

Social Capital Research

Sample

(Subject to Changes)

Instructor Felicia F. Tian

Credit 2

Credit Hours Per Week 2

Total credit hours 40

Language of Instruction English

1.Course Description

This course provides an overview of social capital research and its implication for individual mobility and social support. Topics covered in this class include the different schools of social capital, its individual and collective roots, how it relates to social support and individual health, , as well as its application for contemporary economic and social life. Through the course, students will obtain a richer understanding of social capital and its relevance to real life.

2.Course Objectives

By the end of the course, students will be able to:

- [1] know different schools of social capital;
- [2] distinguish the unique features of social capital in Chinese society;
- [3] understand the relevance of social capital in terms of social support;
- [4] demonstrate a basic ability to conduct independent inquiry on topics in social capital and to effectively communicate the results via oral presentation.

3.Course Schedule

****PART 1: Social Capital Basics****

#1 Course introduction

#2 networks and social capital

- weak tie

- structural hole
- social resources

(reading: Granovetter, 1973)

#3 community and social capital

- collective good
- free-riding
- collective efficacy

(reading: Portes, 2000)

#4 the origin of social capital

- homophily
- opportunity, preference, externalities
- inequality

(reading: McPherson, et al., 2001)

#5 social capital measures

- name generator
- position generator

(reading: Lin, et al., 2001)

#6 case discussion I

**PART 2: individual-level social capital

#7 social capital and status attainment

- labor market
- institutional constraints

(reading: McDonald, et. al., 2012)

#8 social capital and Chinese economic reform

- strong ties
- face and favor
- labor market as an example

(reading, Bian, 1997)

#9 social capital and mental health

- forms of support
- social loneliness

(reading: Small & Sukhu, 2016)

#10 social capital and internet

- the small world
- polarization
(reading: Wellman & Rainie, 2013)

#11 case discussion II

****PART III: community-level social capital****

12 social capital and social closure

- social closure
- child development
(reading: Coleman, 1988)

#13 social capital and community cohesion

- collective good
- free-riding problem
- cohesion
(reading: Sampson, 1999)

#14 social capital and public life

- Bowling alone
- community governance
(reading: Putnam, 1993)

#15 social capital and trust

- economic development
- generalized trust
(reading: Eagle et. al. (2010)

#16 case discussion III

#17 field practice

#18 field reflection

#19 Q&A

#20 final paper due

4.Grading & Evaluation

Class attendance (10%)

Case discussion (15*3=45%)

Essay (45%)

5. Readings

The course does not have required textbook. The required readings are listed as follows:

2. Granovetter, M. (1973). The Strength of Weak Ties. *American Journal of Sociology*, 78(6), 1360-1380.
3. Portes, A. (2000). The Two Meanings of Social Capital. *Sociological Forum*, 15(1), 1-12.
4. McPherson, J. M., Smith-Lovin, L., & Cook, J. M. (2001). Birds of a Feather: Homophily in Social Networks. *Annual Review of Sociology*, 27, 415-444.
5. Lin, Nan, Yang-chih Fu and Ray-May Hsung. 2001. "The Position Generator: Measurement Techniques for Investigations of Social Capital." In Nan Lin, Karen Cook and Ronald Burt (Eds.) *Social Capital: Theory and Research*. Pp. 57-81. New York: Aldine de Gruyter.
6. Case TBA. Will announce on the first week of class.
7. McDonald, S., Benton, R. A., & Warner, D. F. (2012). Dual Embeddedness: Informal Job Matching and Labor Market Institutions in the United States and Germany. *Social Forces*, 91(1), 75-97.
8. Bian, Y. (1997). Bringing Strong Ties Back in: Indirect Ties, Network Bridges, and Job Searches in China. *American Sociological Review*, 62(3), 366-385.
9. Small, M. L., & Sukhu, C. (2016). Because they were there: Access, deliberation, and mobilization of networks for support. *Social Networks*, 47, 73-84.
10. Wellman, Barry and Lee Rainie. 2013. "If Romeo and Juliet had Mobile Phones." *Mobile Media & Communication* 1(1): 166-171.
11. Case TBA. Will announce on the first week of class.
12. Coleman, J. S. (1988). Social Capital in the Creation of Human Capital. *American Journal of Sociology*, 94(Supplement), S95-S120.
13. Sampson, R. J., Morenoff, J. D., & Earls, F. (1999). Beyond Social Capital: Spatial Dynamics of Collective Efficacy for Children. *American Sociological Review*, 64(4), 633-660.
14. Putnam, R. (1993). The prosperous community: social capital and public life. *The American Prospect*(13), 38.
15. Egale, N., Macy, M., & Claxton, R. (2010). Network Diversity and Economic Development. *Science*, 328(5981), 1029-1031.

Case TBA. Will announce on the first week of class.

Course Director's Academic Background:

Felicia F. Tian is an Associate Professor of Sociology in Fudan University. She obtained her bachelor's degree from Renmin University, China, master's degree from University of Wisconsin-Madison, and Ph.D from Duke University. Her research includes social networks and social capital, at both individual level and community level. Her work appears in *Social Networks*, *Research in Social Stratification and Mobility*, *Journal of Marriage and Family*, and *Chinese Sociological Review*.