

SOSC 1350 Contemporary China: Change and Continuity

Spring, 2019

9:00-10:50 pm (Friday)

Rm 2502 (Lift 25-26) Academic Building

T2A/B Monday 3:00PM-4:50PM (Room 1033 LSK)

T2C/D Thursday 12:00-1:50PM (Room 1511 Academic Building)

T2E/F Monday 12:30-2:20PM (Room 2463 Academic Building)

INSTRUCTOR: Prof. Wu Xiaogang

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OFFICE HOURS: 3:00-4:30 PM Thursday

TEACHING ASSISTANT: CHEN Jiaying (jchenbc@connect.ust.hk)

LIU Siqin (sliuca@connect.ust.hk)

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND FORMAT

This course surveys post-1949 Chinese society, focusing on socioeconomic changes since 1978. It draws from scholarly work on China in sociology economics, and political science. It explores the basic institutional make-up of Chinese society, the structural changes brought forth in the economic reform era, and how these institutions configure social life in contemporary China. Attention is paid to both changes from and continuities with the pre-reform past.

After taking this course, students will be equipped with background information necessary to understand China's complex economic, political, and social phenomena, and the impact of reform on social structures/institutions, individuals' life chances, and social relations in contemporary China.

The class consists of a 2-hour lecture each week and a 2-hour tutorial session every other week (six in total). Two TAs will alternate to lead the tutorial sessions.

Knowledge of Chinese language is helpful but not necessary.

TEXTBOOKS

Chapters are drawn from the following books, other reading materials are to be distributed in class, on internet, or downloadable from the course homepage <https://canvas.ust.hk/>

Reading materials are drawn mainly from
Naughton, Barry 2007. *The Chinese Economy* MIT Press.

Lieberthal, Kenneth 1995. *Governing China: From Revolution Through Reform*. W.W Norton & Company, Inc.

Stockman, Norman 2000. *Understanding Chinese Societies*. Polity Press.

COURSE HOMEPAGE

I will post announcement and lecture notes on the course homepage for this course. You may use your ITSC username and password to log in (<https://canvas.ust.hk/>), and obtain the course syllabus, reading materials, and lecture notes. You may also post your questions and exchange ideas with me, TA, or your fellow classmates on the discussion board, in addition to the tutorial sessions. On-line discussion is counted as a part of the class participation.

I will load up the lecture notes on the web no later than the midnight before the day (i.e. Thursday night) when the lecture is given. You should print out the notes/reading chapters and bring them to the class.

Lecture notes will stay in the course webpage only for 3 weeks. IT'S IN YOUR BEST INTEREST TO DOWNLOAD THE NOTES IMMEDIATELY WHEN THEY BECOME AVAILABLE.

Tutorial sessions will be run every other week.

REQUIREMENTS

(1) Attendance and Reading Preparations

You MUST attend all lectures and tutorials. Students are expected to finish the assigned readings before the lecture and bring ideas and questions for discussion in the tutorial session. Several documentary films on related topics will be shown in tutorial sessions. In the documentary-show class, they are also expected to take notes on some important facts and points. All documentary films are available from HKUST's media library.

I will leave about 15 minutes in lecture for questions and discussion, or for pop-up quizzes. By "pop-up" quiz I mean they will not be announced in advance. If you miss one, you will receive "zero." No makeup will be given. The quiz scores are counted for your attendance and class participation.

(2) Midterm Exam

The midterm exam will be multiple-choice and short-answer questions, covering materials both in the lecture notes and in the assigned reading chapters/documentary films.

(3) Final Exam

It will be similar to the midterm exam in format (with multiple-choice questions and short answer questions) covering materials both in the lectures and in the assigned readings/documentary films since the midterm.

GRADING POLICY

- Attendance and participation: 15%
- Midterm exam: 40%
- Final exam: 45%

OTHER CLASSROOM ISSUES

If your electronic device has a ringer, it should be set to silent (not vibrate). It is perfectly fine to use your laptop computer to keep notes, however, all other computing (Facebook, emailing) will not be tolerated.

COURSE OUTLINE AND SCHEDULE (Subject to Revision)

Week 1 (Feb 1, Thursday)

Course Introduction

The Study of Chinese Society

Reading:

Stockman Chapter 1 “The Study of Chinese Society” Pp. 1-22

Wu, Xiaogang 2012 “Social Change” in *Handbook of Contemporary China*, edited by William Tay and Alvin So, World Scientific

Week 2 (Feb 8, Friday)

Historical Briefing: From Revolution to Economic Reform

The Mao Years (Documentary)

Reading:

Lieberthal Chapters 3 “The Maoist System: Ideas and Governance”; Chapter 4 “The Maoist Era” Pp. 57-121

Naughton Chapter 3 “The Socialist Era, 1949-1978: Big Push Industrialization and Policy Instability” Pp. 55-84.

Week 3 (Feb 15, Friday)

The Chinese Communist Party and Ideology

Reading:

Readings:

Stockman Chapter 6. “Power and Revolution: Economic and Political” Pp 120-148.

Lieberthal Chapters 6. “The Organization of Political Power and Its Consequences: The View from the Outside” & Chapter 7 “The Organization of Political Power and Its Consequences: The View from the Inside” Pp. 155-218.

Tutorial Week (Background and History) (Feb 11 & 14)

Week 4 (Feb 22, Friday)

The Socialist Economy and Economic Reform

Reading:

Lieberthal Chapter 5 “The Reform Era” Pp. 122-153

Naughton, Chapter 4 “Market Transition: Strategy and Process” Pp. 85-111

Week 5 (March 1, Friday)

Open-door Policies and Economic Globalization

Reading: Naughton 2007, Chapter 16-17

Tutorial Week (Chinese Economy) (Feb 25 & 28)

Week 6 (March 8, Friday)

The Household Registration (Hukou) and Rural-Urban Migration

Reading:

Naughton Chapter 5. “The Urban-Rural Divide” Pp 113-135

Kam Wing Chan 2009. “The Chinese Hukou at 50” *Eurasian Geography and Economics*, 50(2): 197–221 (J).

Week 7 (March 15, Friday)

Midterm Exam in Class

Tutorial Week (Mid-term Review) (March 11 & 14)

Week 8 (March 22, Friday)

Rural Economy and Society

Reading:

Naughton Chapter 10, “Rural Organization” Pp 229-250

Naughton Chapter 12 “Rural Industrialization: Township and Village Enterprises”, Pp 271-294

Week 9 (March 29, Friday)

The Urban Work Unit (*Danwei*) System and Its Transformation

Reading:

Bian, Yanjie 1994. *Work and Inequality in Urban China*, pp. 23-50. Albany, N.Y.: State University of New York Press.

Xie, Yu and Xiaogang Wu. 2008. “Danwei Profitability and Earnings Inequality in Urban China.” *China Quarterly* 195: 558-81 (J).

Tutorial Week (Hukou and Migration) (March 25 & 28)

Week 10 (April 12, Friday)

Changing Employment, Changing Inequality

Reading:

Friedman, Eli and Ching Kwan Lee. 2010. "Remaking the World of Chinese Labour: A 30-Year Retrospective." *British Journal of Industrial Relations* 48(3):507–33 (J).

Wu, Xiaogang 2019. "Inequality and Social Stratification in Post-socialist China." *Annual Review of Sociology* (J).

Week 11 (April 26, Friday)

Access to Educational Opportunities

Reading:

Wu, Xiaogang and Zhuoni Zhang 2010 "Changes in Educational Inequality in China, 1990-2005." *Research in Sociology of Education*, Volume 17, 123–152

Wu, Xiaogang 2017. "Higher Education, Elite Formation and Social Stratification in Contemporary China: Preliminary Findings from the Beijing College Students Panel Survey." *Chinese Journal of Sociology* 3(1):3-31 (J)

Tutorial Week (Work Units and Stratification)

Week 12 (May 5, Friday)

Population Issues: One Child Policy and Population Aging
Class Wrap up

Reading:

Wang Feng, Yong Cai, and Baochang Gu 2012. "Population, Policy, and Politics: How will History Judge China's One-Child Policy?" *Population and Development Review* 38: 115-129 (J).

Week 13 (No Lecture, Last day of Spring Term Classes on May 9)

Tutorial Week (Education, Population, and Final Review) (May 6 & 9)

FINAL EXAM: Between May 17 to May 29, 2019; Venue TBA