

CHES3005/CCSS3420

Social Issues and Problems in Contemporary China

CUHK Fall 2020

Instructor: YANG, Zhiqiang (Marnyi Gyatso) (yangzq@link.cuhk.edu.hk)
TA: LIU, Yiling (LiuYiling@link.cuhk.edu.hk)
Time: Monday 8:30am–11:15am
Venue: Online Teaching [In Case Face-to-Face teaching, CKB 706B]
Office: 11/F, Yasumoto International Academic Park
Office hours: By email appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course examines major social issues and problems in China, both China proper and its vast borderland, that emerged in late imperial China, evolved throughout the twentieth century and become increasingly relevant in contemporary China. It introduces students to the disparate perspectives and narratives of the state, societies and contemporary academia regarding the political, social, and economic changes and continuities that have affected the Chinese and other ethnic groups across China. The lectures discuss the major social problems encountered by both the Chinese majority and non-Chinese minority groups, emphasize the academic search for truth, and prepare students for critically understanding these social issues and problems facing China and its culturally diverse population.

Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, students should:

- be familiar with China's major social problems in China proper and its borderland;
- be able to critically analyze the causes and implications of these social problems;
- learn to identify and evaluate the sources used by researchers and reporters.

ASSESSMENT (More details will be provided in class)

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|----------------------------|-----|
| Attendance & Participation | 15% |
| Précis | 15% |
| Reading Presentation | 20% |
| Mid-Term Test | 20% |
| Final Essay | 30% |

Class Attendance & Participation

Regular class and tutorial attendance are required, participation in class and tutorial discussion is strongly encouraged. Reading of required literature for every week is mandatory and will be discussed in class.

Précis

Each student will prepare a one-page long précis (**1.5-spaced** with standard margins and in **12-point Times New Rome Font, with a signed Veriguide receipt**) of a week's reading(s) to be e-mailed to the instructor and TA **a day in advance of class**. The précis should summarize the reading(s) and make a comprehensive, yet concise critical analysis of its/their arguments.

Reading Presentation

Each student will be assigned to introduce his/her reflection on another piece of assigned reading with the class. The chosen readings for précis and presentation **must be different**. The presentation should include a summary distillation of the main ideas of the reading and a brief commentary. The whole presentation is **between 10 to 15 minutes**.

Mid-Term Exam

The Mid-Term Exam will be a take-home test. Each student will choose **four out of six** short essay questions based on course readings and lectures. A **soft copy (1.5-spaced** with standard margins and in **12-point Times New Rome Font)** and a **signed Veriguide receipt** must be submitted by **midnight on Friday of Week 8**.

Final Essay

Students will write a Final Essay based on their interests. Students are suggested to consult the instructor if they encounter any problems. The Final Essay should follow the basic requirements of an academic essay and contain about **1,800** words (excluding footnotes and Bibliography), **1.5-spaced** with standard margins and in **12-point Times New Rome Font**. A **soft copy** of the paper (.doc, .docx) and a **signed Veriguide receipt** must be submitted by **midnight on December 11 (Friday), 2020** to the **Blackboard** System. Soft copies without the Veriguide receipt will **NOT** be graded.

Veriguide website: https://services.veriguide.org/academic/login_CUHK.jspx

ACADEMIC HONESTY AND PLAGIARISM

Attention is drawn to University policy and regulations on honesty in academic work, and to the disciplinary guidelines and procedures applicable to breaches of such policy and regulations. Details may be found at <http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/policy/academichonesty/>.

COURSE ANNOUNCEMENTS

This course uses the CUHK eLearning system, which can be found at <https://elearn.cuhk.edu.hk>. Make sure to check this system and your CUHK email regularly.

Depending on the progress of learning, this syllabus may change during the course. Changes will be announced by the instructor.

Course Meetings & Assignment Due Dates

Recommended readings:

Gao, Fang. *Becoming a Model Minority: Schooling Experiences of Ethnic Koreans in China*. New York: Lexington Books, 2010. (Full Text Online via CUHK Library)

Pun, Ngai, and Agnes S. Ku eds. *Remaking Citizenship in Hong Kong: Community, Nation and the Global City*, second edition. London and New York: Routledge, 2011. (Full Text Online via CUHK Library)

Week 1 (Sep. 7) Introduction: Course Outline

Week 2 (Sep. 14) Contemporary Social Issues and Problems

Jacka, Tamara, Andrew B. Kipnis and Sally Sargeson. "Introduction." In *Contemporary China: Society and Social Change*, co-authored by Tamara Jacka, Andrew B. Kipnis and Sally Sargeson, 1–23. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2013.

Recommended Reading:

Perry, Elizabeth J., and Mark Selden. "Introduction: Reform and Resistance in Contemporary China." In *Chinese Society: Change, Conflict and Resistance*, edited by Elizabeth J. Perry and Mark Selden, 1–30. London and New York: Routledge, 2010.

Week 3 (Sep. 21) China, Borderland and Ethnic Minorities

Leibold, James. "From Empire to Nation." In *Reconfiguring Chinese Nationalism: How the Qing Frontier and Its Indigenous Became Chinese*, 18–47. New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2007.

Mackerras, Colin. "Ethnic Minorities." In *Critical Issues in Contemporary China*, edited by Czeslaw Tubilewicz, 167–192. New York and London: Routledge, 2006.

Recommended Reading:

Bulag, Uradyn. "Nationality." *Made in China Journal*, September 4, 2020.

<https://madeinchinajournal.com/2020/09/04/nationality-%E6%B0%91%E6%97%8F/>

Week 4 (Sep. 28) Hukou, Minzu and Social Status

Hu, Xiaojiang, and Miguel A. Salazar. "Ethnicity, Rurality and Status: Hukou and the Institutional and Cultural Determinants of Social Status in Tibet." *The China Journal*, no. 60 (July 2008): 1–21.

Wang, Feiling. "Conflict, Resistance and the Transformation of the Hukou System." In *Chinese Society: Change, Conflict and Resistance*, edited by Elizabeth J. Perry and Mark Selden, 80–100. London and New York: Routledge, 2010.

Week 5 (Oct. 5) The Rural-Urban and Minority-Majority Divides

Gustafsson, Björn. "The Ethnic Minority-Majority Income Gap in Rural China during Transition." *Economic Development and Cultural Change* 51, no.4 (2003): 805–822.

Whyte, Martin King. "The Paradoxes of Rural-Urban Inequality in Contemporary China." In *One Country, Two Societies: Rural-Urban Inequality in Contemporary China*, edited by Martin King Whyte, 1–28. Cambridge, MA.: Harvard University Press, 2010.

Recommended Reading:

Shieh, Leslie. "Becoming Urban: Rural-Urban Integration in Nanjing, Jiangsu Province." *Pacific Affairs* 84, no.3 (2011): 475–494.

Week 6 (Oct. 12) Social Stratification

Bian, Yanjie. "Chinese Social Stratification and Social Mobility." *Annual Review of Sociology* 28 (2002): 91–116.

Marsh, Robert M. "Evolution and Revolution: Two Types of Change in China's System of Social Stratification." In *Essays in Comparative Social Stratification*, edited by Leonard Plotnicov and Arthur Tuden, 149–172. Pittsburgh: University of Pittsburgh Press, 1970.

Recommended Reading:

Chen, Shuang. "Chapter One: Social Formation Under State Domination in Modern China: An Introduction." In *State-Sponsored Inequality: The Banner System and Social Stratification in Northeast China*, 1–30. California: Stanford University Press, 2017.

Week 7 (Oct. 19) Development and Marginalization

Fischer, Andrew Martin. *The Disempowered Development of Tibetan in China: A Study in the Economics of Marginalization*. Lanham, Maryland: Lexington Books, 2014, 1–37.

Liu, Yuting, and He Shenjing. "Chinese Urban Villages as Marginalized Neighbourhoods under Rapid Urbanization." In *Marginalization in Urban China: Comparative Perspectives*, edited by Fulong Wu and Chris Webster, 177–200. New York: Springer, 2010.

Week 8 (Oct. 26) Mid-Term Examination

No Class

Week 9 (Nov. 2) State and Religion

McCarthy, Susan K. "In Between the Divine and the Leviathan: Faith-based Charity, Religious Overspill and the Governance of Religion in China." *China Review* 17, no. 2, Special Issue: Evolving State-Society Relations in China (June 2017): 65–93.

Yu, Xue. "Buddhism and the State in Modern and Contemporary China." In *Modern Chinese Religion II: 1850–2015* (2 vols.), edited by Jan Kiely, Vincent Goossaert and John Lagerwey, 261–301. Leiden: Brill, 2016.

Recommended Reading:

Leibold, James. "Creeping Islamophobia: China's Hui Muslims in the Firing Line." *China Brief* 16, Issue: 10, June 20, 2016. <https://jamestown.org/program/creeping-islamophobia-chinas-hui-muslims-in-the-firing-line/>

Week 10 (Nov. 9) Multi-Directional Migrations

Biao, Xiang. "How Far Are the Left-Behind Left Behind? A Preliminary Study in Rural China." *Population, Space and Place* 13 (2007): 179–191.

Zhang, Jijiao. "Ethnic Minority Labor Out-migrants from Guizhou Province and Their Impacts on Sending Areas." In *China's Minorities on the Move: Selected Case Studies*, edited by Robyn Iredale, Naran Bilik and Guo Fei, 141–154. New York: Routledge, 2015.

Recommended Reading:

Li, Rosa Maria. "Migration to China's Northern Frontier, 1953–82." *Population and Development Review* 15, no. 3 (September 1989): 503–538.

Fischer, Andrew Martin. "Population Invasion versus Urban Exclusion in the Tibetan Areas of Western China." *Population and Development Review* 34, no.4 (December 2008): 631–662.

Week 11 (Nov. 16) Homeland and Borderland

Bulag, Uradyn E. "Rethinking Borders in Empire and Nation at the Foot of the Willow Palisade." In *Frontier Encounters: Knowledge and Practice at the Russian, Chinese and Mongolian Border*, edited by Franck Billé, Grégory Delaplace and Caroline Humphrey, 33–53. Cambridge: OpenBook Publishers, 2012.

Gladney, Dru C. "Responses to Chinese Rule: Patterns of Cooperation and Opposition." In *Xinjiang: China's Muslim Borderland: China's Muslim Borderland*, edited by Frederick S. Starr, 375–396. London and New York: Routledge, 2015.

Recommended Reading:

Shao, Dan. "Redefining the Manzu, Remapping Ethnic Autonomy: State and Scholars in the PRC." In *Remote Homeland, Recovered Borderland: Manchus, Manchoukuo, and*

Manchuria, 1907-1985, 192–218. Honolulu: University of Hawai'i Press, 2011.

Week 12 (Nov. 23) Stabilizing “Familiar Strangers” I

Wang, Yuhua and Carl Minzner. “The Rise of the Chinese Security State.” *The China Quarterly*, (May 2015): 1–21.

Kaltman, Blaine. “Cultural Marginalization and Institutionalization of Blocked Uighur Mobility.” In *Under the Heel of the Dragon: Islam, Racism, Crime, and the Uighur in China*. Athens: Ohio University Press, 2007, 15–63.

Recommended Reading:

Yeh, Emily T. “Tibetan Range Wars: Spatial Politics and Authority on the Grasslands of Amdo.” In *Development and Change* 34, no.3 (2003): 499–523.

Week 13 (Nov. 30) Stabilizing “Familiar Strangers” II

Lipman, Jonathan N. “Conclusion.” In *Familiar Strangers: A History of Muslims in Northwest China*, 212–227. Seattle: University of Washington Press, 1997.

Fischer, Andrew M., and Adrian Zenz. “The Limits to Buying Stability in Tibet: Tibetan Representation and Preferentiality in China’s Contemporary Public Employment System.” *The China Quarterly* 234, (June 2018): 527–551.

Recommended Reading:

Smith, Joanne. “Four Generations of Uyghurs: The Shift towards Ethno-political Ideologies among Xinjiang's Youth.” *Inner Asia* 2, no. 2, Special Issue: Xinjiang (2000): 195–224.

Week 14 (Dec. 7) Individual Consultation

No Class

Submit your final essay (deadline: midnight on Dec. 11) to yangzq@link.cuhk.edu.hk (signed Veriguide declaration must be attached); late submissions will be penalized.