Chinese Culture and Society in the Globalization Era
Fudan University
Spring 2010

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Time: Every Friday, beginning March 5
9:45 am - 11:40am (Lecture), 11:45 am - 12:30 am (Tutorial)

Venue: Room 404, West Sub-building, Guanghua Building
Office hours by appointment.

Course Description
The course explores the interplay between global interactions (such as flows of material goods, political influence, and information) and how people construct social identities that give meaning and direction to their daily lives. In China, this interplay is particularly dramatic because of the nation’s current pace of transformation.

In recent decades, China has experienced a yearly GDP growth rate of about 10%, large-scale urban developments, enormous investments in infrastructure, rural-urban migrations on a mega-scale, and the extremely rapid spread of new information technology. As people have struggled to improve their material conditions by increased participation in global networks of organization, new disjunctures have emerged between the economy, politics, and culture; and between the local and the global.

While participation in global interactions has stimulated the trend towards shared lifestyles on a worldwide scale, there is also a counter-trend to challenge the hegemonic western modernity by articulating an alternative modernity emphasizing social identities anchored in non-western cultural traditions. As the ideologies of Marxism and liberalism are being contested on different levels of society from rural to urban areas, a space for discourse about new ideologies has been opened. The course aims to introduce students to some dimensions of these disjunctures as they are played out in modern Chinese communities.

The central issues examined in this course are:
- Chinese Culture Heritage in Modern World
- Chinese Society, Social Transformation, and Aspects of Chinese Development
- Shanghai Development as a State Strategy in the Era of Globalization
- Chinese Economic Reform and Economic Development

Course Requirements and Grading
Students are expected to read all the listed materials and be prepared to discuss them in weekly meetings. Each student must choose a subject from one of the topics of the course as his/her research topic and make a presentation in class on that topic. Based on
the presentation topic, a term paper of 2,000 words is required (8 to 10 pages). There will be a closed-book, final exam based on both lectures and reading materials. Details on the content, formality, and other requirements for the written assignments and presentation will be specified in class.

Several field trips will also be part of this class. Your participation is expected.

The course grading will be based on four parts:
1) class participation 10%,
2) tutorial 20%,
3) presentation and term papers 30%, and
4) a final examination 40%.

Syllabus

Week 1
Chinese Culture Heritage in Modern World
Required Readings:
★ Major Traditional Chinese Festivals http://www.china.org.cn/english/features/Festivals/78322.htm

Film : Opening Ceremony Of Olympic Games, Beijing 2008

Week 2
Guanxi and Network Building
Required Readings:
★ Ying Lun So and Anthony Walker, Explaining Guanxi: The Chinese Business Network,
Week 3
Religion in Chinese Society
Required Readings:

Week 4
Destroy Old Culture: The Cultural Revolution
The Cultural Revolution, as suggested by the title, was a movement to transform the Chinese culture by uprooting it from the feudal and bourgeois backgrounds of pre-Communist China and turning it completely into a socialist state.
Required Readings:

Week 5
From Spiritual Hunger to Spiritual Nourishment
Required Readings:
Week 6
Migrant Issues in Big Cities
Required Readings:

Week 7 AND Week 8
Development and Social Change: Maoist China and Dengist China
Required Readings

Recommended Readings
- Tony Saich, Governance and Politics of China, Chapter 3, Palgrave Macmillan, 2004, pp. 57-90. (33 pages)

Week 9
Aspects of Chinese Development
Required Readings

Recommended Readings:

Week 10
State Strategy and Globalizing Shanghai

Required Readings
- Xiangming Chen and Anthony Orum. “Conclusion: Shanghai as a New Global(izing)

**Recommended Readings:**
- Shenjing He and Fulong Wu. “China’s Emerging Neoliberal Urbanism: Perspectives from Urban Redevelopment.”
- Peter Berger, “Four Faces of Global Culture.” http://bss.sfsu.edu/fischer/IR%20305/Readings/four.htm

**Week 11 AND Week 12**

**Shanghai Studies: Social-Spatial Perspective**

**Required Readings**
- Wang Xiaoming. “Under the Sky of Shanghai.”
- Yu Hai. “A Story of Shanghai Spaces: From the Maoist to the Dengist Era.”

**Recommended Readings:**
- Fulong Wu. “Globalization, Place Promotion, and Urban Development in Shanghai.”

Week 13 Final Examination
MAIN OBJECTIVES:
Tutorial sessions are designed to promote critical thinking about the assigned readings and course content. The main objective of the tutorial is to facilitate and encourage the exchange of ideas, knowledge, and cultural perspectives. The tutorial is also intended to provide an open environment in which students can interact and learn from each other. Students should attend tutorial prepared to engage actively with the readings and issues of this course.

1. Tutorial Discussions
   • Tutorial sessions make up 20% of your final grade.
   • Discussion in the classroom, all around, makes up an additional 10%.

Tutorial discussions will take a number of possible forms.
1) Discussion of readings: Students offer comments on authors’ theses, implications of the work, connections with others readings and lectures, etc.; and pose any questions they have about the readings. The TA will also ask students questions about the readings.
2) Assigned topics: Students are assigned a topic/question/issue to discuss, which pertains either to the week’s lecture topic or to the week’s readings.
3) Group activities: The TA will lead students in a debate, brain-storming/word-web session, guided discussion, or other group activities.

2. Class Presentations and Term Paper
   • Your presentation and paper make up 30% of your final grade.

1) Each person must choose a topic related to one a class lecture topic.
2) They will them give a presentation on their chosen topic, using PowerPoint. The presentation time requirement is about 15 minutes.
3) A team project is acceptable, but the research must then be more extensive and
the issue explored deeper; the presentation time should also increase to about 30 minutes. (Of course, the term paper requirement must still be done independently by each of the team members.)

4) Each student will then prepare a term paper of about 2,000 words (about 8 pages) on the topic of their presentation.

5) After each presentation session, there will be a discussion. Be ready with questions about the presentation, as well as to answer questions when you give your presentation.

3. **Guest Lectures**

1) **Topic:** *Primary and Secondary Education Systems and Policies*
   
   Speaker: Qian Haiyan, Researcher, Shanghai Education Science Research Institute
   
   Date: May 10, Monday  
   Classroom: GX202  
   Time: 15:20-17:00

2) **Topic:** *Trade and Finance in Shanghai*
   
   Speaker: Wang Xiaozu, Professor, Department of Finance, School of Management, Fudan University
   
   Date: May 24, Monday  
   Classroom: GX202  
   Time: 15:20-17:00

4. **Movies**

1) Guasha (Treatment)
2) Huozhe (To Live)

4. **Site Visit Assignments**

1) Shanghai Urban Planning Exhibition Center (T.B.A)
2) Shanghai Museum and Shanghai Art Museum (T.B.A)
3) Exhibition Center of World Expo 2010 Shanghai China (May 21, afternoon)