

SOCIOLOGY 183

Prof Thomas B. Gold

Spring 2014

446 Barrows Hall

TTh 12:30-2:00 50 Birge

642-4760; [tbgold@berkeley.edu](mailto:tbgold@berkeley.edu)

Office Hours: Tuesday 32:30-4:30; sign-up sheet on door of 446 Barrows

## CONTEMPORARY CHINESE SOCIETY

China's market-oriented reforms have brought about remarkable economic growth and social change since they began at the very end of 1978 after the Third Plenum of the 11<sup>th</sup> Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party. As this growth has continued and developed, the focus of much scholarly and policy attention has shifted to China's impact on the global economy as well as global security, governance, environment, culture and civil society, and how the outside world is influencing the situation within China. What is driving China's growth and change? What are its regional and global ambitions? Can China's history and cultural traditions help us understand contemporary affairs and predict the country's future direction? Can international governmental and non-governmental actors have any influence on China's future course? What tools can we use to understand what goes on in China beneath the surface, and what the Chinese people think about their country and its place in the world, particularly the most prevalent slogans of the new Xi Jinping administration: "the road to rejuvenation" and "the Chinese dream"?

This course examines many aspects of Chinese society with a particular emphasis on the global angle: the impact of "globalization" on China and China's impact on the rest of the world. We will also never lose track of the fact that China has a continuous civilization of thousands of years, and much of what happens today cannot be fully understood without paying attention to historical precedents and context.

There will be two class meetings a week involving lecture and in-class discussion based on readings. (There are no separate discussion sections). Requirements include attendance at lecture, an in-class mid-term on March 6 (30% of final grade); a short paper due April 10 (30%); and a cumulative final exam on May 15, 3:00-6:00 (40%). There will be powerpoint outlines for lecture and these will be posted on the course website ([soc183sp14@bspace.berkeley.edu](mailto:soc183sp14@bspace.berkeley.edu)) after lecture. Exams include material from lecture and assigned readings, and include multiple choice, short and long essays.

By enrolling in this course you acknowledge that you have read and accept these requirements. Some students have particularly onerous demands on their time; it is your responsibility to inform the professor well in advance about anything which might have an impact on your ability to attend class or take exams.

There are three required texts: *Contemporary China: Society and Social Change* by Tamara Jacka, Andrew B. Kipnis and Sally Sargeson; *China Goes Global: The Partial Power* by David Shambaugh; and *China in Ten Words* by Yu Hua. There will be additional readings posted on the course bspace, only some of which are listed below. (with an asterisk) Students with little or no prior background in the study of China should consider buying *China in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century: What Everyone Needs to Know* by Jeffrey N. Wasserstrom (2<sup>nd</sup> edition). The book introduces many important events, persons and concepts which will be referred to frequently in lecture and readings.

There are numerous websites in English and Chinese that cover events in China as well as host discussion fora. The Bay Area has a wealth of organizations dealing with China and they have frequent public activities. The Berkeley campus's Center for Chinese Studies in one of the world's premier research units and it holds several large and small public programs each week. You can sign up for announcements by writing to [ccs@berkeley.edu](mailto:ccs@berkeley.edu).

Because China is a moving target and we may have visitors to campus who can make presentations to class, the following syllabus is subject to change.

WEEK 1: January 21, 23: Introduction

Required reading: Shambaugh: Ch. 1, 8

Yu: "The People"

WEEK 2: January 28, 30: China's View of the World

Shambaugh: Ch. 2,3

Jacka, et. al: Introduction

\*R. Keith Schoppa, "From Empire to People's Republic"

"President vows to press ahead with "Chinese dream,"  
[news.xinhuanet.com/English/china/2013-03/17/c\\_132239786.htm](http://news.xinhuanet.com/English/china/2013-03/17/c_132239786.htm)

"'Chinese dream' resonates online after Xi's speech," [usa.chinadaily.com/cn/china/2012-11/30/content\\_15976167.htm](http://usa.chinadaily.com/cn/china/2012-11/30/content_15976167.htm)

WEEK 3: February 4,6: Basic Institutions

Jacka, et. al: Ch. 3,4

Yu: "Leader", "Grassroots"

\*Cheng Li, "China's Communist Party-State: The Structure and Dynamics of Power"

"Reference Material: Communiqué of the Third Plenum of the 18<sup>th</sup> CP Central Committee (Full Text)," [www.c3sindia.org/china-internal/3787](http://www.c3sindia.org/china-internal/3787)

WEEK 4: February 11, 13: Social Structure and Interpersonal Relations

Jacka, et. al: Ch. 1,2

Yu: "Copycat," "Bamboozle"

\*Thomas B. Gold, "After Comradeship: Personal Relations in China Since the Cultural Revolution"

WEEK 5: February 18, 20: The Economy

Jacka, et. al.: Ch. 5

Shambaugh: Ch. 5

Yu, "Revolution"

\*Thomas B. Gold, "Observing Private Business in China"

WEEK 6: February 25, 27: Inequality

Jacka, et. al.: Ch. 10, 11, 12

Yu: "Disparity"

\*Jaeyoun Won, "Farewell to Socialist Labor in China"

\*Karl Gerth, "Who Gets What?"

WEEK: 7: March 4, 6: Finish up, review, **\*\*\*In-Class Mid-term on March 6: bring exam book\*\*\***

WEEK 8: March 11, 13: Youth

Jacka, et. al: Ch. 8,9

Yu, "Reading"

\*Thomas B. Gold, "Youth and the State"

\*Shuyu Kong, "*Are You the One?*: The Competing Public Voices of China's Post-1980s Generation"

\*Evan Osnos, "The Han Dynasty"

WEEK 9: March 18, 20: Ethnicity and Religion

Jacka, et. al.: Ch 6,7

\*Agnieszka Joniak-Luthi, "The Han *Minzu*, Fragmented Identities, and Ethnicity"

\*Robert Weller and Sun Yafei, "Religion: The Dynamics of Religious Growth and Change"

\*Colin Legerton and Jacob Rawson, "Selling Ethnicity: The Naxi"

WEEK 10: March 25, 27 **SPRING BREAK!!**

WEEK 11: April 1,3: Culture and Soft Power

Shambaugh, Ch. 6

Yu: "Writing," "Lu Xun"

"China's foreign propaganda chief outlines external communication priorities",  
[chinacopyrightandmedia.wordpress.com/2013/10/10/chinas-foreign-propaganda-chief-outlines-external-communication-priorities/](http://chinacopyrightandmedia.wordpress.com/2013/10/10/chinas-foreign-propaganda-chief-outlines-external-communication-priorities/)

Marshall Sahlins, "China U.," <http://www.thenation.com>

"Document 9: A ChinaFile Translation," [www.chinafile.com/document-9-chinafile-translation](http://www.chinafile.com/document-9-chinafile-translation)

WEEK 12: April 8, 10

To Be Announced

**\*\*\*Short paper Due 3:30 April 11 in Prof Gold's Box in 410 Barrows\*\***

WEEK 13: April 15, 17 The Environment

\*Joanna Lewis, "Environmental Challenges: From the Local to the Global"

\*Phillip Stalley, "Can Trade Green China? Participation in the Global Economy and the Environmental Performance of Chinese Firms"

\*Katherine Morton, "Transnational advocacy at the grassroots: benefits and risks of international cooperation"

\*Alex Wang, "China's Environmental Tipping Point"

WEEK 14: April 22, 24: Social Movements, Civil Society

Jacka, et. al.: Ch. 13

Shambaugh, Ch. 4

\*Rebecca MacKinnon, "China's 'Networked Authoritarianism'"

\*Carl Minzner, "The Turn Against legal Reform"

\*Chen Xi, "The Rising Cost of Stability"

\*Liu Xiaobo, "Changing the Regime by Changing Society"

WEEK 15: April 29, May 1:

Shambaugh, Ch. 8

\*Kenneth Lieberthal and Wang Jisi, "An Overview of the U.S.-China Relationship"

**\*\*\*FINAL EXAM MAY 15, 3:00-6:00 P.M.\*\*\***

**BRING EXAM BOOKS**