Chinese Society: Culture, Networks, & Inequality
11:15 A.M. - 12:30 P.M., Tu,Th (Fall 2016)

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Office hours: Tu/Th 2:15 pm - 3:45 pm, or by appointment

Course description and organization: The aim of this course is to introduce students to sociological perspectives and analyses of cultures, social networks, and socioeconomic inequalities in China today. The instructor will give lectures on these topics with the assistance of PPT presentation. In addition, videos about various backgrounds of China will be shown, and group discussions will be organized to exchange opinions about issues of common interest. Through this course, students will gain a basic understanding of how Chinese society operates today. Soc1001 “Introduction to Sociology” is recommended.

Course materials:
(3) Lecture notes: available from the course website.
(4) Additional information from useful websites is provided on the following page.

Grading: 60% term paper; 30% quizzes, & 10% in class participation and discussion.
Letter grade on a 100 scale: 100-90 =A; 89-85=B+, 84-80=B, 79-75=C+, 74-70=C, 69-60=D, <60=F. Passing grade: C

Term paper: This is a 15-page, double-space essay on a topic of self-choice that (1) raises an issue about a specific aspect of social life in China; (2) relates this issue to one or more sociological concepts that help you analyze this issue; (3) provides a description to support your analysis; and (4) draw a conclusion from your analysis and description.
A list of possible issues for the term paper is provided in the following page for student’s reference. For this term paper, students are also advised to choose a different issue of their own interest. A 1-2 page outline about the student’s study for the term paper will be due in the week following the Spring Break.
**Possible issues for term papers**

How to characterize *guanxi* and what are its active forms today?

How to characterize *danwei* and what are their roles on social life in China, past and present?

Would Chinese women increase their relative social status with marketization?

Has the growth of market economy strengthened family and kinship relations in China?

What are the main causes of China’s increased inequalities over the past three decades?

How to characterize the trend of globalization as occurring in China today?

What are the main causes to a rapid economic growth in post-1980 China?

What are the main social classes and their impacts on social life in China today?

What is one-child policy and what are the main effects of this policy on Chinese people?

What is the “Cultural Revolution” and what are its main legacies on China today?

What are the main religions and how to characterize religious life in China today?

What is the key difference between Chinese and American societies that intrigues you the most and how would you go about analyzing this?

**Useful Websites:**

[http://www.sino-cs.ac.uk/](http://www.sino-cs.ac.uk/)
Scottish Information Network Online for Chinese Studies (SINO-CS)

[http://sun.sino.uni-heidelberg.de/igcs/](http://sun.sino.uni-heidelberg.de/igcs/)
Internet Guide for China Studies, Institute of Chinese Studies, Heidelberg University

[http://asia.lib.umich.edu/china/index.htm](http://asia.lib.umich.edu/china/index.htm)
University of Michigan Asia Library

Coombsweb Australian National University Social Sciences/Asian Studies Server

China Education and Research Network (in Chinese: click on 'English' for English version)

[http://lcweb2.loc.gov/frd/cs/cntoc.html](http://lcweb2.loc.gov/frd/cs/cntoc.html)
Library of Congress article on China
**Weekly Topics and Readings**

Week 1: PRC, brief history, and political culture from Mao to post-Mao; Text #1 chapters 1 and 2, Text #2 chapter 1.

Week 2: Population and economy; Text #1 chapters 2 and 6.

Week 3: Rural and urban China; Text #1 chapter 3, Text #2 chapter 6.

Week 4: Chinese cultures; Text #1 chapter 7, Text #2 chapters 3 and 9.

Week 5: Individual and society; Text #1 chapter 4, Text #2 chapter 2. 
*Quiz #1 covering Weeks 1-4 materials is given at the beginning 15 minutes on Tuesday.*

Week 6: Public space and civil society; Text #2 chapter 12

Week 7: Marriage, family, and gender; Text #1 chapter 5, Text #2 chapters 4 and 5.

Week 8: Social class and inequality; Text #1 chapter 8, Text #2 chapters 7 and 8.
*Quiz #2 covering Weeks 5-8 materials is given at the last 15 minutes on Thursday.*

Week 9: Institutional change and stability; Text #1 chapter 9, Text #2 chapters 11 and 13.
*Outline of student’s study for the term paper project is due on Thursday.*

Week 10: Persistent roles of *guanxi* in China; Text #1 chapter 4.

Week 11: Religion in China; Text #2 chapter 10.

Week 12: Globalization and Chinese immigration; Text #2 chapter 11.
*Quiz #3 covering Weeks 9-12 materials is given at the beginning 15 minutes on Tuesday.*


Week 14: Advanced topics on sociological studies of China; Instructor’s PPT presentations.

Week 15: Presentation of term paper outlines.
*Term paper is due as an attachment to bianx001@umn.edu.*
COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS POLICY

GRADES: University academic achievement is graded under two systems: A-F (with pluses and minuses) and S-N. Choice of grading system and course level (1xxx/3xxx/4xxx) is indicated on the registration website; changes in grade scale may not be made after the second week of the semester. Some courses may be taken under only one system; limitations are identified in the course listings. The Department of Sociology requires A-F registration in courses required for the major/minor. University regulations prescribe the grades that will be reported on your transcript.

A  Represents achievement that is outstanding relative to the level necessary to meet course requirements (4.00 points)
A-  3.67 grade points
B+  3.33 grade points
B  Achievement significantly above the level necessary to meet course requirements (3.00 grade points)
B-  2.67 grade points
C+  2.33 grade points
C  Achievement that meets the basic course requirements in every respect (2.00 grade points)
C-  1.67 grade points
D+  1.33 grade points
D  Achievement worthy of credit even though it fails to meet fully the course requirements (1.00 grade point)
F  Performance that fails to meet the basic course requirements (0 grade points)
S  Represents achievement that is satisfactory, which is equivalent to a C- or better.
N  No credit. Its use is now restricted to students not earning an S on the S-N grade base
I  Incomplete, a temporary symbol assigned when the instructor has a “reasonable expectation” that you 1) can successfully complete unfinished work on your own no later than one year from the last day of classes and 2) believes that legitimate reasons exist to justify extending the deadline for course completion. The instructor may set date conditions for make-up work. If a course is not completed as prescribed or not made up as agreed within the year, the I will lapse to an F if registered on the A-F grade base or an N if registered on the S-N grade base.
W  Official withdrawal from a course after the end of the second week of the semester. You must file a course cancellation request before the end of the sixth week of the semester to ensure that the W, rather than the F, will be formerly entered on your record.

FINAL EXAMINATIONS (see schedule at http://onestop.umn.edu/onestop/Calendars/FinalExams.html): You are required to take final examinations at the scheduled times. Under certain circumstances, however, you may request final examination schedule adjustment in your college office. Instructors are obligated to schedule make-up examinations within the final examination period for students who have three final examinations within a 16-hour period. Instructors also are encouraged to reschedule examinations for students with religious objections to taking an examination on a given day. You must submit your request for an adjustment in your schedule at least two weeks before the examination period begins. For assistance in resolving conflicts, call the CLA Student Information Office at 625-2020. If you miss a final, an F or N is recorded. You must obtain the instructor's permission to make up the examination. Final examinations may be rescheduled by the instructor only through the official procedure for that purpose (as noted on the above web page). Final examinations may not be scheduled for the last day of class or earlier or for Study Day. If an examination is rescheduled at the instructor's request, and you have an examination conflict because of it, you are entitled to be given the final examination at an alternative time within the regularly scheduled examination period for that semester.

CLASS ATTENDANCE: As a CLA student, you are responsible for attending class and for ascertaining the particular attendance requirements for each class or department. You should also learn each instructor's policies concerning make-up of work for absences. Instructors and students may consult the CLA Classroom, Grading, and Examination Procedures Handbook for more information on these policies (http://advisingtools.class.umn.edu/cgep/).

COURSE PERFORMANCE AND GRADING: Instructors establish ground rules for their courses in conformity with their department policies and are expected to explain them at the first course meeting. This includes announcement of office hours and location, the kind of help to be expected from the instructor and teaching assistants, and tutorial services, if available. The instructor also describes the general nature of the course, the work expected, dates for examinations and paper submissions, and expectations for classroom participation and attendance. Instructors determine the standards for grading and will describe expectations, methods of evaluation, and factors that enter into grade determination. The special conditions under which an incomplete (I) might be awarded also should be established. The college does not permit you to submit extra work to raise your grade unless all students in the class are afforded the same opportunity.

CLASSROOM BEHAVIOR: You are entitled to a good learning environment in the classroom. Students whose behavior is disruptive either to the instructor or to other students will be asked to leave (the policies regarding student conduct are outlined in the CLA Classroom, Grading, and Examination Procedures Handbook on-line at http://advisingtools.class.umn.edu/cgep/).

SCHOLASTIC CONDUCT: The University Student Conduct Code defines scholastic dishonesty as follows: Scholastic Dishonesty means plagiarizing; cheating on assignments or examinations; engaging in unauthorized collaboration on academic work; taking, acquiring, or using test materials without faculty permission; submitting false or
incomplete records of academic achievement; acting alone or in cooperation with another to falsify records or to obtain dishonestly grades, honors, awards, or professional endorsement; altering, forging, or misusing a University academic record; or fabricating or falsifying data, research procedures, or data analysis. Scholastic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, the description above. It could also be said that scholastic dishonesty is any act that violates the rights of another student with respect to academic work or that involves misrepresentation of a student's own work. Also included would be cheating on assignments or examinations, inventing or falsifying research or other findings with the intent to deceive, submitting the same or substantially similar papers (or creative work) for more than one course without consent of all instructors concerned, depriving another of necessary course materials, and sabotaging another's work. Should misconduct arise, the college's Scholastic Conduct Committee in cooperation with the Office of Student Academic Integrity/Student Judicial Affairs (OSAI/SJA) assists instructors in resolving cases, reviews cases in which students believe themselves unfairly treated, and checks for multiple offenses in different courses. Faculty members who suspect students of scholastic misconduct must report the matter to OSAI/SJA. Students cannot evade (intentionally or unintentionally) a grade sanction by withdrawing from a course before or after the misconduct charge is reported. This also applies to late withdrawals, including discretionary late cancellation (also known as the "one-time-only drop").

* SOCIOLOGY DEPARTMENT POLICIES *

**Grade Information:** Grades are due in the Office the Registrar within 3 business days after the final examination. No information regarding grades will be released by the department office staff to anyone except designated personnel in Records and college offices. Students may access their own grades through their computer account. They may do this by following the directions on the One Stop web site at [http://onestop.umn.edu/](http://onestop.umn.edu/).

**Incompletes:** It is the instructor's responsibility to specify conditions under which an Incomplete (I) grade is assigned. Students should refer to the course syllabus and talk with the instructor as early as possible if they anticipate not completing the course work. Coursework submitted after the final examination will generally be evaluated down unless prior arrangements are made in writing by the instructor. University policy states that if completion of the work requires the student to attend class in substantial part a second time, assigning an “I” grade is NOT appropriate. Incompletes are appropriate only if the student can make up the coursework independently with the same professor.

**Make-Up Exams:** Arrangements for special examinations must be made directly with the instructor who taught the course and who is responsible for approving and supervising the examination or making individual arrangements. Circumstances for missing an exam include, but are not necessarily limited to: verified illness, participation in athletic events or other group activities sponsored by the University, serious family emergencies, subpoenas, jury duty, military service, and religious observances. It is the responsibility of the student to notify faculty members of such circumstances as far in advance as possible.

**Grade Changes:** Grades properly arrived at are not subject to renegotiation unless all students in the class have similar opportunities. Students have the right to check for possible clerical errors in the assignment of grades by checking with the instructor and/or teaching assistant. Students with justifiable complaints about grades or classroom procedures have recourse through well-established grievance procedures. You are expected to confer first with the course instructor. If no satisfactory solution is reached, the complaint should be presented in writing to the department associate chair and/or the department academic advisor (909 Soc Sci). If these informal processes fail to reach a satisfactory resolution, other formal procedures for hearing and appeal can be invoked. See the departmental advisor in 923 Social Sciences to explore options.

**Disability Services:** Students with disabilities that affect their ability to participate fully in class or to meet all course requirements are encouraged to bring this to the attention of the instructor so that appropriate accommodations can be arranged. For more info contact Disabilities Services in 230 McNamara.

**Sexual Harassment:** University policy prohibits sexual harassment as defined in the December 1998 policy statement, available at the Office of Equal Opportunity and Affirmative Action. Questions or concerns about sexual harassment should be directed to this office in 419 Morrill Hall.

**Sociology Programs Information:** The Sociology Department offers two options for the Bachelor of Arts degree and a Bachelor of Science degree. We also have an Honors Program. Students interested in majoring in Sociology should attend an information meeting about the major. Meetings are held about once a week. Sign up for a meeting in 909 Social Sciences. Further information can be obtained from the following persons and offices:

- General information, Sociology Department, 909 Social Sciences - 624-4300
- Coordinator of Undergraduate Advising, Bobby Bryant, 923 Social Sciences – 624-4300
- Director of Undergraduate Studies, Professor Teresa Swartz, 1172 Social Sciences - 624-2310
- Sociology Honors Advisor, Professor Kathleen Hull, 1131 Social Sciences - 624-4339
- Director of Graduate Studies, Professor Ann Meier, 1074 Social Sciences – 624-9828 and/or
- Graduate Program Associate, Becky Drasin, 927 Social Sciences - 624-2093