

Social Stratification and Inequality in China

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

Market oriented reform from 1978 has changed Chinese society fundamentally. This course will explore various aspects of social life before and after the reform, focusing on the stratification and inequality in social lives. First, we will quickly review the general picture of social stratification process in China before and after the reform. Then we will examine the social structure in rural and urban societies, paying attention to two systems that are essential to the stratification order in Chinese society: the Hukou and work-unit. We will also examine how market transition transforms the family life and women's role and status in China.

This course is designed to provide a broad view of social stratification structure in Chinese society. By the end of the course, students should be able to (1) understand the basic structure of Chinese society, and (2) critically think and discuss about the social causes and consequences of changes in stratification and inequality. Your careful reading and participation are very important.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

The final grade will consist of four components: class participation and discussion, two short papers, and one research project.

Class Participation and Discussion (30%)

The course will follow a lecture-discussion format. Students are expected to attend all classes. To make sure that all students come to class prepared to discuss, students are required to submit one-page summary and comment on the assigned readings by midnight of Wednesday each week for 5 weeks (your preference). The file submitted should be named as: your name_week #_summary_***.doc. For example: John_w2_summary.doc.

Short Papers (30%)

There will be two equally weighted short papers (5-pages, double-space). It should be a longer summary of lecture readings. Each paper is due before lecture date of certain topics. The file submitted should be named as: your name_week #_paper_***.doc. For example: John_w2_paper.doc.

Summaries and papers should cover different topics.

Research Project (40%)

For the research project, the students are allowed to choose any topic that is related to social stratification and inequality issues in China and agreed upon with the instructor. Students are expected to develop their own ideas about the selected topics in the project and write a completed paper (10-pages, double-space). In addition, each student will present her/his research project to the class at the end of the semester. The final paper is due on the last day of classes.

COURSE POLICIES

No any form of plagiarism and cheating will be tolerated. Please consult with <http://www.plagiarism.org/> for the definition of plagiarism and proper methods of citation and attribution. Please consult with a paper published in American Sociological Review for citation style.

Necessary accommodations will be made for any documented physical or learning disability. Please inform the instructor by the first day of class.

RECOMMENDED READINGS

Hessler, Peter, 2001. *River Town: Two Years on the Yangtze*. New York: Harper Perennial.

Hessler, Peter, 2011. *Country Driving: A Chinese Road Trip*. New York: Harper Perennial.

COURSE CALENDAR

Week 1 Introduction: from Revolution to Reform

Lieberthal, Kenneth. 2004. *Governing China: From Revolution Through Reform*. New York and London: W. W. Norton & Company. Chapter 1-5 (Pp.1-148).

Film: William, Sue, 2003. *China: A Century of Revolution* (1), Ambrica Productions.

Week 2 Economic Transition

Lieberthal, Kenneth. 2004. *Governing China: From Revolution Through Reform*. New York and London: W. W. Norton & Company. Chapter 6, 7 (pp.171-242).

Naughton, Barry. 2007. *The Chinese Economy: Transitions and Growth*. Cambridge, Mass.: MIT Press. Ch.3, 4, 5, 10, 12.

Film: William, Sue, 2003. *China: A Century of Revolution* (2), Ambrica Productions.

Week 3 The Party and State

Walder, Andrew G. 1995. "The Quiet Revolution from Within: Economic Reform as a Source of Political Decline" pp. 1-24 in *The Waning of the Communist State: Economic Origins of Political Decline in China and Hungary*, Berkeley: University of California Press.

Dickson, Bruce J., 2004. "Dilemmas of Party Adaptation: the CCP's Strategies for Survival", pp.141-158 in P.H. Gries and S. Rosen (eds), *State and Society in 21st Century China: Crisis, Contention, and Legitimation*. New York: Routledge.

Dickson, Bruce 2007. "Integrating Wealth and Power in China: The Communist Party's Embrace of the Private Sector." *The China Quarterly* 192:827-854

Guo, Gang. 2005. "Party Recruitment of College Students in China." *Journal of Contemporary China*, 14(43): 371-393.

Tong, Yanqi & Shaohua Lei. 2013. "War of Position and Microblogging in China", *Journal of Contemporary China*, 22(80): 292-311.

Film: William, Sue, 2003. *China: A Century of Revolution* (3), Ambrica Productions.

Week 4 Social Structure in Rural China

Fei, Xiaotong. 1992. *From the Soil, the Foundations of Chinese Society* (乡土中国), translated by Gary G. Hamilton and Wang Zheng. Berkeley: University of California Press.

Gao, Mobo C. F., 1999. *Gao Village: A Portrait of Rural Life in Modern China*. Honolulu: University of Hawaii Press (chapter 1, 3-7, 10, 14).

Film: *The People's Republic of Capitalism: Joined at the Hip* (Discovery Channel, 2008)

Week 5 Urban Society: Work Unit System & State-owned Enterprises

Lü Xiaobo and Elizabeth J. Perry (eds.). 1997. *Danwei: The Changing Chinese Workplace in Historical and Comparative Perspective*. Armonk: M. E. Sharpe. , pp. 3-17.

Unger, Jonathan and Anita Chan. 2004. "The Internal Politics of an Urban Chinese Workplace: A Case Study of Decision-Making at a State-owned Factory". *The China Journal* 52: 1-24.

Whyte, Martin K. 1999. "The Changing Role of Workers", pp 173-196 in Merle Goldman and Roderick Macfarquhar (eds), *The Paradox of China's Post-Mao Reforms*, Harvard University Press.

Lee, Ching Kwan. 2007. *Against the Law: Labor Protests in China's Rustbelt and Sunbelt*, Berkeley: University of California Press. pp.69-153.

Film: *The People's Republic of Capitalism: from Mao-ism to ME-ism* (Discovery Channel, 2008)

Week 6 Hukou System, Rural-urban division and Migrant Workers

******The first short paper is due.******

Cheng, Tiejun and Mark Selden, 1994, "The Origins and Social Consequences of China's Hukou System." *The China Quarterly* 139: 644-668.

Whyte, Martin, 2010. "The Paradoxes of Rural-urban Inequality in Contemporary China", pp. 1-25, in *One Country, Two Systems*, edited by Martin King Whyte, Cambridge: Harvard University Press.

Lee, Ching Kwan. 2007. *Against the Law: Labor Protests in China's Rustbelt and Sunbelt*, Berkeley: University of California Press. pp.157-231.

Gloria Davies and Gaby Ramia, 2008. "Governance Reform towards 'Serving Migrant Workers': The Local Implementation of Central Government Regulations." *The China Quarterly* 193: 140-149.

Film: *Made in China* (2008)

Week 7 Social De-stratification and Re-stratification

Whyte, Martin, 1975. "Inequality and Stratification in China". *China Quarterly*, 64: 684-711.

Parish, William, 1984. "Destratification in China", pp84-120, in *Class and Social Stratification in Post-revolution China*, edited by James L. Watson, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Walder, Andrew, 1989. "Social Change in Post-Revolution China". *Annual Review of Sociology* 15: 405-424.

Bian, Yanjie. 2002. "Chinese Social Stratification and Social Mobility". *Annual Review of Sociology* 28: 91-116.

Whyte, Martin, 2011. "Myth of the Social Volcano: Popular Responses to Rising Inequality in China," pp.273-290, in William Kirby (ed.), *The People's Republic of China at 60: An International Assessment*, Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Asia Center.

Film: *The People's Republic of Capitalism: It's the Economy Stupid* (2008)

Week 8 Gender and Family

Whyte, Martin. 1984. "Sexual Inequality under Socialism: the Chinese case in Perspectives", pp.198-238 in James Watson (eds.) *Class and Social Stratification in Post-Revolution China*. Cambridge University Press.

Zhang, Naihua, 2001. "In a World together yet Apart: Urban and Rural Women Coming of Age in the Seventies". *Some of Us: Chinese Women Growing Up in the Mao Era*, pp. 1-26.

Honig, Emily, 2000. "Iron Girls Revisited: Gender and the Politics of Work in the Cultural Revolution, 1966-76". pp. 97-110 in Entwisle and Henderson (eds.) *Redrawing Boundaries*.

Attane, Isabelle, 2002, "China's Family Planning Policy: An Overview of Its Past and Future", *Studies in Family Planning* 33(1): 103-113.

Whyte, Martin. 2005. "Continuity and Change in Urban Chinese Family Life." *The China Journal* 53: 9-33.

Yan, Yunxiang, 2003. "Conclusion: The Socialist State, the Private Family, and the Uncivil Individual", pp. 217-235 in *Private Life under Socialism: Love, Intimacy, and Family Change in a Chinese Village 1949-1999*. Stanford, California: Stanford University Press.

Film: *China Unbound: Women's Place, Sex and the Revolution* (2006)

Week 9 Education System

Tsui Kai-yuen. 1997. "Economic Reform and the Attainment in Basic Education in China". *The China Quarterly* 149:104-27.

Zhou, Xueguang; Phyllis Moen; Nancy Brandon Tuma. 1998. "Educational Stratification in Urban China: 1949-94". *Sociology of Education* 71: 199-222.

Hannum, Emily and Jennifer Adams. 2008. "Beyond Cost: Rural Perspectives on Barriers to Education". Pp.156-171 in *Creating Wealth and Poverty in Postsocialist China*, edited by Deborah Davis and Wang Feng.

Zhao, Litao and Zhu Jinjing. 2010. "China's Higher Education Reform: What has not Been Changed?" *East Asian Policy*, 12(4): 115-125.

Levin, Dan. 2011. "Coaching and Much More for Chinese Students Looking to U.S.", *New York Times* (5/29/2011).

Film: (BBC) *Chinese School (1)* (2008)

http://v.youku.com/v_show/id_XNDI2NzQwNjI0.html

http://v.youku.com/v_show/id_XNDI3MTE1MjY0.html

http://v.youku.com/v_show/id_XNDI3Mzc5MjYw.html

http://v.youku.com/v_show/id_XNDI1OTc2MzUy.html

Week 10 Welfare System

- Frazier, Mark W.. 2004. "China's Pension Reform and Its Discontents." *The China Journal* 51: 97-114.
- Duckett, Jane. 2004. "State, Collectivism and Worker Privilege: A Study of Urban Health Insurance Reform." *The China Quarterly* 177: 155-173.
- Tam, Waikeung. 2012. "Health Care Reform and Patients' Trust in Physicians in Urban Beijing." *The China Quarterly*, 211: 827-843.
- Duckett, Jane. 2011. "Challenging the Economic Reform Paradigm: Policy and Politics in the Early 1980s' Collapse of the Rural Co-operative Medical System." *The China Quarterly* 205: 80-95.
- Philip H. Brown, Alan de Brauw and Yang Du. 2009. "Understanding Variation in the Design of China's New Co-operative Medical System." *The China Quarterly* 198: 304-329.
- Huang, Youqin. 2012. "Low-income Housing in Chinese Cities: Policies and Practices." *The China Quarterly*, 212: 941-964.
- Film: *The People's Republic of Capitalism: the Fast Lane* (Discovery Channel, 2008)

Week 11 Collective Action and Resistance

- Zhou, Xueguang. 1993. "Unorganized Interests and Collective Action in Communist China." *American Sociological Review*, 58: 54-73.
- Shi, Fayong and Yongshun Cai 2006, "Disaggregating the State: Networks and Collective Action in Shanghai." *China Quarterly*, 186: 314-332.
- Li, Lianjiang and Kevin J. O'Brien, 2008. "Protest Leadership in Rural China", *China Quarterly*, 193: 1-23.
- Cai, Yongshun. 2008. "Local Governments and the Suppression of Popular Resistance in China", *China Quarterly*, 193: 24-42.
- Michelson, Ethan. 2008. "Justice from Above or Below? Popular Strategies for Resolving Grievances in Rural China." *China Quarterly*, 193: 43-64.
- Zhao, Dingxin 1998. "Ecologies of Social Movements: Student Mobilization during the 1989 Prodemocracy Movement in Beijing." *American Journal of Sociology*, 103: 1493-1529.

Week 12 Course Wrap-up

******The second short paper is due.******

Project presentation

Final paper is due