

SOSC 1350 Contemporary China: Change and Continuity

Spring, 19 Feb to 19 May, 2020
4:00-5:50 pm (Wednesday)
Rm 2426 (Lift 25-26) Academic Building

T2A/B Thursday 9:00AM-10:50AM (Room 1511 Academic Building)
T2C/D Thursday 1:00PM-2:50PM (Room 1027 Academic Building)
T2E/F Tuesday 9:00AM-10:50AM (Room 2463 Academic Building)

INSTRUCTOR: Prof. Wu Xiaogang
OFFICE: Room 3374 Academic Building
PHONE: 23587827
EMAIL: sowu@ust.hk
OFFICE HOURS: 2:00-3:30 PM Wednesday (by appointment only)

TEACHING ASSISTANTS: LAW Pui Fung (puifunglaw@ust.hk)
SHEN Minghong (mhshenaa@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. Tuesday night) when the lecture is given.

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.

In line with the University announcement on the course instruction in the Spring Term,
- **All classes will start on 19 February 2020 using live interactive on-line mode on the scheduled timetable.**

- **All classes will be switched to mixed mode as soon as situation allows (the tentative date is 2 March 2020).**
- **Either proctored online examination or alternative assessment will be conducted.**

To familiarize yourself with Zoom, please study the Zoom video at hkust.zoom.us and attend the on-line training or tutorials provided by Center for Education Innovation (CEI).

REQUIREMENTS

(1) Attendance and Reading Preparations

You MUST attend all lectures and tutorials online or in mixed modes. 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, you are also expected to take notes on some important facts and points. All documentary films are available from HKUST's media library (or online).

I will leave about 15 minutes in lecture for questions and discussion, or for online 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 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) 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 TO BE DETERMINED

Conducting lectures on zoom is a new experience for me as the instructor and you as students. We will make some rules whenever issues pop up.

COURSE OUTLINE AND SCHEDULE (Subject to Revision)

Week 1 (Feb 19, Wednesday)

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 26, Wednesday)

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.

Tutorial Week (Background and History) (Feb 27 & March 3)

Week 3 (March 4, Wednesday)

The Chinese Communist Party and Ideology

Reading:

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.

Week 4 (March 11, Wednesday)

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

Tutorial Week (Chinese Political System and Economy) (March 12 & 17)

Week 5 (March 18, Wednesday)

Open-door Policies and Economic Globalization

Reading: Naughton 2007, Chapter 16-17

Week 6 (March 25, Wednesday)

The Household Registration (Hukou) and Rural-Urban Migration

[TA SHEN Minghong 30 Minute Lecture]

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).

Tutorial Week (Mid-term Review) (March 26 & 31)

Week 7 (April 1, Wednesday)

Midterm Exam in Class

Week 8 (April 8, Wednesday)

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

Tutorial Week (Hukou and Migration) (April 9 & 14)

Week 9 (April 15, Wednesday)

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).

Week 10 (April 22, Wednesday)

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* 45: 363-382 (J).

Tutorial Week (Work Units and Stratification) (April 23 & 28)

Week 11 (April 29, Wednesday)

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)

Week 12 (May 6, Wednesday)

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).

Tutorial Week (Education, Population, and Final Review) (May 7 & 12)

Week 13 (May 13 ,No Lecture, Last day of Spring Term Classes on May 19)

FINAL EXAM: Between May 23 to June 2, 2020; Venue TBA