

SOCIAL PROBLEMS IN CONTEMPORARY CHINA

Sociology 230.415

Fall 2009

Thursdays 3:00-5:30

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Office hours: Tuesdays 12:00-1:00 and Thursdays 5:30-6:30

Description

We will examine contemporary Chinese society, looking at economic development, rural transformation, urbanization and migration, labor relations, class structure, governance, and popular protest. The course is designed for both graduate and undergraduate students. Undergraduates must have already completed a course about China at Hopkins and must obtain the instructor's permission to join the class.

Requirements

1. Formulate a discussion question in response to the weekly readings and post it on the course website (<http://webct.jhu.edu/>) by 11:30 AM on the day of class.
2. Write four to six short memos (three single-spaced pages) on the weekly readings. Undergraduate students are expected to write four memos, while graduate students are expected to write six. In the memos, you should first concisely summarize each reading, considering what the author is 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. If there are more than four readings, you may write about four, and you should focus on the elements that most interest you. You must turn in memos at the end of each week's class.
3. Write one or two longer essays (five to six single-spaced pages) based primarily on one week's readings. Undergraduates are expected to write one essay, while graduate students are expected to write two. You should read all of the required *and* recommended readings for the week you choose (if you do not read Chinese, you are not required to read Chinese language readings). You should also consider the content of related readings included in other sections of the syllabus and you are welcome to find other works on the week's topic. In your essay, you should develop a thesis. You should identify one or more lines of reasoning among the week's readings and then develop your own argument supporting, opposing, or revising one of these lines. Essays will be due on Friday, December 11.
4. Graduate students will select one week in which they will help introduce the week's readings. This will involve identifying different arguments presented in the readings and posing questions for discussion.

Ethics

The strength of the university depends on academic and personal integrity. In this course, you must be honest and truthful. Ethical violations include cheating, plagiarism, reuse of essays, improper use of the internet and electronic services, unauthorized collaboration, alteration of graded essays, forgery and falsification, lying, facilitating academic dishonesty, and unfair competition. For more information, visit the Ethics Board website at <http://ethics.jhu.edu>.

Reading materials

You are encouraged to buy the books listed below, but they will also be available on library reserve. The remainder of the readings will be available on e-reserve at the MSE library website (course password: and415) or will be distributed in class. Please print the e-reserve readings and bring them to class as references for discussion.

- Wong, Bin. 2000. *China Transformed: Historical Change and the Limits of European Experience*, Ithaca: Cornell University Press (internet vender new discounted price: \$21, used from: \$10)
- Naughton, Barry. 2007. *The Chinese Economy: Transitions and Growth*. Cambridge: The MIT Press (\$23, \$17)
- Bramall, Chris. 2008. *Chinese Economic Development*. London: Routledge (\$49)
- Solinger, Dorothy. 1999. *Contesting Citizenship in Urban China: Peasant Migrants, the State, and the Logic of the Market*. Berkeley: University of California Press (\$33, \$17)
- Andreas, Joel. 2009. *Rise of the Red Engineers: The Cultural Revolution and the Origins of China's New Class*. Stanford: Stanford University Press (\$27, new in class: \$17)
- O'Brien, Kevin and Lianjiang Li. 2006. *Rightful Resistance in Rural China*. New York: Cambridge University Press (\$20, \$12)

Reading List and Schedule

1. Introduction (September 3)

2. Historic patterns of development (September 10) (197 total pages)

- Naughton, Barry. 2007. *The Chinese Economy*, pp. 15-54 (39 pages)
- Huang, Philip. 1990. *The Peasant Family and Rural Development in the Yangzi Delta, 1350-1988*, Stanford: Stanford University Press, pp. 305-15 (11)
- Wong, Bin. 2000. *China Transformed*, pp. 1-70 (70)
- Pomeranz, Kenneth. 2001. "Is There an East Asian Development Path?" *Journal of the Economic and Social History of the Orient*, Vol. 44, No. 3, pp. 322-62 (40)
- Arrighi, Giovanni. 2007. *Adam Smith in Beijing*. London: Verso, pp. 314-350 (37)

Recommended

- Elvin, Mark. 1973. *The Pattern of the Chinese Past*, Stanford: Stanford University Press

Huang, Philip. 1990. *The Peasant Family and Rural Development in the Yangzi Delta*, pp. 1-161
Pomeranz, Kenneth. 2000. *The Great Divergence: China, Europe, and the Making of the Modern World Economy*. Princeton: Princeton University Press
Wong, Bin. 2000. *China Transformed*, pp. 71-177

3. Economic development in the Mao Era (September 17) (207)

Naughton, Barry. 2007. *The Chinese Economy*, pp. 55-84 (30)
Bramall, Chris. 2008. *Chinese Economic Development*, pp. 145-321 (177)

Recommended

Bramall, Chris. 2008. *Chinese Economic Development*, pp. 79-141
Lin, Justin Yifu, Fang Cai, and Zhou Li. 2003. *The China Miracle: Development Strategy and Economic Reform*. Hong Kong: Chinese University Press, pp. 29-102
Wong, Bin. 2000. *China Transformed*, pp. 179-206

4. Economic development in the Reform Era (September 24) (217)

Naughton, Barry. 2007. *The Chinese Economy*, pp. 85-113, 139-228, 297-328, 487-504 (169)
Arrighi, Giovanni. 2007. *Adam Smith in Beijing*, pp. 351-378 (28)
Andreas, Joel. 2008. "Changing Colours in China," *New Left Review* No. 54, pp. 123-142 (20)

Recommended

Lin, Justin Yifu, Fang Cai, and Zhou Li. 2003. *The China Miracle*, pp. 137-346
Bramall, Chris. 2008. *Chinese Economic Development*, pp. 325-554
Huang, Yasheng. 2008. *Capitalism with Chinese Characteristics: Entrepreneurship and the State*. New York: Cambridge University Press

5. Rural development (October 1) (168)

Naughton, Barry. 2007. *The Chinese Economy*, pp. 271-294 (24)
Huang, Philip. 1990. *The Peasant Family and Rural Development in the Yangzi Delta*, pp. 315-34 (20)
Oi, Jean C. 1999. *Rural China Takes Off: Institutional Foundations of Economic Reform*. Berkeley: University of California Press, pp. 1-16, 95-138 (60)
Huang, Yasheng. 2008. *Capitalism with Chinese Characteristics*, pp. 50-105, 233-240 (64)

Recommended

Lin, Justin Yifu and Yang Yao. 2001. "Chinese Rural Industrialization in the Context of the East Asian Miracle," in Joseph Stiglitz and Yusef Shahid, editors, *Rethinking the East Asian Miracle*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, pp. 143-196
Fei, Hsiao Tung, et al. 1986. *Small Towns in China: Functions, Problems & Prospects*. Beijing: New World Press
Huang, Philip. 1990. *The Peasant Family and Rural Development in the Yangzi Delta*, pp. 165-304

Oi, Jean C. 1999. *Rural China Takes Off*, pp. 17-94, 139-203
Bramall, Chris. 2007. *The Industrialization of Rural China*. Oxford: Oxford University Press

6. Agriculture (October 8) (185)

Naughton, Barry. 2007. *The Chinese Economy*, pp. 231-249 (19)
Hinton, William. 1990. *The Great Reversal: The Privatization of China 1978-1989*, New York: Monthly Review Press, pp. 11-30, 164-74 (31)
Kelliher, Daniel. 1992. *Peasant Power in China: The Era of Rural Reform 1979-1989*, New Haven: Yale University Press, pp. 233-53 (20)
Lin, Justin Yifu. 1992. "Rural Reforms and Agricultural Growth in China," *The American Economic Review*, Vol. 82, No. 1, pp. 34-51 (18)
Bramall, Chris. 2004. "Chinese Land Reform in Long-Run Perspective and in the Wider East Asian Context," *Journal of Agrarian Change*, Vol. 4, Nos. 1 and 2, pp. 107-141 (35)
Zhu, Keliang and Roy Prosterman. 2007 "Securing Land Rights for Chinese Farmers: A Leap Forward for Stability and Growth," *Development Policy Analysis*, No. 3, pp. 1-17 (17) (http://www.cato.org/pub_display.php?pub_id=8745)
Zhang, Qian Forrest and John Donaldson. 2008. "The Rise of Agrarian Capitalism with Chinese Characteristics: Agricultural Modernization, Agribusiness and Collective Land Rights," *The China Journal*, No. 60, pp. 25-47 (23)
Li, Changping. 2008. "Chinese villages will thoroughly take the Philippine road," (<http://chinastudygroup.net/index.php?action=front2&type=view&id=285>) (6)
Fewsmith, Joseph. 2009. "Tackling the Land Issue—Carefully," *China Leadership Monitor*, No. 27, (<http://www.hoover.org/publications/clm/issues/37361849.html>), pp. 1-8 (8)

4

Recommended

Hinton, William. 1994. "Mao, Rural Development, and Two-line Struggle," *Monthly Review*, Vol. 45, No. 9, pp. 1-15
Kelliher, Daniel. 1992. *Peasant Power in China*, pp. 1-232
Unger, Jonathan. 2002. *The Transformation of Rural China*, New York: M. E. Sharpe

7. Migration and urbanization (October 15) (203)

Naughton, Barry. 2007. *The Chinese Economy*, pp. 113-136 (24)
Solinger, Dorothy. 1999. *Contesting Citizenship in Urban China*, pp. 1-14, 149-290 (156)
Zhan, Shaohua. 2009. "What Determines Migrant Workers' Life Chances in Contemporary China? *Hukou*, Social Exclusion and the Market" (manuscript) (23)

Recommended

Solinger, Dorothy. 1999. *Contesting Citizenship in Urban China*, pp. 27-146
Wang, Feng, Xuejin Zuo, Danching Ruan. 2002. "Rural Migrants in Shanghai: Living under the Shadow of Socialism," *International Migration Review* Vol. 36, No. 2, pp. 520-545
Wang, Fei-ling. 2004. "Reformed Migration Control and New List of the Targeted People: China's *Hukou* System in the 2000s," *The China Quarterly* No. 177, pp. 115-3

8. Labor relations (October 22) (181)

- Walder, Andrew. 1989. "Factory and Manager in the Era of Reform," *The China Quarterly*, No. 118, pp. 242-64 (23)
- Zhao, Minghua and Theo Nichols. 1996. "Management Control of Labor in State-Owned Enterprises: Cases from the Textile Industry," *The China Journal*, No. 36, pp. 1-21 (21)
- Solinger, Dorothy. 1997. "The Impact of the Floating Population on the *Danwei*: Shifts in the Pattern of Labor Mobility Control and Entitlement Provision," in Xiaobo Lu and Elizabeth Perry, editors, *Danwei: The Changing Chinese Workplace in Historical and Comparative Perspective*, Armonk, NY: M. E. Sharpe, pp. 195-222 (28)
- Lee, Ching Kwan. 2002. "Three Patterns of Working-Class Transitions in China," in Mengin and Rocca, editors, *Politics in China*, pp. 62-91 (30)
- Gallagher, Mary. 2004. "'Time is Money, Efficiency is Life': The Transformation of Labor Relations in China," *Studies in Comparative International Development*, Vol. 39, No. 2, pp. 11-44 (35)
- Oi, Jean. 2005. "Patterns of Corporate Restructuring in China: Political Constraints on Privatization," *The China Journal* No. 53, pp. 115-36 (22)
- Venkatesan, Vembu. 2007. "'Iron Rice Bowl' returns in China," *Daily News and Analysis* (Nov. 27) (2)
- Andreas, Joel and Yao Li. 2009. "The Erosion of Participatory Paternalism in Chinese Factories" (manuscript) (20)

Recommended

- Naughton, Barry. 1997. "*Danwei*: The Economic Foundations of a Unique Institution," in Lu and Perry, editors, *Danwei*, pp. 169-194
- Shen Yuan. 2006. "Shehui zhuanxing yu gongren jiejie zai xiancheng" (Social transformation and reformation of Chinese working class), *Shehui yanjiu* (Sociological studies), Vol. 21, No. 2, pp. 13-36
- Lee, Ching Kwan. 2007. *Against the Law: Labor Protests in China's Rustbelt and Sunbelt*, Berkeley: University of California Press
- Luo Jieqi. 2009. "Tough labor market challenges labor law," *Caijing* 1 (January 6) (<http://english.caijing.com.cn/2009-01-06/110045246.html>)
- Ren Bo. 2008. "Lingering wrangle over China's labor law," *Caijing* 8 (April 17) (<http://english.caijing.com.cn/2008-04-17/110031936.html>)

9. Health care (October 29) (169)

- Morris, Andrew. 1995. "'Fight for Fertilizer!' Excrement, Public Health, and Mobilization in New China," *Journal of Unconventional History*, Vol. 6, No. 3, pp. 51-77 (27)
- Croll, Elisabeth. 1999. "Social Welfare Reform: Trends and Tensions," *The China Quarterly*, No. 159, pp. 684-99 (16)
- Liu, Yuanli, William Hsiao, and Karen Eggleston. 1999. "Equity in Health and Health Care: The Chinese Experience," *Social Science and Medicine*, Vol. 49, No. 10, pp. 1349-56 (8)
- Chen, M. S. 2001. "The Great Reversal: Transformation of Health Care in the People's Republic of China," in W. C. Cockerham, editor, *Blackwell Companion to Medical Sociology*, Oxford: Blackwell, pp. 456-82 (27)

- Wang, Shaoguang. 2004. "China's Health System: From Crisis to Opportunity," *Yale China Health Journal*, No. 3, pp. 5-49 (45)
- Duckett, Jane. 2004. "State, Collectivism and Worker Privilege: A Study of Urban Health Insurance Reform," *The China Quarterly*, No. 177, pp. 155-73 (19)
- Blumenthal, David and William Hsiao. 2005. "Privatization and its discontents—the evolving Chinese health care system," *New England Journal of Medicine*, No. 353, pp. 1165-70 (6)
- Watts, Jonathan. 2007. "Ailing system leaves sick to pay up or die: China's healthcare system has been swept up in the country's tide of capitalism," *Guardian Unlimited* (September 14)
- Cook, Sarah. 2007. "Putting health back in China's development," *China Perspectives*, No. 3, pp. 100-08 (8)
- Wang, Shaoguang. 2008. "Double Movement in China," *Economic and Political Weekly* (December 27), pp. 51-59 (9)
- McCartney, Jane. 2009. "China plans to bring basic healthcare to all," *Timesonline* (April 9) (<http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/world/asia/article6056121.ece>)

Recommended

- Nolan, Peter and John Sender. 1992. "Death Rates, Life Expectancy and China's Economic Reforms: A Critique of A.K. Sen," *World Development*, Vol. 20, No. 9, pp. 1279-1303 (25)
- Sen, Amartya. 1992. "Life and Death in China: A Reply," *World Development*, Vol. 20, No. 9, pp. 1305-12 (8)
- Henderson, Gail. 1994. "Equity and the Utilization of Health Services: Report from an Eight-Province Survey in China," *Social Science in Medicine*, Vol. 39, No. 5, pp. 687-99 (13)
- Wong, Chank-kie, Vai lo Lo, and Kwong-Leung Tang. 2006. *China's Urban Health Care Reform*. Lanham, MD: Lexington Books
- Thompson, Drew. 2009. "China's Health Care Reform Redux," in Xiaoqing Lu, editor, *China's Capacity to Manage Infectious Diseases*, Washington, DC: Center for Strategic and International Studies (http://www.csis.org/media/isis/pubs/090325_freeman_chinacapacity_web.pdf), pp. 57-78

10. The export-oriented model and the global economic crisis (November 5) (170)

- Wang, Shaoguang. 2000. "The Social and Political Implications of China's WTO Membership," *Journal of Contemporary China*, Vol. 9, No. 25, pp. 373-405 (33)
- Fewsmith, Joseph. 2001. "The Political and Social Implications of China's Accession to the WTO," *The China Quarterly*, No. 167, pp. 573-91 (19)
- Huang, Yasheng. 2002. *Selling China: FDI During the Reform Era*. New York: Cambridge University Press, pp. 1-62 (62)
- Tao, Yi-feng. 2005. "A Catch-Up Strategy? China's Policy Toward Foreign Direct Investment," in Saadia Pekkanen and Kellee Tsai, editors, *Japan and China in the World Political Economy*. London: Routledge, pp. 130-150 (21)
- Naughton, Barry. 2007. *The Chinese Economy*, pp. 377-424 (48)
- Anderson, Jonathan. 2007. "Is China Export-Led?" *Asian Focus* (Sept. 27), pp. 1-9 (9)
- Hung, Ho-fung. 2008. "Rise of China and the Global Overaccumulation Crisis," *Review of International Political Economy*, Vol. 15, No. 2, pp. 149-79 (30)
- Pettis, Michael. 2009. "China's Great Demand Challenge," *Far East Economic Review* (January) (<http://mpettis.com/wp-content/uploads/2009/05/feer-1-09.pdf>), pp. 8-13 (6)

Lind, Michael. 2009. "Rx for the Economy: Which Doctor Should We Believe?" *Salon* (April 7) (<http://www.salon.com/opinion/feature/2009/04/07/economy/index.html?source=rss&aim=/opinion/feature>) (2)

Recommended

Chan, Kam Chan. 2009. "Introduction: Population, Migration and the Lewis Turning Point in China" in Cai Fang and Du Yang (eds.), *The China Population and Labor Yearbook*. Brill Publishers, pp. 1-19

Hung, Ho-fung. 2009. "Quanqiu weiji xia de Zhongguo: Daoxia de juren haishi fusu de xianfeng?" ("China under the global economic crisis: Downfall of a giant or vanguard of recovery?"), *China Left Review*, No. 2 (<http://chinaleftreview.org/index.php?id=69>)

Naughton, Barry. 2009. "The Scramble to Maintain Growth." *China Leadership Monitor* (<http://www.hoover.org/publications/clm/issues/37362724.html>), pp. 1-11

11. Elite classes (November 12) (194)

Andreas, Joel. 2009. *Rise of the Red Engineers*, pp. 1-83, 213-278 (149)

Goodman, David. 1998. "In Search of China's New Middle Classes: The Creation of Wealth and Diversity in Shanxi During the 1990s," *Asian Studies Review*, Vol. 22, No. 1, pp. 39-62 (24)

Walder, Andrew. 2004. "The Party Elite and China's Trajectory of Change," *China: An International Journal*, Vol. 2, No. 2, pp. 189-209 (21)

Recommended

Sun Liping. 2002. "Zongtixing ziben yu zhuanxingqi jingying xingcheng" (Comprehensive capital and elite formation in periods of transition), *Zhejiang xuekan* (Zhejiang journal) 3

Dickson, Bruce. 2003. *Red Capitalists: The Party, Private Entrepreneurs, and Prospects for Political Change*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press

Tsai, Kellee. 2007. *Capitalism without Democracy: The Private Sector in Contemporary China*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press

Andreas, Joel. 2009. *Rise of the Red Engineers*, pp. 87-210

Walder, Andrew. 2009. "Revolution, Reform, and Status Inheritance: Urban China, 1949-1996," *American Journal of Sociology*, Vol. 114, No. 5, pp. 1395-1427

12. Governance and democratic institutions (November 19) (151)

Shue, Vivienne. 1994. "State Power and Social Organization in China," in Kohli Migdal and Vivienne Shue, editors, *State Power and Social Forces*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, pp. 65-88 (24)

Unger, Jonathan and Anita Chan. 1995. "China, corporatism, and the East Asian model," *Australian Journal of Chinese Affairs*, No. 33, pp. 29-53 (25)

O'Brien, Kevin and Lianjiang Li. 1999. "Campaign Nostalgia in the Chinese Countryside," *Asian Survey*, Vol. 39, No. 3, pp. 375-93 (19)

Saich, Tony. 2000. "Negotiating the State: The Development of Social Organizations in China," *The China Quarterly*, No. 161, pp. 124-141 (18)

Pomfret, John. 2002. "Bringing Revolution to China's Villages," *Washington Post* (September 15)

- Luehrmann, Laura. 2003. "Facing Citizen Complaints in China, 1951-1996," *Asian Survey*, Vol. 43 No. 5, pp. 845-66 (22)
- Levy, Richard. 2007. "Village Elections, Transparency, and Anticorruption: Henan and Guangdong Provinces," in Elizabeth Perry and Merle Goldman, eds., *Grassroots Political Reform in Contemporary China*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press, pp. 20-47 (28)
- Pei, Minxin. 2008 "How China is Ruled," *American Interest* (March/April) (<http://www.the-american-interest.com/article.cfm?piece=403>), pp. 1-8 (8)
- Li, Cheng. 2009. "China's Team of Rivals," *Foreign Policy* (March/April) (http://www.foreignpolicy.com/story/cms.php?story_id=4686) (3)

Recommended

- O'Brien, Kevin. 2001. "Villagers, Elections, and Citizenship in Contemporary China," *Modern China*, Vol. 27, No. 4, pp. 407-35
- Tsai, Lily. 2007. "Solidary Groups, Informal Accountability, and Local Public Goods Provision in Rural China," *The American Political Science Review*, Vol. 101, No. 2, pp. 355-72

November 26. Thanksgiving holiday

13. Governance and popular protest (December 3) (193)

- Wong, Bin. 2000. *China Transformed*, pp. 277-294 (18)
- O'Brien, Kevin and Lianjiang Li. 2006. *Rightful Resistance in Rural China*, pp. 1-66, 116-29 (80)
- Walker, Kathy. 2008. "From Covert to Overt: Everyday Peasant Politics in China and the Implications for Transnational Agrarian Movements," *Journal of Agrarian Change*, Vol. 8, Nos. 2 and 3, pp. 462-88 (27)
- Chen, Feng. 2003. "Between the State and Labor: The Conflict of the Chinese Trade Unions' Double Identity in Market Reform," *The China Quarterly*, No. 176, pp. 1006-28 (23)
- Goldman, Merle. 2005. "From Comrade to Citizen in Post-Mao China," in Merle Goldman, editor, *From Comrade to Citizen*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press, pp. 1-24 (24)
- Perry, Elizabeth. 2007. "Studying Chinese Politics: Farewell to Revolution?" *The China Journal*, No. 57, pp. 1-21 (21)

Recommended

- Wong, Bin. 2000. *China Transformed*, pp. 207-275
- Chen, Feng. 2000. "Subsistence Crises, Managerial Corruption and Labour Protests in China," *The China Journal*, No. 44, pp. 41-63 (23)
- Hurst, William. 2004. "Understanding Contentious Collective Action by Chinese Laid-Off Workers: The Importance of Regional Political Economy," *Studies in Comparative International Development*, Vol. 39, No. 2, pp. 94-120
- Philion, Stephen. 2008. *Workers Democracy in China's Transition from State Socialism*. London: Routledge