

# **SOC 720 Comparative Study of East Asia**

Spring 2018

Thursday, 3:00-5:30pm  
Saunders 226

Instructor: Dr. Le Lin, with Dr. Hagen Koo and Dr. Patricia Steinhoff

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Office Hours: Tuesday 2-3pm or by appointment

## **Course Description**

This seminar probes social structures and processes of East Asia broadly defined (societies in the Greater China Region, Korea, Japan and with cases drawn from Vietnam too). In Spring Semester 2018, we examine a number of intensely debated themes about East Asia, including causes and dynamics of globalization (consumption, education, job insecurity etc.), economy/market, social/labor movements, and media/culture etc. Note that the themes of this semester are different from those of previous semesters. Students who have taken the seminar before are welcome to enroll again. This is both a sociological and an interdisciplinary course. Students in other disciplines are welcome and no prior sociological background is needed. Any research projects that involve East Asian societies (e.g. comparing education-induced inequality between China and U.S.) are acceptable.

## **Student Learning Objectives**

In this course, students will: a) develop and/or revise a research project through incorporating one or more of the three theoretical perspectives we discuss in class—globalization, comparative-historical and global/transnational sociology; b) develop familiarity with and critical understanding of classic debates and recent developments in studies of East Asia; c) learn to appreciate and apply the sociological insight in understanding social structure and processes in general and East Asia in particular.

This course will be taught and graded primarily by Dr. Le Lin who specializes in Chinese society. Dr. Hagen Koo and Dr. Patricia Steinhoff, leading experts on Korea and Japan respectively, will actively participate in our discussion and provide comments on students' projects.

## **Readings Materials**

No textbook required. Journal articles and book chapters will be available on Lulima. Readings with \* are optional.

## **Course Requirements**

1) One-page reaction paper on the reading materials ahead of classroom discussion each week.

2) A mid-term paper (4-6 double-spaced pages) on one topic covered in the seminar, based on a critical and creative review of relevant literature.

3) A final term paper (14-20 double-spaced pages) on a topic selected by the student and approved by the instructor. This empirical paper should develop a research question and present an argument. Collecting and interpreting original data are encouraged but not required. Students can either focus on one East Asian society or conduct a comparative study that involves East Asia.

The final grading will be determined by the final term paper (50%), mid-term paper (30%), reaction papers (10%) and class participation (10%). Late papers are not accepted. Class participation is crucial to both individual and group success of the course. Regular attendance is expected.

## **Course Schedule**

### **Jan. 11 Introduction**

### **Jan. 18 Globalization and Other Theoretical Perspectives**

Steger, Manfred. 2003. *Globalization: A Very Short Introduction*. Oxford University Press. Read Ch. 1 "Globalization: A Contested Concept."

Held, David, A. McGrew, D. Goldblatt, and J. Perration. 1999. "Introduction", in *Global Transformations*. Stanford University Press, pp. 1-31.

Stromquist, Nelly. 2002. "The Twinning of Ideas and Material Conditions: Globalization, Neoliberalism, and Postmodernism," in *Education in a Globalized World* (Rowman & Littlefield).

\*David Harvey, *A Short History of Neoliberalism*, Ch. 1 (pp. 1-38).

\*Guillen, Mauro F. 2001. "Is Globalization Civilizing, Destructive or Feeble? A Critique of Five Key Debates in the Social Science Literature," *Annual Review of Sociology* 27: 235-60.

## **I. Causes and Dynamics of Globalization and Neo-liberalization**

### **Jan. 25 Consumption**

Davis, Deborah. 2000. "Introduction" In *The Consumer Revolution in Urban China*. Berkeley, CA: University of California Press

Ren, Hai. 2013. "The Middle-Class Norm and Responsible Consumption in China's Risk Society," in *Global Futures in East Asia*, edited by Ann Anagnost, Andrea Arai, and Hai Ren (Stanford University Press).

Koo, Hagen. "Consumption and Class Distinction in Korea". Unpublished Manuscript.

Chadha, Radha and Paul Husband. 2006. "Japan: An Insatiable Yen for Luxury." In *The Cult of the Luxury Brand: Inside Asia's Love Affair with Luxury*. Nicholas Brealey International. pp. 72-101

### **Feb. 1 Education I**

Mok, Ka Ho. 2007. "Questing for Internationalization of Universities in Asia: Critical Reflections." *Journal of Studies in International Education*, Nol. 11 No. 3/4 Fall/Winter 433-454

Zweig, David et al. 2004. Globalization and Transnational Human Capital: Overseas and Returnee Scholars to China. *The China Quarterly*. No. 179. pp. 735-757

Liu-Farrer, Gracia. 2009. Educationally Channeled International Labor Mobility: Contemporary Student Migration from China to Japan. *International Migration Review*. Volume 43. No. 1. pp. 178-204

### **Feb. 8 Education II**

Abelmann, Nancy, Nicole Newendorp & Sangsook Lee-Chung. 2014. "East Asia's Astronaut and Geese Families: Hong Kong and South Korean Cosmopolitanisms," *Critical Asian Studies* 46 (2): 259-286.

Koo, Hagen. "Globalizing Education Struggle, the Korean Experience". Unpublished Manuscript.

Waters, Johanna. 2005. "Transnational Family Strategies and Education in the Contemporary Chinese Diaspora," *Global Networks* 5 (4): 359-377.

### **Feb. 15 Middle Class**

Koo, Hagen. 2016. "The Global Middle Class: How Is It Made, What Does It Represent?" *Globalizations*. Vol. 13

Tomba, Luigi. 2004. "Creating an Urban Middle Class: Social Engineering in Beijing". In *the China Journal*. No. 51, January.

Derne, Steve. 2005. "Globalization and the Making of a Transnational Middle Class: Implications for Class Analysis," in *Critical Globalization Studies*, edited by Richard Appelbaum and William Robinson. Routledge.

\*The Economist, "Burgeoning Bourgeoisie," *The Economist* (Feb. 12, 2009).

## **Feb. 22 Job Insecurity**

Kalleberg, Arne and Kevin Hewison. 2013. "Precarious Work and the Challenge for Asia," *American Behavioral Scientist* 57 (3): 271-288.

Lee, Yoonkyung. 2014. "Labor after Neoliberalism: The Birth of the Insecure Class in South Korea." *Globalizations* 11 (4):1-19.

Jung, EeHwan, Byung-you Cheon. 2006. "Economic Crisis and Changes in Employment Relations in Japan and Korea," *Asian Survey* 46 (3): 457-76.

\*Roach, Stephen. 2006. "Globalization's New Underclass: China, the US, Japan and the Changing Face of Inequality," *Global Economic Forum*, March 3, 2006.

\*Lee, Sophia Seung-Yoon. 2016. "Institutional legacy of state corporatism in de-industrial labour markets: a comparative study of Japan, South Korea and Taiwan," *Socio-Economic Review*, Vol. 14, No. 1, 73-95.

## **II. Economy and Market**

### **Mar. 1 Economy and Market I**

Beeson, Mark. 2009. Developmental States in East Asia. A Comparison of the Japanese and Chinese Experiences. *Asian Perspectives*. Vol. 33, No. 2

Nee, Victor and Sonja Opper. 2012. "Where Do Economic Institutions Come From?". In *Capitalism From Below: Markets and Institutional Changes in China*. Harvard University Press.

Lin, Le. "Capitalism Out of the Shadow: Multi-Dimensional Ambiguity and Privatization and Marketization of Public Goods in China". Unpublished Manuscript.

### **Mar. 8 Economy and Market II**

Chan, Cheris Shun-ching. 2012. "Culture, State, and Variety of Capitalism: A Comparative Study of Life Insurance Markets in Hong Kong and Taiwan". *British Journal of Sociology*. 63 (1): 97-122

Hoang, Kimberly. 2015. "Introduction." In *Dealing In Desire: Asian Ascendancy, Western Decline, and the Hidden Currencies of Global Sex Work*. University of California Press. pp. 1-25

Hung, Ho-fung. 2016. "The Capitalist Boom, 1980-2008." In *The China Boom*. Columbia University Press. pp. 52-83

## **III. Social Movements**

### **Mar. 15 Labor and New Left Movements**

Koo, Hagen. 2001. *Korean Workers: The Culture and Politics of Class Formation* (Cornell University Press), Chapter 1.

Steinhoff, Patricia. 2014. "No Helmets in Court, No T-Shirt on Death Row: New Left Trial Support Groups." In *Going to Court to Change Japan*. Center for Japanese Studies, University of Michigan

Lee, Ching-kwan. 2007. "Chinese Labor Politics in Comparative Perspective." In *Against the Law: Labor Protests in China's Rustbelt and Sunbelt*. Chapter 7. University of California Press.

\*Lee, Yoonkyung. 2006. "Varieties of Labor Politics in Northeast Asian Democracies: Political Institutions and Union Activism in Korea and Taiwan." *Asian Survey* 46 (5) (September/ October): 721-740.

\*Tsutsui, Kiyoteru, and Hwa-Ji Shin. 2008. "Global Norms, Local Activism and Social Movement Outcomes: Global Human Rights and Resident Koreans in Japan." *Social Problems* 55: 391-418.

### **Mar. 22 Religious Movements**

Weber, Max. 1951. "Conclusions: Confucianism and Puritanism." In *Religion of China: Confucianism and Taoism*. Free Press. pp. 226-249

Sun, Yanfei. 2017. "The Rise of Protestantism in Post-Mao China: State and Religion in Historical Perspectives". *American Journal of Sociology*. Vol. 122, No. 6

\*Lee, Chengpang and Myungsahm Suh. 2017. "State Building and Religion: Explaining the Diverged Path of Religious Change in Taiwan and South Korea, 1950-1980." *American Journal of Sociology*. 123:2, pp. 465-509

\*Kane, Danielle and Jung Mee Park. 2009. "The Puzzle of Korean Christianity: Geopolitical Networks and Religious Conversion in Early Twentieth-Century East Asia". *American Journal of Sociology*. 115:2, pp. 364-404

### **Mar. 29 Spring Recess**

## **IV. Media and Culture**

### **Apr. 5 Media: Old and New**

Yang, Guobin, 2013. "Contesting Food Safety in the Chinese Media: Between Hegemony and Counter-Hegemony". *The China Quarterly*. Vol. 214. pp. 337-355

Lei, Ya-wen. 2016. "Freeing the Press: How Field Environment Explains Critical News Reporting in China". *American Journal of Sociology*. Vol. 122, No. 1

Kim, Youna. 2013. "Introduction: Korean Media in a Digital Cosmopolitan World". In *Korean Wave: Korean Media Go Global*. University of Westminster Press. pp. 1-28

**Apr. 12 Culture, Cosmopolitanism and Identity**

Hannerz, Ulf. 1990. "Cosmopolitans and Locals in World Culture," *Theory, Culture & Society* 7: 237-251.

Ong, Aihwa. 1998. "Flexible Citizenship among Chinese Cosmopolitans." pp. 265-289 in *Cosmopolitics: Thinking and Feeling Beyond the Nation*, edited by P. Cheah and B. Robbins. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press.

Schattle, Hans. 2014. "Global Citizenship as a National Project: The Evolution of *Segye Shimin* in South Korean Public Discourse," *Citizenship Studies* (on line 7/21/2014).

\*Igarashi, Hiroki & Hiro Saito. 2014. Cosmopolitanism as Cultural Capital: Exploring the Intersection of Globalization, Education and Stratification. *Cultural Sociology*, 8(3), 222-239.

\*Matthews, Julie and Ravinder Sidhu. 2005. "Desperately Seeking the Global Subject: International Education, Citizenship and Cosmopolitanism," *Globalisation, Societies and Education* 3 (1): 49-66.

**Apr. 19 Popular Culture**

Keane, Michael. 2002. "As a Hundred Television Formats Bloom, A Thousand Television Stations Contend". *Journal of Contemporary China*. 11 (30): pp. 5-16

Sugimoto, Yoshio. 2014. "Japanese Society: Inside Out and Outside In". *International Sociology*. 29 (3): 191-208

Lie, John. 2015. "How Did We Get Here". In *K-Pop: Popular Music, Cultural Amnesia and Economic Innovation in South Korea*. University of California Press. pp. 7-32

**Apr. 26 Students' Presentation and Course Wrap-Up**

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**Kokua Statement**

*Any student who feels s/he may need an accommodation based on the impact of a disability is invited to contact me privately. I would be happy to work with you, and the KOKUA Program (Office for Students with Disabilities) to ensure reasonable*

*accommodations in my course. KOKUA can be reached at (808) 956-7511 or (808) 956-7612 (voice/text) in room 013 of the Queen Lili'uokalani Center for Student Services.*

### **Plagiarism**

The following definition of plagiarism comes from the UH-Manoa Student Conduct Code: *Plagiarism includes but is not limited to submitting, in fulfillment of an academic requirement, any work that has been copied in whole or in part from another individual's work without attributing that borrowed portion to the individual; neglecting to identify as a quotation another's idea and particular phrasing that was not assimilated into the student's language and style or paraphrasing a passage so that the reader is misled as to the source; submitting the same written or oral or artistic material in more than one course without obtaining authorization from the instructors involved; or "drylabbing," which includes obtaining and using experimental data and laboratory write-ups from other sections of a course or from previous terms.*

University of Hawaii at Manoa Student Conduct Code (1992), p. 6