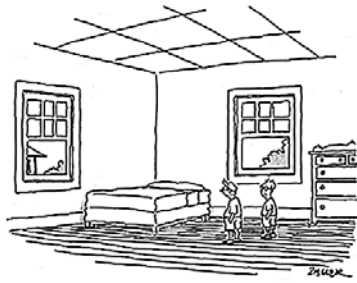


ANT 265: Contemporary Chinese Society and Culture
Fall 2008 M,W,F 10:30-11:20 am, Chambers 3084

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Office Hours: M, W, F 9:30 – 10:30 am
T, Th 9:00 – 10:00 am or by appointment
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"My parents sent back all my stuff that came from China."

This seminar examines Chinese society from the “bottom up,” with an emphasis on the structure of everyday life. The course will explore current issues in Chinese society and culture by examining in detail particular ethnographic case studies from contemporary China, including a study of one of China’s minority groups. The goal of this course is to introduce you to the social and cultural issues that are facing the people who live in a rapidly-changing Chinese society. In the first week, as a class we will select two additional topics, and I will provide readings then that address these issues.

Contemporary China will be studied from the anthropological perspective – largely a “bottom-up,” comparative examination of particular social processes that is presented in the form of ethnographic monographs and articles that describe everyday life in detail. Our emphasis will be on understanding how Chinese traditions and culture have shaped Chinese society today. What is uniquely Chinese in Chinese culture? How have over three thousand years of history and tradition and its recent emergence out of Maoist socialism shaped everyday life in China? How do social units like the family or practices such as life-cycle rituals give structure to Chinese society? What will China be like in the 21st century?

There will be a number of public lectures organized by the Asian Studies program that will provide an opportunity to hear the perspectives of other China specialists directly; two authors that we will read will be here at Davidson this semester.

Course Readings

- Farquhar, Judith 2002. *Appetites: Food and Sex in Postsocialist China* Durham: Duke University Press. (ISBN: 0822329212)
- Fong, Vanessa 2004. *Only Hope: Coming of Age Under China's One-Child Policy*. Stanford: Stanford University Press. (ISBN: 0804753302).
- Goldstein, Melvyn and Matthew Kapstein 1998. *Buddhism in Contemporary Tibet: Religious Revival and Cultural Identity*. Berkeley: University of California Press. (ISBN: 0520211316) – available on Netlibrary.
- Yan, Yunxiang 2003. *Private Life Under Socialism: Love, Intimacy, and Family Change in a Chinese Village*. Stanford: Stanford University Press (ISBN: 0804744564)
- Zhang, Li 2001. *Strangers in the City: Reconfigurations of Space, Power, and Social Networks Within China's Floating Population* Stanford: Stanford University Press. (ISBN: 0804742065)

Additional articles will be available on Blackboard.

Course Requirements

The most important work in this course is to be prepared for each class meeting; this means having thoroughly read the material and being prepared to discuss particular points from the reading. Readings are due on the day listed in the class schedule. Your engagement with the material is vital for the success of this learning experience.

Class Participation: 10%

The most important work in this course is to be prepared for each class; this means having thoroughly read the material and being prepared to discuss particular points from the reading. Readings are due on the day listed in the class schedule. I will not summarize the readings in lecture, but will discuss the implications and difficult points in the material. Remember, there is no such thing as a dumb question or comment. A good strategy is to mark a part of the reading that you feel is important, unclear, or thought-provoking – you can then share the passage with the class.

Response Papers: 10%

You will write five (5) response papers throughout the term, no more than two pages and double-spaced. They will be graded ($\sqrt{+}$, $\sqrt{}$, $\sqrt{-}$) and require timely submission for full credit. Response papers will serve as a diagnostic for me to help me see how much you understand the reading and the concepts that we will discuss in class.

Review Essay: 40% (2 short essays)

This assignment is designed to help you review the literature that we have read and give you the opportunity to think through a particular issue that we have encountered in our readings on China; it should also help prepare your thoughts for your research paper. There will be two short essays of no more than five pages, double-spaced. I will have handouts on your writing and my grading of these essays on the course website. The first essay is due on **6 October**, and the second essay is due on **10 November**.

Research Paper (total 40%: proposal 5%, final paper 35%): Based on your research interests, you will select a particular topic for more in-depth research and analysis. I will distribute handouts on the proposal and citing format for this term paper of no more than fifteen pages. This can be an expansion of either of your review essays. I would recommend that you meet with me individually or email me to discuss possible topics before submitting your proposal. The proposal is due on **15 September** and the final paper is due on, **11 December**.

Submission of Writing Assignments: All assignments must be submitted to me electronically. You can do this in two ways: as an email attachment; or through the digital drop box in Blackboard. If you are not using Microsoft Word, please save the file as in “rich text format.” If you have any questions about how to submit assignments, please see me individually. I will be returning your work to you electronically as well, with comments visible in Adobe Acrobat.



Grading System:

Grades will follow the college system using the 4.0 scale (i.e., A=4.0, A-=3.7, B+=3.3, etc. – see the college catalog) and weighted for each assignment as described above.

While students working with each other outside of class is highly encouraged, all graded, written work must be your own and pledged accordingly. All work is subject to the Davidson College Honor Code as stated in the student handbook. If there are individual accommodations for special needs, please let me know and authorize the Dean of Students to contact me so that we can work something out.

Class Schedule (subject to modification)

Monday, 25 August	Class Introduction
Wednesday, 27 August	Overview of Chinese History Reading: Richard Smith article; Timothy Cheek article (on Blackboard)
Friday, 29 August	Growing Up in Contemporary China Reading: Vanessa Fong, p. 1-30
Monday, 1 September	Reading: Fong, p. 31-68 Public Lecture: Vanessa Fong (Harvard Univ.), 4:30 pm, Chambers 2164
Wednesday, 3 September	Reading: Fong p. 69-86
Friday, 5 September	Reading: Fong p. 87-126 Assignment: Response Paper Due
Monday, 8 September	Reading: Fong p. 127-182 Public Lecture: John Pomfret (<i>Washington Post</i>), 7:30 pm, Lilly Family Gallery, Chambers
Wednesday, 10 September	Chinese Families Reading: Yunxiang Yan p. 1-41
Friday, 12 September	Reading: Yan, p. 42-63
Monday, 15 September	Reading: Yan p. 64-111 Assignment: Research Paper Proposal due
Wednesday, 17 September	Reading: Yan, p. 112-139
Friday, 19 September	Reading: Yan, p. 140-161 Assignment: Response Paper Due
Monday, 22 September	Reading: Yan, 162-215
Wednesday, 24 September	Reading: Yan, p. 217-235
Friday, 26 September	Rural-Urban Migration Reading: Brownell article (on Blackboard); Li Zhang, p. 1-21
Monday, 29 September	Reading: Zhang, p. 23-68 Assignment: Response Paper Due
Wednesday, 1 October	Reading: Zhang, p. 69-114
Friday, 3 October	Reading: Zhang, p. 115-158
Monday, 6 October	Reading: Zhang p. 159-185 Assignment: First Short Essay Due
Wednesday, 8 October	Reading: Zhang, p. 186-212

Friday, 10 October	Reading:	Topic: Class Selection
Monday, 13 October		Davidson Fall Break
Wednesday, 15 October	Reading: Assignment: Response Paper Due	
Friday, 17 October	Reading:	
Monday, 20 October	Reading:	
Wednesday, 22 October	Reading:	
Friday, 24 October	Reading:	
Monday, 27 October	Reading: Lozada article (on Blackboard); Melvyn Goldstein and Matthew Kapstein, p. 1-14	Tibet: Religion and Ethnicity
Wednesday, 29 October	Reading: Goldstein and Kapstein, p. 15-52	
Friday, 31 October	Reading: Goldstein and Kapstein, p. 53-94	
Monday, 3 November	Reading: Goldstein and Kapstein, p. 95-138	
Wednesday, 5 November	Reading: Goldstein and Kapstein, p. 139-150 Public Lecture: Melvyn Goldstein (Case Western), 4:30 pm, Chambers 2164	
Friday, 7 November	Reading:	Topic: Class Selection
Monday, 10 November	Reading: Assignment: Second Short Essay Due	
Wednesday, 12 November	Reading:	
Friday, 14 November	Reading:	
Monday, 17 November	Reading: Farquhar p. 1-33	Popular Culture
Wednesday, 19 November	Reading: Farquhar p. 37-77	
Friday, 21 November	Reading: Farquhar p.79-119 Assignment: Response Paper Due	
Monday, 24 November	Reading: Farquhar p. 121-163	
26 -30 November		Thanksgiving Break

Monday, 1 December	Reading: Farquhar p.211-242
Wednesday, 3 December	Reading: Farquhar p.243-292
Friday, 5 December	Last Day of Class: Overview
Thursday, 11 December	Assignment: Final Papers Due (5:00 pm)