

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

Prof. Eriberto P. Lozada Jr.
Office: Chambers B12
Telephone: 704-894-2035

Office Hours: M, W, F 9:30 – 10:30 am
T, Th 10:00 – 11:30 am or by appointment
Email: erlozada@ davidson.edu
Web: <http://www.davidson.edu/personal/erlozada>

First Review Essay

For the First Review essay, you have a choice of either answering one of the following questions or making up your own question and answering it. This is a take-home review essay: you may use notes, books, or other supporting materials from the class in answering your essay. Your essay should be no more than five (5) pages double-spaced type, and should be turned in electronically by the start of class on Monday, 6 October 2008.

If you are answering one of the following questions, no outside research is required (or expected) for this review essay. A good answer will be more argumentative and less descriptive. Make sure you have a clear line of argument, supported by specific evidence from the readings, films, and lectures. Don't forget the class handouts that describe my expectations for essays, especially the "making an argument" handout and the "citing sources" handout. Both are available on the website. Work done for this essay is expected to be your own, and is bound by the college honor code.

If you are making up your own question, then you can approach this first essay as a part of your final research paper – I do expect, then, for you to **integrate some of the broad issues that we have discussed in class** with your outside research. In this case, please limit your discussion of outside material to three sources or less (whether books or journal articles) – with the five page limit, you will not be able to adequately discuss in adequate depth more than three outside sources.

Note: Your arguments must be supported by evidence drawn from lectures, films and (especially) course readings. Be specific and cite authors when relevant.

Questions

1. Why did the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) target the traditional structure of the Chinese family as a major concern for its consolidation of power? In this question, make sure that you are **specific** with the examples that you select.
2. In the class material that we have discussed thus far, what do you see as the hallmark of Chinese cultural identity? How has this cultural identity been challenged by historical events and political changes?
3. The CCP has long had as a major part of its ideology and policies the ideal of gender equality. How much of that ideal has been reached in Chinese society? What specific policies or practices highlight the tension between Chinese tradition and CCP ideology? Make sure that the examples that you use in supporting your perspective are **detailed** and specific.
4. Make up your own question and answer it.