SYD 4610/ ASN 5932

State and Society in China
Tuesday and Thursday: 2:00-3:15 pm
Classroom: GL100A

*The instructor reserves the right to change readings and assignments at any time before the class to adjust to size of the class.*

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Office Hours: 3:30-4:30, Tuesday&Thursday.
Office Location: SIPA (TBA)

Course Description

This course provides an introduction to contemporary Chinese society. We start from the early period of the People’s Republic but mainly focus on Chinese society since the economic reform (1978 to the present). As a survey course, we attempt to cover as many topics as possible with a particular emphasis on interactions between the Chinese state and society. We aim to explore how the state-society interactions shape the feature of contemporary China in recent decades. The first part of the course is focused on three big historical events: the Great Leap Forward, the Cultural Revolution, and the Tiananmen Incident in 1989. In the second part of the course, we discuss some important topics in China studies: features of the Chinese state, rural and urban China, social classes and inequality, political economy, social movements and protests, and cultural changes.

The course consists of multiple pedagogical methods, including lectures, in-class discussions, documentary screening, and student presentations. In sessions on Tuesdays, the instructor will give a lecture about the most important points about a particular topic. On Thursdays, students are required to have in-class discussions of “discussion readings,” followed by documentary screening or graduate presentation and discussion. Students will lead the discussions, but the instructor will review and conclude the discussions. Students are required to read material carefully, attend classes, and actively participate in class activities. There are no final or midterm exams, but learning outcomes are measured by six unannounced quizzes, in-class discussion leading, a term paper, and a presentation of the paper.

Learning Outcomes

1. Understand how the recent historical events shape contemporary China.
2. Gain general knowledge of diversity and complexity about contemporary Chinese state and society.
3. Critically think about prevailing media portrayals of China.
4. Gain in-depth knowledge of one or two social issues in China and conduct research on them.

**Required Texts**


Additional reading will be available for download from the (course management system) or the library.

**Recommended Text**


The required and recommended books are available at FIU bookstore.

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**Course Teaching Format and Requirements**

**Course Participation and Requirements**

1. Attendance is required. The instructor/TA will take attendance in the beginning/end of each class. Students who participate in University-sanctioned events, or have illness, or have emergency must inform the instructor in advance with appropriate verification documents. They also must make up any work they missed. Students who miss two (2) classes without reasons will only get 5 (out of 10) for attendance credit. Students who miss four (4) classes will not get any attendance credit.
2. Read required readings carefully and be prepared for discussion in class.
3. The readings for the course are divided into three categories:
   - *Lecture reading* (LR): Materials for students to get familiar with the topics that the instructor’s lectures will cover.
   - *Discussion reading* (DR): Materials for students to participate in the discussion on Thursday. The discussion will be led by students.
   - *Graduate reading* (GR): Materials for graduate students to read and give presentations. For undergraduate students, GR reading could be a good source to write on a specific topic for the term paper.
   - There will be six unannounced in-class quizzes on the LR & DR materials (including videos).
4. Lead in-class discussion about DR:
   - On most Thursday sessions, students are assigned to lead a 30-minute in-class discussion about the DR materials. When leading the discussion, assigned student leaders need to prepare a few discussion questions, issues, and encourage their peers to participate in the
discussion. Creative ways of leading discussion, such as using PPT, visual materials, and story-telling, are strongly encouraged but should not stray from the reading and relevant topics. Students are required to sign up for discussion leading in the first week of the class.

5. Other in-class discussions:
Students are also encouraged to participate in other spontaneous and unassigned discussion during lectures, after documentaries, and in Q&A sessions of the graduate presentation.

6. Sharing interesting resources/news/materials:
The instructor will set up an online forum/blog either in (the course management system) or the instructor’s personal website for students to share interesting things about contemporary China broadly. This is not a required participation, but all students are encouraged to contribute and comment to extend our study to outside of the class.

7. (Graduate student) Additional reading and in-class presentation:
Graduate students are required to read GR (graduate reading) materials and give ONE presentation about an interested topic. The presentation should be 30 minutes long, followed by a Q&A session. In the presentation, the student should present the major ideas, facts, and reviews. In the Q&A session (10-15 minutes), the graduate student will engage in a dialog with other students in the class.

**Term Paper and Presentation**

(Undergraduate student paper)
Undergraduate students are required to write a “literature review” term paper, which surveys and reviews existing studies about a topic pertaining to contemporary China. In the paper, students should review the major themes, theoretical approaches, and most important studies about the topic. Problems and gaps in the literature should also be indicated. We will have several training sessions and assignments to divide the term paper into achievable steps leading toward the final draft.

1. Topic and significance statement
2. Searching for literature
3. Reviewing literature
4. Drafting
   The paper should contain the following sections:
   1. Introduction
   2. Literature review
   3. Conclusion
The paper should be no shorter than 4500 words (approximately 15 double-spaced pages). The paper should follow Chicago Style (author-date version, [http://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools_citationguide.html](http://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools_citationguide.html))

(Graduate student paper)
Graduate students are required to write a research paper, which should be focused on an empirical case and original data. About how to write a research paper, students can purchase **Craft of Research** (by Booth, Colomb, and Williams, University of Chicago Press, which can be purchased on Amazon at an inexpensive price: [http://www.amazon.com/Research-Chicago-Writing-Editing-Publishing/dp/0226065669/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1310649114&sr=8-1](http://www.amazon.com/Research-Chicago-Writing-Editing-Publishing/dp/0226065669/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1310649114&sr=8-1)).
No training session will be provided, but students need to follow the instruction of *Craft of Research* and use readings as a model. In addition, several assignments will help students develop ideas, collect data, and write a draft:

1. Topic and significance proposal
2. From topic to hypothesis
3. Literature review
4. Storyboard
5. Data analysis memo

The instructor will provide instructions and feedback about the assignments. Students are also encouraged to discuss their papers with the instructor in his office hours. The paper should be at least 7500 words (25 pages, approximately) and also follow *Chicago Style* (Author-date version).

**Grades**

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<tr>
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<th>Undergraduates</th>
<th>Graduates</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Attendance</td>
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<td>10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Discussion leading</td>
<td>15</td>
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<tr>
<td>Quizzes</td>
<td>18 (6 quizzes)</td>
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<td>Paper assignment</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>10</td>
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<td>Paper presentation</td>
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<td>15</td>
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<tr>
<td>Graduate Presentation</td>
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<td>10</td>
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<td>Term Paper</td>
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<td>Total</td>
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**Policies and Rules**

1. Class attendance is mandatory: see above.
2. All electronic devices with sound must be turned off. No phone conversation is allowed.
3. All deadlines must be strictly observed with only a few approved exceptions (illness, emergency, and University-sanctioned events).
4. No incomplete is allowed unless there is a serious interruption NOT caused by students’ own negligence or scheduling problem.
5. It is students’ responsibility to make sure they understand any University policy pertaining to course registration.
6. Once submitted, end-of-semester grades (apart from incompletes) are final and can be changed only to correct an error or cases in which some part of the student's work was unintentionally overlooked.
Weeks and Readings

Week 1 Introduction and Background

Tuesday, August 23
Introduction to the course: requirements, logistics, etc.

Thursday, August 25
Background Reading
Meisner, pp.1-51
Documentary and Discussion
China: A Century of Revolution (Disc 1)
First Quiz: Chinese history before 1949

Week 2 The Great Leap Forward

Tuesday, August 30
(LR) Meisner, Chapter 5-9, 12, 13
Documentary: China: A Century of Revolution (Disc 2: scene 1-8 25 minutes)

Thursday, September 1
(DR) Thaxton. Chapter 5. Strategies of survival and their elimination in the Great Leap Forward;
(DR) Dali Yang, Chapter 3, 5, 6

Week 3 The Cultural Revolution

Tuesday, September 6
(LR) Mesiner, Chapter 17-20, Pp.291-410

Thursday, September 8
(DR) Born Red (excerpts), a memoir by Yuan Gao
Documentary screening:
The Morning Sun (Companion Website: http://www.morningsun.org/)

Week 4 From Reform to Tiananmen

Tuesday, September 13
(LR) Meisner Chapter 22-24, pp. 427-514;
Zhao, pp.145-207, a brief history of the movement
Paper Writing Training Session 1
Topic and Significance
(Undergraduate) Topic and significance assignment due Tuesday next week
(Graduate) Topic and significance proposal due Tuesday next week

Thursday, September 15

Documentary Screening:
The Tank Man (40 minutes)

Week 5 The Chinese State

Tuesday, September 20
(LR) Politics in China, Chapter 5 (ideology and Chinese politics), 6 (the structure of party state), Pp.129-192

Thursday, September 22

Graduate Presentation 1
(GR) Accepting Authoritarianism (whole book)

Week 6 Rural China

Tuesday, September 27
(LR) Politics in China, Chapter 8 (Rural society);
Chan, Madsen, and Unger. Chen Village: Revolution to Globalization. Chapter 10, 11, 12

Paper Writing Training Session 2
Search for sources
Assignment due next Tuesday
(Undergraduate) Source memo
(Graduate) From topic to hypotheses

Thursday, September 29
Week 7 Urban China

Tuesday, October 4
(LR) Politics in China, Chapter 9 (Urban China)

Thursday, October 6
Documentary
China Rises: City of Dreams

Week 8 Social Classes and Inequality

Tuesday, October 11
(LR) Whyte, The Myth of Social Volcano. Introduction, Chapter 1, 2, 3
Paper Writing Training Session 2
Reviewing Literature
Assignments due next Tuesday
(Undergraduate) reviewing literature
(Graduate) reviewing literature

Thursday, October 13
(DR) Hurst, The Chinese Worker after Socialism. Introduction, Chapter 1, 2
From the Specter of Mao to the Spirit of the Law: Labor Insurgency in China

Week 9 Political Economy

Tuesday, October 18
(LR) Politics in China, Chapter 7, 192-225

Thursday, October 20
(DR) Yaseng Huang, Capitalism with Chinese Characteristics. Chapter 1 and 2
(DR) Wank, Commodifying Communism. Chapter 1-6, “Final insights”
Week 10 Social Movements and Protests

Tuesday, October 25
(LR) O'Brien, Kevin J. Rightful Resistance. World Politics - Volume 49, Number 1, October 1996, pp. 31-55
Paper writing training session 4
Drafting Assignments
(Undergraduate) A half-done paper for due Tuesday, Week 12
(Graduate) Storyboard due next Tuesday (Week 11)

Thursday, October 27

Week 11 Cultural and Environmental Changes

Tuesday, November 1
(LR) Politics in China, Chapter 10, 11

Thursday, November 3
Documentary screening
China from the Inside: Shifting the Nature
Or China Rises: Food is Heaven

Week 12 Gender and Ethnicity

Tuesday, November 8
(LR) Politics in China, Chapter 14, 15 (Tibet and Xinjiang)

Thursday, November 10
(DR) Chang, Factory Girls.
Documentary screening
China from Inside 2: Women of the Country
Week 13 Guanxi and Mianzi: Chinese Social Relations

Tuesday, November 15

(Graduate assignment) Data analysis memo
(LR) Thomas Gold, Doug Guthrie and David Wank, "An Introduction to the Study of Guanxi,
Doug Guthrie, "Information Asymmetries and the Problem of Perception,
Scott Wilson, "Face, Norms and Instrumentality," in Thomas Gold, Doug Guthrie and David Wank eds.,
Social Connections in China (Cambridge, 2002)
Doug Guthrie, "The Declining Significance of Guanxi in China's Economic Transition," China Quarterly
154 (June 1998):254-82

Four Sessions of Paper Presentation
Thursday, November 17 Paper Presentation
Tuesday, November 22 Paper Presentation
Thursday, November 24 (THANKSGIVING, No class)
Tuesday, November 29 Paper Presentation
Thursday, December 1 Paper Presentation