Tentative Syllabus: SOC3671 (Fall 2019)
Chinese Society: Culture, Networks, & Inequality
9/3-12/11, TuTh 2:30 - 3:45 pm, Blegen Hall 140

Instructor: Professor Yanjie Bian
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Office hours: TTh 12:45-2:15 pm, or through email/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. Through this course, students will gain a basic understanding of how Chinese society operates today with a focus on the central importance of social relations. Soc1001 “Introduction to Sociology” is recommended.

Course materials:
Lecture notes: available from the course Canvas.
Additional information: useful websites are provided on the following page.

Grading:
60% term paper: 5% for an outline, 5% for oral presentation in class, and 50% for written paper.
30% quizzes: a total of five quizzes on first five weeks of lectures, each worth 6% of final grade.
10% class attendance: each class meeting is counted.
Letter grade on a 100 scale: 100-95=A; 94-90=A-; 89-85=B+; 84-80=B; 79-75=B-; 74-70=C+; 69-65=C; 64-60=C-; 59-55=D; <55=F. Passing grade: C-

Term paper:
Outline: A 2-page statement on the significance of the issue to study and the plan to complete it.
Oral presentation: A 5-minute discussion of the study plan in class.
Written paper: A 10-page, double-space essay on the self-chosen issue about Chinese guanxi.

(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.
Useful Websites on China Information:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uttfyD3j1KI, China in ten minutes at Youtube.
http://www.sino-cs.ac.uk/, Scottish Information Network Online for Chinese Studies (SINO-CS)
http://asia.lib.umich.edu/china/index.htm, University of Michigan Asia Library
http://lcweb2.loc.gov/frd/cs/cntoc.html, Library of Congress article on China

Useful Websites on Writing:
Formatting your writing: https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/section/2/
Theoretical framing: http://www.doctoralmidwiferysociety.org/Portals
Basic sociological concepts: http://www.sociologyguide.com/basic-concepts/index.php
Weekly Topics and Readings

09/03, 05, Week 1: PRC, brief history, and China’s globalization; Lecture notes.

09/10, 12, Week 2: Population and economy in rural and urban China; Lecture notes. Quiz #1 in Tuesday class: covering Week 1 lecture notes

09/17, 19, Week 3: Chinese cultures on foods, art, marriage, family, and gender; Lecture notes. Quiz #2 in Tuesday class: covering Week 2 lecture notes

09/24, 26, Week 4: Religion, public life, and political culture; Lecture notes. Quiz #3 in Tuesday class: covering Week 3 lecture notes

10/01, 03, Week 5: Forms of inequality, institutional change, and regime stability; Lecture notes. Quiz #4 in Tuesday class: covering Week 4 lecture notes

10/08, 10, Week 6: What is guanxi? Textbook chapter 1. Quiz #5 in Tuesday class: covering Week 5 lecture notes

10/15, 17, Week 7: Guanxi and network building; Textbook chapter 2.

10/22, 24, Week 8: Guanxi and jobs; Textbook chapter 3.


11/05, 07, Week 10: Guanxi and organizational development; Textbook chapter 5.

11/12, 14, Week 11: Guanxi and politics; Textbook chapter 6.

11/19, 21, Week 12: Guanxi and social structure; Textbook chapter 7.

Term-paper outline is due 23:59 Tuesday to the course Canvas.

11/26, 28, Week 13: Thanksgiving Holiday for Self-Study for the Term Paper, No Classes

12/03, 05, Week 14: Student’s presentation of term-paper outlines.

12/10, Week 15: Term paper is due 23:59 to the course Canvas.