/CCSS2120 Chinese Family and Marriage**

**Spring 2021**

Lecture: Wed 14:30 - 16:15 (ARC G03)

Tutorial: Wed 16:30 - 17:15 (ARC G03)

Instructor: Prof. Siumi Maria TAM (siumitam@cuhk.edu.hk)

Tutor: Ms. LIU Yiling (1155136155@link.cuhk.edu.hk)

### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

The family is often imagined to be a social institution with a set of values and relationships shared by everyone in society. This is far from reality. The concept of family has various levels of meanings in Chinese culture, and throughout Chinese history these have transformed in response to the needs and ideologies of the time. While Han families may share certain idealized views of the family as a social system, its practice is perhaps as varied as the number of families. Ethnic groups and Chinese overseas communities add to this complexity as their worldviews, religions, and socioeconomic environments acculturate thinking and behavior that differ from what is understood as Chinese core values. Marriage practices and gender relations, in addition, exist in diverse forms, and these have changed over time for example as governments promulgated new marriage laws and as civil society demanded for reform. This course takes an anthropological perspective in understanding the diverse forms of Chinese family and marriage. Students will learn about the ideology and practice of family and marriage in different historical periods, and their developments in modern and contemporary Chinese societies. We will discuss the common factors leading to change on the material, social and ideological levels, and at the same time find out how diversity develops, such as due to urbanization, globalization, appearance of reproductive technologies, and changing values in sexuality. Ethnographic cases will be discussed in-depth and students are encouraged to develop critical thinking of social and cultural phenomena in relation to Chinese family and marriage.

### **LEARNING OUTCOMES**

By the end of the semester, students should:

- be familiar with key concepts and social theories about family and marriage
- grasp main issues of family and marriage in the Chinese context
- improve analytical writing in English both individually and collaboratively
- develop oral skills to present coherent and succinct analysis.

### **COURSE ASSESSMENT**

**Class Participation (25%):** Regular, active attendance in lectures and tutorials is an important aspect of the learning experience in this course and is therefore both expected and required. All readings must be completed prior to the class meeting for which they are scheduled. Unexcused absences will result in loss of points, and students with more than 3 unexcused absences will receive no points for class participation. Extreme lateness will be counted as absence.

**Group Presentation (25%):** From Week 3 students will present as a group on their chosen week's topic informatively based on the required readings and external resources. The presentation should be 20 minutes long with the aid of PowerPoint in class. A sign-up sheet

will be circulated in Week 2. Each group should email the PPT to the instructor and the TA 2 days before the presentation. Grading guidelines will be disseminated in class.

Final Exam (50%): Students will have a take-home exam, answering two essay questions by synthesizing and applying some of the theoretical arguments and/or case studies from the readings. Each answer should be a short essay of about 1200 words (in 12-point Times New Roman font, 1-inch margin at all sides, single-spaced, page numbered, with word count at the end of the essay). Grading guidelines will be disseminated in class. Students should submit the papers to the Veriguide system first and scan the receipt into a PDF file. This should be submitted together with the essays to Blackboard no later than 5pm on May 10, 2021 (Monday). NO late submission will be accepted. Please note that cases of plagiarism will be severely penalized and reported to the Faculty Dean, which could result in failure in the course or in expulsion from the University. Please familiarize yourselves with the plagiarism policy at : [https://services.veriguide.org/academic/login\\_CUHK.jspx](https://services.veriguide.org/academic/login_CUHK.jspx).

#### COURSE SCHEDULE AND READINGS

The assigned readings are selected to provide different perspectives of the weekly topics. They are meant to stimulate thinking and discussion rather than simply to provide information. You are encouraged to read critically on the data as well as the authors' arguments. Develop your own views and learn through group presentations and discussion with your peers in the tutorials.

#### **Week 1 Jan 13 Introduction: Chinese culture and Chinese family**

1. Freedman, Maurice. 1970. Introduction. In *Family and Kinship in Chinese Society*. Stanford: Stanford University Press.
2. Jacka, Tamara, Andrew Kipnis, and Sally Sargeson. 2013. Ch 1 Families, Kinship and Relatedness. In *Contemporary China: Society and Social Change*. Tamara Jacka, Andrew Kipnis and Sally Sargeson, eds. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

#### **Week 2 Jan 20 Kinship and lineage**

1. Watson, Rubie. 1985. Introduction. In *Inequality among Brothers: Class and kinship in South China*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
2. Watson, Rubie S. 1991. Wives, Concubines, and Maids: Servitude and kinship in the Hong Kong Region, 1900-1940. In *Marriage and Inequality in Chinese Society*. Rubie S. Watson and Patricia B. Ebrey, eds. Berkeley: University of California Press.

#### **Week 3 Jan 27 Engendering the patriarchal family**

1. Wolf, Margery. 1972. Uterine Families and the Women's Community. In *Women and the Family in Rural Taiwan*. Stanford: Stanford University Press.
2. Chan, Eliza. 1997. *Jyuhf Fohng Neuih: Female Inheritance and Affection*. In *Hong Kong: The Anthropology of a Chinese Metropolis*. Grant Evans and Maria Tam, eds. Surrey: Curzon.

**Week 4 Feb 3            Rethinking the traditional family**

1. Stacey, Judith. 1983. Principles and Contradictions of the Confucianist Patriarchal Order. In *Patriarchy and Socialist Revolution in China*. Berkeley: University of California Press.
2. Siumi Maria Tam. 2005. We-women and They-women: Imagining mistresses across the Hong Kong-China border. In *Rethinking and Recasting Citizenship: Social Exclusion and Marginality in Chinese Societies*. May Tam, Ku Hok-bun, and Travis Kong, eds. Hong Kong: Centre for Social Policy Studies, the Hong Kong Polytechnic University.

**Week 5 Feb 10           Familism in a changing world**

1. Yuen, Sun-pong, Pui Lam Law, and Yuk-ying Ho. 2004. Ch 1 Theoretical Framework: Familism, women's liberation and autonomy. In *Marriage, Gender and Sex in a Contemporary Chinese Village*. Armonk: ME Sharpe.
2. Pun, Ngai. 2005. Marching from the Village: Women's Struggles between Work and Family. In *Made in China: Women Factory Workers in a Global Workplace*. Durham and London: Duke University Press.

**Week 6 Feb 17           Lunar New Year Holiday (no class)**

**Week 7 Feb 24           To marry or not to marry**

1. Ng, Evelyn G.H., and Catherine Ng. 2013. Single Working Women and Motherhood: The personal and the political. *AJWS* 19(1): 9-38.
2. Zhang, Jun and Sun Peidong. 2013. When Are You Going to Get Married?: Marriage and middle-class women in contemporary urban China. In *Wives, Husbands, and Lovers: Marriage and Sexuality in Hong Kong, Taiwan, and Urban China*. D. S. Davis and S. Friedman, eds. Stanford: Stanford University Press.

**Week 8 Mar 3            Sex and sexuality**

1. Farrer, James. 2014. Love, Sex, and Commitment: Delinking premarital intimacy from marriage in urban China. In *Wives, Husbands, and Lovers: Marriage and Sexuality in Hong Kong, Taiwan, and Urban China*. D. S. Davis and S. Friedman, eds. Stanford: Stanford University Press.
2. Jeffreys, Elaine. 2006. Introduction: Talking sex and sexuality in China. In *Sex and Sexuality in China*. Elaine Jeffreys, ed. London and New York: Routledge.

**Week 9 Mar 10           Parenthood in transition**

1. Liong, Mario. 2017. Ch.2 From Control to Care: Historicizing family and fatherhood in Hong Kong. In *Chinese Fatherhood, Gender and Family: Father Mission*. London: Palgrave.
2. Lan, Pei-Chia. 2014. Compressed modernity and Glocal Entanglement: The contested transformation of parenting discourses in postwar Taiwan. *Current Sociology Monograph* (2):1-19.

**Week 10 Mar 17        Family and marriage in migration**

1. Szonyi, Michael. 2005. Mothers, Sons and Lovers: Fidelity and frugality in the overseas Chinese divided family before 1949. *Journal of Chinese Overseas* 2005 (1): 43-64.

2. Shen, Huifen. 2012. Ch. 7 Qiaojuan Politics and Left-behind Wives in Hong Kong. In *China's Left-behind Wives: Families of Migrants from Fujian to Southeast Asia, 1930s-1950s*. Singapore: NUS Press.

**Week 11 Mar 24      Migrant households**

1. Ling, Minhua. 2017. Precious Son, Reliable Daughter: Redefining son preference and parent-child relations in migrant households in urban China. *The China Quarterly* 229: 150-171.

2. Tam, Siumi Maria. 2003. Ch.8 Empowering Mobility: "Astronaut" women in Australia. In *Gender and Change in Hong Kong: Globalization, Postcolonialism and Chinese Patriarchy*. Eliza Lee, ed. Vancouver: UBC Press.

**Week 12 Mar 31      Reading week (no class)**

**Week 13 Apr 7      Reading week (no class)**

**Week 14 Apr 14      Family as performance**

1. Judd, Ellen. R. 2010. Family Strategies: Fluidities of gender, community and mobility in rural west China. *The China Quarterly* 204: 921-938.

2. Choi, Susanne. Y. P. and Ming Luo. 2016. Performative Family: Homosexuality, marriage and intergenerational dynamics in China. *The British Journal of Sociology* 67(2): 260-280.

**Week 15 Apr 21      Conclusion: Chinese family and marriage in flux**

1. Harrell, Stevan, and Gonçalo Santos. 2017. Introduction. In *Transforming Patriarchy. Chinese Families in the 21st Century*, Gonçalo Santos and Stevan Harrell, eds. Seattle: University of Washington Press.

2. Kendall, Laurel. 2014. Conclusion: Marriages and families in Asia: Something old and something new? In *Gender and Family in East Asia*. Siumi Maria Tam, Wai Ching Angela Wong, and Danning Wang, eds. London and New York: Routledge.