

Social Change in Contemporary China

SOSC4270

Fall 2019
Thursdays 13:30-16:20
LSK1032

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Description

In this course we will examine contemporary Chinese society, looking at economic development, rural transformation, urbanization and migration, labor relations, class structure, governance, and popular protest. It will examine various aspects of social inequality in China during the Mao and post-Mao eras, including inequality within villages, the rural/urban divide, labor relations, education and health policies, gender and ethnic relations, and the social foundations of elite groups. Each of these topics will be tackled analytically, but the goal is also to understand what it was and is like to live in China as the country has undergone radical social transformations over the past seven decades. The course is writing-intensive and will be conducted as a discussion seminar.

Requirements and grading

Memos on the readings

Write brief memos (about three double-spaced pages) on the weekly readings. You are expected to write a total of five memos. You may write more than five; your final grade will be based on your best five memos. In your memos you should first concisely summarize the each of the readings, considering what the authors are attempting to explain, the arguments advanced, the evidence adduced, and the explicit or implicit normative agenda. Then comment on the group of readings, comparing explanatory and normative agendas, arguments, and evidence. Focus on the elements that most interest you. You can show how the information and arguments in one reading corroborate or contradict those in another reading, discuss how one reading sheds light on the content of another, and explain why you found an argument to be convincing (or not). *Memos must be turned in at the end of class every week.*

In-class reports on readings

You will select three readings to report on in class. In each report you should consider the reading in the same way you would for a memo (see above) and you should compare it with the rest of the readings for that week. The readings you select must be from different weeks and you may not turn in memos for the same week that you report on a reading.

Research paper

Write a research paper based on selected course readings and additional research. You are encouraged to consider how a particular form of inequality in China has changed over time and why. Your paper should be analytical rather than simply descriptive and should make an argument. It should engage the content and ideas contained in one or more of the readings; you should also find additional sources of information and analysis. The paper should be based mainly on your analysis of the data and arguments presented in other scholarly accounts; you can also use primary sources (documents, statistical data, memoirs, etc.), but you are not required to. Papers should be about ten double-spaced pages, plus bibliography. In the schedule below, please note the deadlines for turning in an initial proposal and an outline/bibliography as well as the final paper.

Grading

Reading memos:	40%
In-class reading reports:	10%
Research paper:	50%
Attendance:	You are expected to attend every class. After two absences, for each time you miss a class—for whatever reason—your <i>final</i> grade will be reduced by 0.1 (on a scale of 4). For example, if you miss three classes (including three without penalty) and you have a 3.5 (A-) average for your essays and memos, your final grade will drop to 3.4 (B+). Perfect attendance will be rewarded by increasing your grade by 0.1.
Participation:	Final course grades may be adjusted up or down one notch (e.g., from B+ to A-) based on your participation in class discussion.

Cell phones and notebook computers

Please turn off cell phones in class and use notebook computers *only* for taking notes. Close notebook computers during class discussions.

Books

You are encouraged to buy the following books; they are also on reserve at the library. The other readings will be accessible through the course Canvas site.

David Goodman, *Class in Contemporary China* (Polity Press, 2014)

Mobo Gao, *Gao Village: A Portrait of Rural Life in China* (University of Hawaii Press, 1999)

Reading List and Schedule

Week 1 (September 5)

Introduction: The 1949 Chinese Revolution

Maurice Meisner, *Mao's China and After*, pp. 3-73

Film: *China—A Century of Revolution. Episode 2: The Mao Years*

Week 2 (September 12)

Rural inequality in the collective era

Mobo Gao, *Gao Village*, pp. 1-24, 30-71

Recommended:

Jonathan Unger, "The Class System in Rural China: A Case Study," in James Watson, ed., *Class and Social Stratification in Post-Revolutionary China* (1984), pp. 121-141

Week 3 (September 19)

Urban inequality and the work unit system

Joel Andreas, "Reconfiguring China's Class Order after the 1949 Revolution," in Yingjie Guo, ed., *Handbook on Class and Social Stratification in China*, pp. 21-43

Andrew Walder, "Organized dependency and cultures of authority in Chinese Industry," *Journal of Asian Studies*, Vol. 43, No. 1 (1983), pp. 51-72

Recommended:

Michael Frolic, ed., "The Apprentice," *Mao's People* (1980), pp. 242-256

Barry Naughton, "Danwei: The economic foundations of a unique institution," in Xiaobo Lu and Elizabeth Perry, eds., *Danwei: The Changing Chinese Workplace in Historical and Comparative Perspective* (1997), pp. 169-182

Andrew Walder, "Factory and Manager in an Era of Reform," *The China Quarterly*, No. 118 (1989), pp. 242-264

Week 4 (September 26)

Rural inequality in the post-Mao era

Mobo Gao, *Gao Village*, pp. 171-200, 255-264

David Goodman, *Class in Contemporary China*, pp. 143-148, 166-172

Qian Forrest Zhang, "Class Differentiation in Rural China: Dynamics of Accumulation, Commodification and State Intervention." *Journal of Agrarian Change* (2015) 15(3): 338-365

Recommended:

Alexander Day and Mindi Schneider, "The end of alternatives? Capitalist transformation, rural activism and the politics of possibility in China," *The Journal of Peasant Studies* (2017)

Jonathan Unger, *The Transformation of Rural China* (2002), pp. 95-118, 223-228

Weigang Gong and Qian Forrest Zhang, "Betting on the Big: State-brokered Land Transfers, Large-scale Agricultural Producers, and Policy Implementation." *The China Journal* (2017) 77: 1-26

Week 5 (October 3)

The rural-urban divide

Barry Naughton, "The urban-rural divide," in *The Chinese Economy* (2007), pp. 113-136

Mobo Gao, *Gao Village*, pp. 25-30, 200-222

Recommended:

Dongping Han, "The *Hukou* System and China's Rural Development," *Journal of Developing Areas*, Vol. 33, No. 3 (1999), pp. 355-378

Joel Andreas and Shaohua Zhan. "*Hukou* and land: Market reform and rural displacement in China," *Journal of Peasant Studies*, Vol. 43, Issue 4 (2016), pp. 798-827

Thomas Campanella, *The Concrete Dragon: China's Urban Revolution and What it Means for the World* (2008), pp. 13-28

Week 6 (October 10)

Industrial restructuring

David Goodman, *Class in Contemporary China*, pp. 122-143, 160-166

Mary Gallagher, Ching Kwan Lee, and Sarosh Kuruvilla. "Introduction and Argument" in *From Iron Rice Bowl to Informalization* (2011), pp. 1-7

Eli Friedman, "China in Revolt" *Jacobin*, August 2012

Joel Andreas, *Disenfranchised: The Rise and Fall of Industrial Citizenship in China* (2019), pp. 220-235

Film: *China Blue*

Recommended:

Minghua Zhao and Theo Nichols, "Management Control of Labor in State-Owned Enterprises: Cases from the Textile Industry," *The China Journal*, 36 (1996), pp. 1-21

Eli Friedman and Ching Kwan Lee, "Remaking the World of Chinese Labour: A 30-Year Retrospective" *British Journal of Industrial Relations*, 48, 3 (2010), pp. 507-533

Charles Duhigg and Keith Bradsher, "How the U.S. Lost Out on iPhone Work," *New York Times*, January 21, 2012

Charles Duhigg and David Barboza, "In China, Human Costs Are Built Into an iPad," *New York Times*, January 21, 2012

Week 7 (October 17)

Gender inequality

Judith Stacy, *Patriarchy and Socialist Revolution in China* (1983), pp. 248-267

Mayfair Yang, "From gender erasure to gender difference: State feminism, consumer sexuality, and women's public sphere in China," *Spaces of Their Own* (1999), pp. 35-67

Chun Lin, "Whither Feminism: A Note on China," *Signs*, Vol. 26, No. 4 (2001), pp. 1281-86

Film: *Small Happiness*

Recommended:

Yongping Jiang, "Employment and Chinese Urban Women under Two Systems," in Tao, Zheng and Mow, eds., *Holding up Half the Sky: Chinese Women, Past, Present, Future* (2004), pp. 207-20

Jin Jiang, "Times have changed; men and women are the same," in Xueping Zhong and Wang Zheng, eds., *Some of Us: Chinese Women Growing up in the Mao Era* (2001), pp. 100-119

Kay Ann Johnson, *Women, the Family and Peasant Revolution in China* (1983), pp. 155-207

Naihua Zhang, "In a world together yet apart: Urban and rural women coming of age in the seventies," in Zhong and Zheng, eds., *Some of Us*, pp. 1-26

Tamara Jacka, *Women's Work in Rural China: Change and Continuity in an Era of Reform* (1997), pp. 190-96

Didi Kristen Tatlow, "For China's Women, More Opportunities, More Pitfalls," *New York Times* (Nov. 25, 2010)

Week 8 (October 24)

Ethnic minorities

Dru Gladney, *Ethnic Identity in China* (1998), pp. 11-24

Stevan Harrell, "Civilizing Projects and the Reaction to Them," *Cultural Encounters on China's Ethnic Frontiers* (1995), pp. 3-36

Recommended:

Michael Frolic, ed., "Frontier Town," *Mao's People* (1980), pp. 144-56

Barry Sautman, "Tibet: Myths and Realities" *Current History* (September 2001), pp. 278-83

Lixiong Wang, "Reflections on Tibet," *New Left Review* (March-April 2002), pp. 79-111

Tsering Shakya, "Blood in the Snow," *New Left Review* (May-June 2002), pp. 3-24

Week 9 (October 31)

Health care

Mobo Gao, *Gao Village* (1999), pp. 72-91

David Blumenthal and William Hsiao, "Privatization and Its Discontents -- the Evolving Chinese Health Care System," *New England Journal of Medicine* (September 15, 2005) 353 (11), pp. 1165-1170

Sui-Lee Wee. "China's Health Care Crisis: Lines Before Dawn, Violence and 'No Trust,'" *New York Times* (September 30, 2018)

Recommended:

Shaoguang Wang, "China's Health System: From Crisis to Opportunity," *Yale China Health Journal*, Vol. 3 (2004), pp. 5-49

Victor Sidel and Ruth Sidel, *Serve the People: Observations on Medicine in the People's Republic of China* (1973), pp. 17-39, 76-98

Philip Pan, "Poisoned Back Into Poverty," *Washington Post* (August 4, 2002)

Adam Jourdan and Ben Hirschler, "China healthcare costs forcing patients into crippling debt," *Reuters* (July 9, 2016)

Liu Zhihua, "First-class medical care for the wealthy," *China Daily* (July 18, 2012)

Week 10 (November 7)

Education in the Mao era

Mobo Gao, *Gao Village* (1999), pp. 92-114

Joel Andreas, *Rise of the Red Engineers* (2009), pp. 161-187

Film: *Breaking with Old Ideas* (决裂)

Recommended:

Joel Andreas, "Leveling the 'little pagoda:' The impact of college entrance examinations—and their elimination—on rural education in China." *Comparative Education Review*, Vol. 48, No. 1 (2004), pp. 1-47

Michael Frolic, ed., "Down with the Stinking Intellectuals," *Mao's People*, pp. 71-86

Turn in an initial proposal for your research paper on Thursday November 7 (in class)

We will meet individually to discuss your proposals on Tuesday November 12 and Wednesday November 13

Week 11 (November 14)

Education in the post-Mao era

Mobo Gao, *Gao Village* (1999), pp. 114-21

David Goodman, *Class in Contemporary China*, pp. 92-121

Joel Andreas, *Rise of the Red Engineers* (2009), 224-247

Recommended:

Emily Hannum, "Political change and the urban-rural gap in basic education in China," *Comparative Education Review*, Vol. 43, No. 2 (1999), pp. 193-211

Borge Bakken, "Backwards Reform in Chinese Education," *Australian Journal of Chinese Affairs*, Nos. 19 and 20 (1988), pp. 127-163

Week 12 (November 21)

No class meeting

Turn in an outline and an initial bibliography for your research paper on Thursday Nov 21 (via Canvas)

We will meet individually on Tuesday November 26 and Wednesday November 27 to discuss your proposals

Week 13 (November 28)

Those at the top

David Goodman, *Class in Contemporary China*, pp. 64-91

Dickson, Bruce. "Integrating Wealth and Power in China: The Communist Party's Embrace of the Private Sector." *The China Quarterly* No. 192 (2007), pp. 827-54

Joel Andreas, *Rise of the Red Engineers* (2009), pp. 248-259

Recommended:

Dexter Roberts, "Chinese Workers Find Prosperity Elusive," *Businessweek* (January 31, 2011)

Michael Forsythe, "Billionaire Lawmakers Ensure the Rich Are Represented in China's Legislature" *New York Times* (March 2, 2015)

Michael Forsythe, "Wang Jianlin, a Billionaire at the Intersection of Business and Power in China," *New York Times* (April 28, 2015)

Turn in your research paper on Friday December 6 (via Canvas)