

Anthro 070:248 Index 26769

Spring 2020

T 2:15-5:15

Ruth Adams 104

Screenings Tu 12-2 Douglass Media Library

Professor Louisa Schein

Departments of Anthropology and Women's & Gender Studies

Ofc Hrs: Tu 5:15-6:15

Ruth Adams Bldg, Rm. 210 848-932-4109

## Anthropology of China

This course encounters China as many things: historical, socialist, marketizing, and as always internally differentiated, unequal, multi-ethnic, regional, gendered, etc. We will cover traditional Chinese society, the Maoist revolution, and focus on the post-Mao contemporary periods. A range of issues will be surveyed through feature films, documentaries and readings – gender/sexuality, popular culture and media, health and environment, public and private, minorities and migration, changing policies and ways of life... from farm work to social media.

This course will teach students to see China “after the Cold War,” “beyond the headlines” and outside the glittering cities, and to understand a rapidly changing global superpower. We will focus in on the differences, diversity and disparities that make up this complex country. The course is appropriate for students of all disciplines and will help students to prepare for living in a globalizing world or for doing work overseas.

### Learning Objectives:

- to introduce students to the recent history and contemporary social issues and trends in China
- to give students tools for thinking critically, globally and crossculturally and for locating themselves in this world
- to develop students' proficiency in speaking critically and clearly about issues relating to China and Asia
- to develop students' ability to write expressively and to articulate arguments systematically
- to help students be attentive to different writing and media genres and modes of representation and to experiment with them in their own writing
- to encourage students to integrate their course insights into their daily lives and interactions and their thinking about current events and their own futures

**NOTE:** This course meets the following CCD goal of the SAS core curriculum: “Diversities and Social Inequalities”

meets Anthropology Department Learning Goals, especially 2, 4 and 5 (see

<https://anthro.rutgers.edu/academics/undergraduate/undergraduate-learning-goals>)

**Films:** All films listed are required and will be on the quizzes and in papers. Some are required to be viewed prior to class meetings, as noted week by week below. In some cases they will be streamed from Library reserves. Sometimes you will be invited to view them *with the class* on Tuesday in the Media Center on the basement of Douglass Library. Start times, listed below, vary depending on length of the film. Alternately, you may view them on your own on reserve at Douglass Music/Media library in the Douglass Campus library basement during the week **prior** to class screening. Call ahead for availability: 848-932-5034. Media Library hours: M-F 10 AM-6 PM, Sat-Sun 1-5 PM.

**Students with disabilities** requesting accommodations must follow procedures at

<https://ods.rutgers.edu/students/registration-form>

**Required book (available at the Rutgers bookstore and on reserve at Douglass library):**

--Wolf, Margery. 1968. *The House of Lim: A Study of a Chinese Farm Family*. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall.

**All other readings will be available through sakai.** Required page numbers may be adjusted for the benefit of the class.

**REQUIREMENTS (graded on 100-point basis):**

**Participation and Absences (24 points)** – based on your attendance in class, participation in discussion, in-class writings, and key passages. You may earn up to two points for each attendance; full credit will depend on quality participation as well as presence. Since the class meets only once a week, attendance is very important. I will need appropriate documentation or notification in hard copy if you need to miss class. Excluding the first class meeting, you may miss one other class without an excuse, but this is discouraged. Note that viewing of films *before* class, when specified, is required.

**“China in the News” Reports (6 points)** – once during the semester you and a partner will find a news story related to China and make a 5-minute report on it to the class. Sign-ups for dates will be done at the beginning of the semester and guidelines will be posted on sakai

**China Story Yearbook Projects (20 points).** Students will form teams responsible for one of the online *China Story Yearbooks*. You will each choose an article and work together to coordinate a group in-class presentation (**8 points**) then turn in an individual mini-research paper on the topic of your article (**12 points**),

**Event Response Papers (6 points each)** Attending listed events and writing a short reflection paper. One additional accepted as extra credit. Due in class the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday after the event.

**Midterm Quiz (20 points)** – covering readings, films, lectures (incl. guests), and discussions through Week 7 (3/10).

**Final Quiz (10 points)** – 30-min. quiz covering readings/films in the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of the course, large concepts for the entire course (4/28 in class).

**Final Take-Home (14 points)** – essays putting the course materials and themes together in your own words. Due 5/13

*Note: I reserve the right to adjust readings and schedules for the benefit of the class and with full advance notice. It is crucial that you check sakai regularly for announcements and adjustments.*

**Class meetings:** This is a discussion-based class. Expect to come to class with your readings prepared to raise questions and respond to others. Listen to your classmates as well as to me and our guest speakers. Please do not bring in any outside reading or conduct conversations during class. Cell phones and other electronic devices should be silenced and put away. It is disruptive to check or send messages during class. Laptops may be used only under special circumstances by permission only or during designated notetaking times. Please do not leave class while it is in session unless you have a personal emergency.

**Academic integrity:** No cheating or plagiarism will be tolerated. All work, unless you are directed to do teamwork, must be your own. Any borrowing of others' work or ideas, whether published or not, is unacceptable unless fully credited. Students are encouraged to read the full policy on academic integrity at the following website: <http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/academic-integrity-policy/>

For guidance on avoiding plagiarism see: *Consult Don't Plagiarize: Document Your Research! For tips about how to take notes so that you don't plagiarize by accident.* [http://www.libraries.rutgers.edu/avoid\\_plagiarism](http://www.libraries.rutgers.edu/avoid_plagiarism)  
<http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/resources-for-students>

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## 1/21 – Week One – Overview

**Film:** (View in class): *Sparrow Village* 2003 28 mins. 2-6546

**Film:** (View in class): *Mulan* 1998 (2013), 88 mins. 10-4758 (first 26 mins.)

## 1/28 – Week Two – Family, Gender, Kinship and Orientalism

--Said, Edward. 1978. *Orientalism*. "Introduction." Pp. 1-9 ONLY.

--Wolf, Margery. 1968. *The House of Lim: A Study of a Chinese Farm Family*. Prentice Hall, Pp. v-74.

**Film:** (view before class at 1 PM) *Small Happiness* 1984 60 mins. 10-5620

**Film:** (view in class) *Edward Said on Orientalism* 1998 40 mins 10-115

## 2/4 – Week Three – Socioeconomic Organization and Change

--Wolf, Margery. *The House of Lim*, Pp. 75-148.

--Hinton, William *Fanshen: A Documentary of Revolution in a Chinese Village*. New York: Vintage. Pp. 17-45. Stanford University Press. "The Changing Local World" Pp. 17-41. READ ONLY 27-37.

--Gao, Mobo. 1999. Reforms since the late 1970s. In *Gao Village: Rural Life in Modern China* (Honolulu: University of Hawaii): 171-199. Selections

--Schell, Orville. 1984. *To Get Rich is Glorious: China in the 80s*. New York: New American Library. READ ONLY 13-16 and 28-33.

**Film** (view before class at 12:30): *To Live* 1995 132 mins. 10-6563

**Film** (view in class): *To Live* 1995 132 mins. 10-6563, second half

## 2/11 – Week Four – Differences: Land, People, Regions

**Visit of Jesse Rodenbiker, Geography Department, Rutgers University, "Nature, Development and the State"**

--<http://depts.washington.edu/chinaciv/geo/land.htm>

--Blum, Susan D. "China's Many Faces: Ethnic, Cultural and Religious Pluralism." In *China Beyond the Headlines*. T. Weston and L. Jensen, eds. Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield. 69-95.

--Goodman, David. 2002. "The Politics of the West: Equality, Nation-Building and Colonisation." *Provincial China*, 7(2): 1-26. READ ONLY 1-14.

--Oakes, Tim. 2011. "Laser Tag and Other Rural Diversions: The Village as China's Urban Playground." *Harvard Asia Quarterly* XIII (3):25-30.

**Film** (view before class at 1 PM): *Morning Sun* 2003 10-6564, approx 60 mins.

**Film** (view in class): *Morning Sun* 10-6564 second half approx 60 mins

## 2/18 – Week Five– Intimacies and Disparities: Changing Social Life

--Yan, Yunxiang. 2003. *Private Life Under Socialism: Love, Intimacy and Family Change in a Chinese Village 1949-99*.

--Zhang Xian. 1983. "A Place Forgotten by Love." In *The New Realism: Writings from China after the Cultural Revolution*. Lee Yee, ed. New York: Hippocrene. Pp. 244-260.

--Yu Hua. 2011. "Disparity." *China in Ten Words*. New York: Anchor Books. Pp. 142-162.

**Film** (View before class at 12:30): *Qingchun Ji* 1989, 95 mins, 10-6596

**Film** (view in class): *Iron Ministry*, 2014, dir. J.P. Sniadecki, 83 mins., 10-6211 (first 33 minutes)

## 2/19 - Lecture by Joshua Freeman "Cultural Revolution and Cultural History: High Maoism and Uyghur Perceptions of the Past" 1 PM 64 College Avenue, 1<sup>st</sup> floor conference room

<https://rccs.rutgers.edu/events/china-calendar/icalrepeat.detail/2020/02/19/2256/-/cultural-revolution-and-cultural-history-high-maoism-and-uyghur-perceptions-of-the-past-joshua-freeman-princeton-university>

### **2/25 – Week Six – Stratifications: Socioeconomic and Ethnic**

#### **Visit of Lei Lei, Rutgers University Department of Sociology, "Stratification Beliefs Among Youth in China"**

--Schein, Louisa. 1997. "Gender and Internal Orientalism in China." *Modern China* 23(1): 69-98.

--Khan, Almaz. 1996. "Who are the Mongols? State, Ethnicity and the Politics of Representation in the PRC." In *Negotiating Ethnicities in China and Taiwan*. Melissa J. Brown, ed. Berkeley, CA: Institute of East Asian Studies.

--Liebold, James. 2010. "More than a Category: Han Supremacism on the Chinese Internet." *The China Quarterly* 203(1):539-559.

**Film** (View before class at 1:15 PM): *The Fall of Womenland* 2009 46 mins 10-2413 (possibly streaming)

#### **2/26 - Lecture by Prof. Jay Garfield on Tibet philosophy (Doris Silbert Professor in the Humanities and Professor of Philosophy, Logic and Buddhist Studies) 3-5pm Philosophy Seminar Room, 106 Somerset St**

<https://rccs.rutgers.edu/events/china-calendar/icalrepeat.detail/2020/02/26/2261/-/tba-jay-garfield-smith-college>

#### **2/27 - Screening of film: 24 City by Jia Zhangke, <https://rccs.rutgers.edu/events/china-calendar/icalrepeat.detail/2020/02/27/2260/-/film-screening-24-city>**

#### **2/28 – Lecture by Tim Oakes “China’s Urban Ideology: New Towns, Creation Cities, and Contested Landscapes of Memory” 5-6:30 PM Alexander Library Teleconference Room**

<https://rccs.rutgers.edu/component/jevents/icalrepeat.detail/2020/02/28/2248/52/china-s-urban-ideology-new-towns-creation-cities-and-contested-landscapes-of-memory-timothy-oakes-university-of-colorado-boulder?Itemid=415>

### **3/3 – Week Seven – Wealth, Consuming, Giving, Exchange**

#### **Visit of Lissa Crane, PhD student, Rutgers Anthropology “Learning to Give: China’s New Philanthropy”**

--Yang, Mayfair Mei-hui. 1994. *Gifts, Favors and Banquets: The Art of Social Relationships in China*. Cornell University Press. Pp. 1-7, 123-127.

--Osburg, John. 2019. "Consuming Belief: Luxury, Authenticity, and Chinese Patronage of Tibetan Buddhism in Contemporary China." Unpub ms.

--Farrelly, Paul J. 2018. "To Give is Glorious." In *China Story Yearbook 2017*. Jane Golley and Linda Javin, eds. Canberra: Australian National University Press.

**Film** (view before class at 12:30 PM): *People’s Republic of Desire* 2018, 95 mins.

#### **3/4 – Lecture by Meina Cai “Political Change in China” 2:15 - 3:35 Hickman 130**

<https://rccs.rutgers.edu/events/china-calendar/icalrepeat.detail/2020/03/04/2262/-/a-guest-lecture-on-political-change-in-china-meina-cai-university-of-connecticut>

#### **3/6 – Lecture by Adam Liebman (George Washington University) “China’s Ban on ‘Foreign Garbage:’ Rethinking Recycling as Toxic Matter Out of Control” 3 PM Tillett Hall 246, 53 Avenue E, Piscataway**

<https://rccs.rutgers.edu/events/china-calendar/icalrepeat.detail/2020/03/06/2265/-/china-s-ban-on-foreign-garbage-rethinking-recycling-as-toxic-matter-out-of-control-adam-liebman-george-washington-university>

### **3/10 - Week Eight – Sexualities**

#### **MIDTERM QUIZ IN FIRST HALF OF CLASS PERIOD**

--Zhang, Everett. 2011. "China's Sexual Revolution." In *Deep China*. Kleinman et al, eds. Berkeley: University of California Press. Pp. 106-151.

--Osburg, John. 2014. "Tough Love." *Foreign Affairs* online June 12 (pdf on sakai)

**Film** (View before class, first 25 mins.): *Chinese Footbinding: The Vanishing Lotus* 2000, 52 mins, 10-1680  
dir. Tang Yuen Mei Joani and Fung Wing Chan Tely 52 mins, available streaming

**Film** (view in class): *Tongzhi in Love* 2008 30 mins. 10-2269

### **3/17 NO CLASS SPRING BREAK**

### **3/24 – Week Nine – Conservation, Education and Ethnicity**

#### **Visit of Ethan Goldings, Independent Scholar, "Cultural Dimensions of Conservation NGOs in Tibetan Areas of the PRC"**

--Gyal, Huatse. 2019. "'I am Concerned with the Future of My Children': The Project Economy and Shifting Views of Education in a Tibetan Pastoralist Community." *Critical Asian Studies* 51(1): 12-30.

--Yeh, Emily et al. 2017. "Pastoralist Decision-Making on the Tibetan Plateau." *Human Ecology* 45:333-343.

--Goldings primary docs TBA

### **3/26 – Lecture by Brook Ziporyn on Chinese Buddhism (University of Chicago) 4:30pm - 6:00pm**

#### **Alexander Library Teleconference Room**

### **3/31 – Week Ten – Countering Orientalisms: Footbinding, Homoeroticism, Traditional Chinese Medicine Student Presentations**

--Ko, Dorothy. 2005. *Cinderella's Sisters: A Revisionist History of Footbinding*, Univ. of California Press, pp 187-212

--Hirsch, Bret. 1990. "Husbands, Boys and Servants: Yuan and Ming Dynasties (1264-1644)." In *Passions of the Cut Sleeve: The Male Homosexual Tradition in China*. Berkeley: University of California Press. Pp. 118-138.

--Kong, Travis. 2011. "New, New China and New, New Tongzhi." In *Chinese Male Homosexualities: Memba, Tongzhi and Golden Boy*. Routledge

--Zhan, Mei. 2001. "Does it Take a Miracle? Negotiating Knowledges, Identities and Communities of Traditional Chinese Medicine." *Cultural Anthropology* 16(4): 453-80.

**Film** (view before class at 12:45): *Inside the Chinese Closet* 2016, 72 mins., 10-6888

### **4/7 – Week Eleven – Class, Labor and Leisure**

#### **Student Presentations**

--Pun Ngai and Jenny Chan. 2013. "The Spatial Politics of Labor in China: Life, Labor, and a New Generation of Migrant Workers." *South Atlantic Quarterly* 112(1): 179-190.

--Sun Wanning. 2014. "Worker-Poets, Political Intervention, and Cultural Brokering" *Subaltern China: Rural Migrants, Media and Cultural Practices*. Rowman and Littlefield. Pp. 185-216.

--Lei, Guang. 2003. "Rural Taste, Urban Fashions: The Cultural Politics of Rural/Urban Difference in Contemporary China." *Positions* 11(3): 613-46.

--Szablewicz, Marcella. 2014. "The 'Losers' of China's Internet: Memes as 'Structures of Feeling' for Disillusioned Young Netizens." *China Information* 28(2) 259-275.

**Film:** (view before class at 1 PM): *Made in China* 2007, 53 mins., 10-1906 available streaming

**Film** (view in class): *Out of Phoenix Bridge* 1997 10-2272 110 mins, excerpts

**4/9 – Lecture by Yu Xie (Princeton University) “Trends in Social Closure in Post-Revolution China”**  
**4:30pm - 6:00pm, Alexander Library Teleconference Room** <https://rccs.rutgers.edu/events/china-calendar/icalrepeat.detail/2020/04/09/2250/-/trends-in-social-closure-in-post-revolution-china-yu-xie-princeton-university>

**4/10 – Lecture by Guangchen Chen (Princeton University) “Why did Modernist Writers in China become Antiquarian Collectors? 12:00pm, Confucius Institute, 24 College Avenue, 1st Floor Conference Room**  
<https://rccs.rutgers.edu/events/china-calendar/icalrepeat.detail/2020/04/10/2241/-/why-did-modernist-writers-in-china-become-antiquarian-collectors-guangchen-chen-princeton-university>

**4/14– Week Twelve – Urban Displacements**

**Joint class with Mi Shih, Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy, Rutgers**

--Zhang, Li. “Accumulation by Displacement.” Pp. 137-162. READ ONLY 137-156.

--Shih, Mi. 2017. “Rethinking Displacement in Peri-Urban Transformation in China.” *Environment and Planning A* 49(2):389-406.

--Sugimoto, Tomonori. 2019. “Urban Settler Colonialism: Policing and Displacing Indigeneity in Taipei, Taiwan.” *City & Society*, 31(2): 227–250.

--Litzinger, Ralph. 2016. “Regimes of Exclusion and Inclusion: Migrant Labor, Education, and Contested Futurities.” In *Ghost Protocol: Development and Displacement*. Carlos Rojas and Ralph Litzinger, eds. Duke Univ. Press. Pp 191-204.

**4 PM Lecture: Tomo Sugimoto "Claiming Land, Ecology, and Shelter: Indigenous Struggles against Displacement in Contemporary Taipei"**

**Film** (View before class at 12:30): *Last Train Home* 2011, 90 mins., 10-3234

**4/21 – Week Thirteen – Health, Pollution, Activism**

**Student presentations**

--Lora-Wainwright, Anna. 2009. “Of Farming Chemicals and Cancer Deaths: The Politics of Health in Contemporary Rural China.” *Social Anthropology* 17(1): 56-73.

--Shao Jing. 2006. “Fluid Labor and Blood Money: The Economy of HIV/AIDS in Rural Central China.” *Cultural Anthropology* 21(4):535-569.

--Yang Guobin. 2013. “Contesting Food Safety in the Chinese Media: Between Hegemony and Counter-Hegemony.” *The China Quarterly* 214 (June): 337-355.

**Film** (view before class at 12:30) *High Tech, Low Life* 2013, 90 mins. 10-4567 (citizen reporters)

**Film** (view before class at TBA): *Dust*: Zhu Rikun <https://vimeo.com/111339100> (pw: subtitle)

**4/28 – Week Fourteen – Wrap-Up**

**Student presentations**

**30-MINUTE QUIZ AT BEGINNING OF CLASS**

**TAKE-HOME Essays DUE May 13 12 noon, posted to Sakai (distribution date and time TBA)**