

SOCIOLOGY 173
Fall 2017, TTh 3:30-5:00
Prof Thomas Gold
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446 Barrows Hall; 642-4760
Office Hours: Tuesday 1:00-3:00; sign up on office door

CONTEMPORARY CHINESE SOCIETY

The fall of 2017 promises to be a very important time for China. The Communist Party will convene its 19th Congress and reveal the makeup of the leadership for the next 5 years and possibly beyond. For several years the Chinese leadership has promoted “The Chinese Dream” and “The Road to Rejuvenation,” to reverse what it sees as decades of humiliation and bullying by the outside world. China has launched an extremely ambitious program, “One Belt, One Road,” to link Asia and Europe, and it has also established the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank to support major projects around the world, directly challenging the World Bank. Its Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership challenged the now moribund U.S.-led Trans Pacific Partnership. China’s action, and inaction, throughout Asia, combined with a newly established but seemingly directionless but dangerous administration in Washington add additional question marks.

Although this course is focused on China’s contemporary domestic society, we cannot understand it without paying attention to China’s changing relationship with the rest of the world. And we cannot make sense of China’s global posture without a solid understanding of its history and how its leaders understand and present it to the country’s people.

There will be two class meetings a week for lecture and discussion. (There are no separate discussion sections). There will be several videos as well as virtual and possibly real time guest lectures. Requirements include attending lecture, an in-class midterm on October 5 (25% of final grade), a short paper due October 27 (25%), and a final exam on December 15, 7:00-10:00 p.m., (50%). There will be power point outlines for each lecture that will be posted on the class bcourse site. Exams include material from lecture and reading and as well as videos and guest lectures. Exams comprise multiple choice, short answers and long essays.

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

There are two required texts: *Contemporary China: Society and Social Change*, by Tamara Jacka, Andrew B. Kipnis and Sally Sargeson, and *China’s Future* by David Shambaugh. There is also a reader available at Copy Central on Bancroft. There are no prerequisites for the course but students with little or no prior background in the study of China should consider buying *China in the 21st Century: What Everyone*

Needs to Know by Jeffrey N. Wasserstrom (2nd ed.) as a reference. This book introduces many important events, persons and concepts that will be referred to frequently in lecture and readings. Because this course is closely tied to current events there may be additional readings posted on the course site and the lecture schedule might be adjusted.

The Bay Area is particularly rich in organizations and programs that deal with China and they have frequent public activities. The campus's Center for Chinese Studies also holds many programs. You can sign up for notifications at ccs@berkeley.edu.

There are also many websites that provide information, analysis, webcasts, podcasts and opinion about China. They include: CSIS China Power, supchina, China Digital Times, China Focus, ChinaFile, China Watch, Chinadialogue, Project Pengyou, China Currents, CGTN (i.e. CCTV 9), Xinhua, China Daily, and the Paulson Institute. We will sample some of them in class.

Week 1: August 24: Introduction
No assigned reading

Week 2: August 29, 31: China's View of the World
Shambaugh, *China's Future*, Chapter 1
Jacka, Kipnis and Sargeson, *Contemporary China*, Introduction
Geremie Barme, "Worrying China & New Sinology"

Week 3: September 5,7: Basic Institutions
Jacka, et. al., Ch. 3,4
Shambaugh, Ch. 4
Zheng Bijian, "You Can't Understand China Unless You Know How the Communist Party Thinks"
Xi Jinping, "Speech at the Fifth Plenary Session of the 18th CPC Central Committee"

Week 4: September 12, 14: The Economy
Jacka, et. al., Ch. 5
Shambaugh, Ch 2
Yin-wah Chu and Alvin Y. So, "State Neoliberalism: The Chinese Road to Capitalism"
Thomas B. Gold, "Microfinance and the China Dream"

Week 5: September 19, 21: Social Structure and Interpersonal Relations
Jacka et. al., Ch. 1,2
Shambaugh, Ch. 3
Thomas B. Gold, "After Comradeship: Personal Relations in China Since the Cultural Revolution"
Merriden Varrall, "Why altruism is risky in China"

Martin King Whyte, Wang Feng and Yong Cai, "Challenging Myths About China's One-Child Policy"

Zhan Hu and Xizhe Peng, "Household Changes in Contemporary China: An analysis based on the four recent censuses"

Evan Osnos, "Appetites of the Mind"

Week 6: September 26, 28: Inequality

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

Jaeyoun Won, "Farewell to Socialist Labor in China"

Evan Osnos, "No Longer a Slave"

Jean-Louis Rocca, "A New Society"

Week 7: October 3, 5 Finish up and Review

*****In-class midterm exam October 5; bring exam books*****

Week 8: October 10, 12: Youth

Jacka et. al., Ch. 8,9

Thomas B. Gold, "Youth and the State"

Louisa Lim, "Student"

Kevin Lee, "Debunking Myths About China's Youth Culture"

Matt Schrader, "Surprise Findings: China's Youth Are Getting Less

Nationalistic, Not More"

Week 9: October 17, 19: Ethnicity

Jacka et. al, Ch. 7

Xiaowei Zang, "The People's Republic of China as a Multinational Country"

Frank Pieke, "From Empire to Nation, or Why Taiwan, Tibet and Xinjiang Will

Not Be Given Independence"

Liu Jianxi, "US university fails to teach students correct history of Tibet"

Tom Cliff, "Lives of *Guanxi*"

Jamil Anderlini, "The dark side of China's national renewal"

Week 10: October 24, 26: Religion

Jacka et. al, Ch. 6

Evan Osnos, "Soulcraft"

Ian Johnson, "Chengdu: Good Friday", "Chengdu: Searching for Jesus"

*****Paper due October 27, 3:30 p.m. in Prof Gold's box in 410 Barrows*****

Week 11: October 31, November 2: Culture

David Shambaugh, "China's Global Cultural Presence"

Wang Shuo and Susan Shirk, "The Media"

Peter Hessler, *Country Driving*, pp. 5-31

Document 9: A ChinaFile Translation

Tian Xuebin, "Promoting Fine Traditional Culture to Boost China's Soft Power"

Danzhu Angben, "Establishing a Common Cultural Identity for All Ethnic Groups in China"

Research Center for the Theories of Socialism With Chinese Characteristics of the PLA National Defense University, "Promoting the Innovative Development of Chinese Culture"

Week 12: November 7,9: Environment

Kelly Sims Gallagher and Qi Ye, "Climate and Clean Energy"

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

Week 13: November 14, 16: Social Movements, Civil Society, Law

Jacka et. al., Ch. 13

Carl Minzner, "The Turn Against Legal Reform"

Guobin Yang and Craig Calhoun, "Media, Civil Society, and the Rise of a Green Public Sphere in China"

Jessica Teets, "Let Many Civil Societies Bloom: Building Consultative Authoritarianism in Beijing and Yunnan"

"China's Charter 08"

Week 14: November 21: To Be Announced

Week 15: November 28, 30: Final Thoughts

Shambaugh, Ch. 1,5

Xi Jinping, "President Xi Jinping's speech to Davis in Full"

Scott Kennedy, "The Myth of the Beijing Consensus"

Andrew J. Nathan, "The Problem With the China Model"

*****Final Exam December 15, 7:00-10:00 p.m. Bring exam books*****