

# Course Title: Social Stratification and Inequality in China

## COURSE DESCRIPTION

Market oriented reform from 1978 has changed Chinese society fundamentally. This course will explore various aspects of social life before and after the reform, focusing on the stratification and inequality in social lives. First, we will quickly review the general picture of social stratification process in China before and after the reform. Then we will examine the social structure in rural and urban societies, paying attention to two systems that are essential to the stratification order in Chinese society: the Hukou and work-unit. We will also examine how market transition transforms the family life and women's role and status in China.

This course is designed to provide a broad view of social stratification structure in Chinese society. By the end of the course, students should be able to (1) understand the basic structure of Chinese society, and (2) critically think and discuss about the social causes and consequences of changes in stratification and inequality. Your careful reading and participation are very important.

## COURSE REQUIREMENTS

The final grade will consist of four components: class participation and discussion/five summaries, two short papers, and one research project.

### Class Participation and Discussion (30%)

The course will follow a presentation-lecture-discussion format. Students are expected to attend all classes. To make sure that all students come to class prepared for discussion, students are required to submit two-page, double-spaced summary and comment on the assigned readings (can focus on **two** assigned readings, one book chapter can be counted as one reading) by midnight (11:59pm, Beijing Time) of Wednesday every week for 5 weeks (your choice). The file submitted should be named as: **your name\_week #\_summary\_\*\*\*.doc** (e.g.: **John\_w2\_summary.doc**).

### Short Papers (30%)

Besides 5 short summaries, there will be two equally weighted short papers (5-pages, double-space, font-12pt., margin-2.5cm). The short paper should be summary of at least **four** assigned readings of single topic/week (like literature review). The file submitted should be named as: **your name\_week #\_paper\_\*\*\*.doc** (e.g.: **John\_w2\_paper.doc**).

Summaries and papers should cover different topics (weeks) and be submitted through email. Please put "**Chinese Society**" as email subject.

### Research Project (40%)

For the research project, the students are allowed to choose any topic that is related to social stratification and inequality issues in China and agreed upon with the instructor. Students are expected to develop their own ideas about the selected topics in the project and write a completed paper (10-pages, double-space). In addition, each student will present her/his research project to the class at the end of the semester. The final paper is due within a week after the last class session.

## **COURSE POLICIES**

No any form of plagiarism and cheating will be tolerated. Please consult with <http://www.plagiarism.org/> for the definition of plagiarism and proper methods of citation and attribution. Please consult with a paper published in American Sociological Review for citation style.

Necessary accommodations will be made for any documented physical or learning disability. Please inform the instructor by the first day of class.

## **RECOMMENDED READINGS**

Hessler, Peter, 2001. *River Town: Two Years on the Yangtze*. New York: Harper Perennial.

Hessler, Peter, 2011. *Country Driving: A Chinese Road Trip*. New York: Harper Perennial.

## **COURSE CALENDAR**

### **Week 1**

#### Introduction: from Revolution to Reform

Lieberthal, Kenneth. 2004. *Governing China: From Revolution Through Reform*. New York and London: W. W. Norton & Company. Chapter 1-5 (Pp.1-148).

\*Huang, Philip C. C. 1991. "The Paradigmatic Crisis in Chinese Studies: Paradoxes in Social and Economic History." *Modern China* 17(3): 299-341.

\*Esherick, Joseph W.. 1995. "Ten Theses on the Chinese Revolution." *Modern China* 21(1): 45-76. (\* denotes **recommended** readings, not required)

Film: William, Sue, 2003. *China: A Century of Revolution* (1), Ambrica Productions.

### **Week 2**

#### Economic Transition

Lieberthal, Kenneth. 2004. *Governing China: From Revolution Through Reform*. New York and London: W. W. Norton & Company. Chapter 6, 7 (pp.171-242).

Naughton, Barry. 2007. *The Chinese Economy: Transitions and Growth*. Cambridge, Mass.: MIT Press. Ch.3, 4, 5, 10, 12.

Film: William, Sue, 2003. *China: A Century of Revolution* (2), Ambrica Productions.

### **Week 3**

#### The Party and State

- Zhang, Jishun. 2014. "Creating 'Masters of the Country' in Shanghai and Beijing: Discourse and the 1953–54 Local People's Congress Elections". *The China Quarterly*, 220:1071–1091.
- Sun, Ying. 2014. "Municipal People's Congress Elections in the PRC: a Process of Co-option", *Journal of Contemporary China*, 23(85): 183-195.
- Dickson, Bruce J., 2004. "Dilemmas of Party Adaptation: the CCP's Strategies for Survival", pp.141-158 in P.H. Gries and S. Rosen (eds), *State and Society in 21<sup>st</sup> Century China: Crisis, Contention, and Legitimation*. New York: Routledge.
- Guo, Gang. 2005. "Party Recruitment of College Students in China." *Journal of Contemporary China*, 14(43): 371-393.
- Tong, Yanqi & Shaohua Lei. 2013. "War of Position and Microblogging in China", *Journal of Contemporary China*, 22(80): 292-311.
- Film: William, Sue, 2003. *China: A Century of Revolution* (3), Ambrica Productions.

#### **Week 4**

##### **Social Structure in Rural China**

- Fei, Xiaotong. 1992. *From the Soil, the Foundations of Chinese Society* (乡土中国), translated by Gary G. Hamilton and Wang Zheng. Berkeley: University of California Press.
- Gao, Mobo C. F., 1999. *Gao Village: A Portrait of Rural Life in Modern China*. Honolulu: University of Hawaii Press (chapter 1, 3-7, 10, 14).
- Film: *The People's Republic of Capitalism: Joined at the Hip* (Discovery Channel, 2008)

#### **Week 5**

##### **Urban Society: Work Unit System & State-owned Enterprises**

- Lü Xiaobo and Elizabeth J. Perry (eds.). 1997. *Danwei: The Changing Chinese Workplace in Historical and Comparative Perspective*. Armonk: M. E. Sharpe. , pp. 3-17.
- Unger, Jonathan and Anita Chan. 2004. "The Internal Politics of an Urban Chinese Workplace: A Case Study of Decision-Making at a State-owned Factory". *The China Journal* 52: 1-24.
- Lee, Ching Kwan. 2007. *Against the Law: Labor Protests in China's Rustbelt and Sunbelt*, Berkeley: University of California Press. pp.69-153.
- Film: *The People's Republic of Capitalism: from Mao-ism to ME-ism* (Discovery Channel, 2008)

#### **Week 6**

##### **Hukou System, Rural-urban Division and Migrant Workers**

\*\*\*\*\**The first short paper is due.*\*\*\*\*\*

- Cheng, Tiejun and Mark Selden, 1994, "The Origins and Social Consequences of China's Hukou System." *The China Quarterly* 139: 644-668.
- Whyte, Martin, 2010. "The Paradoxes of Rural-urban Inequality in Contemporary China", pp. 1-25, in *One Country, Two Systems*, edited by Martin King Whyte, Cambridge: Harvard University Press.
- Lee, Ching Kwan. 2007. *Against the Law: Labor Protests in China's Rustbelt and Sunbelt*, Berkeley: University of California Press. pp.157-231.

## **Week 7**

### **Social De-stratification and Re-stratification**

Whyte, Martin, 1975. "Inequality and Stratification in China". *China Quarterly*, 64: 684-711.

Parish, William, 1984. "Destratification in China", pp84-120, in *Class and Social Stratification in Post-revolution China*, edited by James L. Watson, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Walder, Andrew, 1989. "Social Change in Post-Revolution China". *Annual Review of Sociology* 15: 405-424.

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

Whyte, Martin, 2011. "Myth of the Social Volcano: Popular Responses to Rising Inequality in China," pp.273-290, in William Kirby (ed.), *The People's Republic of China at 60: An International Assessment*, Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Asia Center.

Film: *The People's Republic of Capitalism: It's the Economy Stupid* (2008)

## **Week 8**

### **Gender and Family**

Zhang, Naihua, 2001. "In a World together yet Apart: Urban and Rural Women Coming of Age in the Seventies". *Some of Us: Chinese Women Growing Up in the Mao Era*, pp. 1-26.

Honig, Emily, 2000. "Iron Girls Revisited: Gender and the Politics of Work in the Cultural Revolution, 1966-76". pp. 97-110 in Entwisle and Henderson (eds.) *Redrawing Boundaries*.

Attane, Isabelle, 2002, "China's Family Planning Policy: An Overview of Its Past and Future", *Studies in Family Planning* 33(1): 103-113.

Fong, Vanessa L. 2002. "China's One-Child Policy and the Empowerment of Urban Daughters", *American Anthropologist*, 104(4): 1098-1109.

Shen, Yang. 2016. "Filial Daughters? Agency and Subjectivity of Rural Migrant Women in Shanghai", *The China Quarterly*, 226: 519-537.

Film: *China Unbound: Women's Place, Sex and the Revolution* (2006)

## **Week 9**

### **Education System**

Tsui Kai-yuen. 1997. "Economic Reform and the Attainment in Basic Education in China". *The China Quarterly* 149:104-27.

Hannum, Emily and Jennifer Adams. 2008. "Beyond Cost: Rural Perspectives on Barriers to Education". Pp.156-171 in *Creating Wealth and Poverty in Postsocialist China*, edited by Deborah Davis and Wang Feng.

Lan Pei-chia. 2014. "Segmented Incorporation: The Second Generation of Rural Migrants in Shanghai". *The China Quarterly*, 217: 243-265.

Levin, Dan. 2011. "Coaching and Much More for Chinese Students Looking to U.S.", *New York Times* (5/29/2011).

Zhao, Litao and Zhu Jinjing. 2010. "China's Higher Education Reform: What has not Been Changed?" *East Asian Policy*, 12(4): 115-125.

Sinkkonen, Elina. 2013. "Nationalism, Patriotism and Foreign Policy: Attitudes among Chinese University Students". *The China Quarterly*, 216: 1045-1063.

Film: (BBC) *Chinese School (1)* (2008)

[http://v.youku.com/v\\_show/id\\_XNDI2NzQwNjI0.html](http://v.youku.com/v_show/id_XNDI2NzQwNjI0.html)

[http://v.youku.com/v\\_show/id\\_XNDI3MTE1MjY0.html](http://v.youku.com/v_show/id_XNDI3MTE1MjY0.html)

[http://v.youku.com/v\\_show/id\\_XNDI3Mzc5MjYw.html](http://v.youku.com/v_show/id_XNDI3Mzc5MjYw.html)

[http://v.youku.com/v\\_show/id\\_XNDI1OTc2MzUy.html](http://v.youku.com/v_show/id_XNDI1OTc2MzUy.html)

## **Week 10**

### **Welfare System**

Duckett, Jane. 2011. "Challenging the Economic Reform Paradigm: Policy and Politics in the Early 1980s' Collapse of the Rural Co-operative Medical System." *The China Quarterly* 205: 80-95.

Brown, Philip H., Alan de Brauw and Yang Du. 2009. "Understanding Variation in the Design of China's New Co-operative Medical System." *The China Quarterly* 198: 304-329.

Huang, Xian. 2014. "Expansion of Chinese Social Health Insurance: Who Gets What, When and How?" *Journal of Contemporary China*, 23(89): 923-951.

Frazier, Mark W.. 2004. "China's Pension Reform and Its Discontents." *The China Journal* 51: 97-114.

Huang, Youqin. 2012. "Low-income Housing in Chinese Cities: Policies and Practices." *The China Quarterly*, 212: 941-964.

The Economist, "A Dramatic Decline in Suicides: Back from the Edge". 2014/06/28.

Film: *The People's Republic of Capitalism: the Fast Lane* (Discovery Channel, 2008)

## **Week 11**

### **Collective Action and Resistance**

Shi, Fayong and Yongshun Cai 2006, "Disaggregating the State: Networks and Collective Action in Shanghai." *The China Quarterly*, 186: 314-332.

Li, Lianjiang and Kevin J. O'Brien, 2008. "Protest Leadership in Rural China", *The China Quarterly*, 193: 1-23.

Cai, Yongshun. 2008. "Local Governments and the Suppression of Popular Resistance in China", *China Quarterly*, 193: 24-42.

Franceschini, Ivan. 2014. "Labour NGOs in China: A Real Force for Political Change?" *The China Quarterly*, 218: 474-492.

Deng Yanhua and Kevin J. O'Brien. 2013. "Relational Repression in China: Using Social Ties to Demobilize Protesters". *The China Quarterly*, 215: 533-552.

Zhao Dingxin. 1998. "Ecologies of Social Movements: Student Mobilization during the 1989 Prodemocracy Movement in Beijing." *American Journal of Sociology*, 103(6): 1493-1529.

**Week 12**

Course Wrap-up

\*\*\*\*\**The second short paper is due.*\*\*\*\*\*

Project presentation

Final paper within a week after the last class session.