

Sociology 356 (Fall 2012)
Sociology of China
Prof. Seio Nakajima
TR 10:30-11:45 am, WEB 112

Office hours: TBA
208 Saunders Hall
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This course provides an overview of contemporary Chinese society with a particular focus on social changes in Reform-era China (1978-present). During the first several weeks, we examine some basic aspects of Chinese geography, history, politics, and economy that should form the backdrop for an analysis of Chinese society today. Then, we move on to discussing various aspects of contemporary Chinese society since the beginning of the policy of Reform and Opening from population growth and urbanization, environmental issues, family, kinship, marriage, and sexuality, to film, literature, and popular culture. Then, in the final few weeks of the course, we will think critically about what the social changes China has been experiencing in the past 25 years mean to several crucial issues that China and the world face today: the fate of the Chinese party-state, the possible emergence of civil society and prospects for democracy, issues of human rights, environment, and international security concerns.

Required Text

- Robert E. Gamer, ed. 2012. *Understanding Contemporary China (Fourth Edition)*. Boulder: Lynne Rienner Publishers, Inc. (available at UH Bookstore)
- Readings available at Laulima (students download themselves). Marked with @ in the reading list.

Course Requirements and Grades

Final grades will be based on performance on the following five items:

(1) An in-class mid-term exam (30%).

• **Tuesday, October 9, 10:30-11:45 am.**

• Details TBA.

• Could consist of identifications, short answers, and/or essay questions based on readings, lecture, and other class activities.

• We'll have a thorough review session before the exam.

(2) A final research paper (30%).

• Approximately 8-10 pages long.

• The final research paper will be on a topic chosen by you in consultation with the professor.

• The paper must address a question raised by the lecture, readings, and class discussions, and must make use of primary source materials.

• Submit potential research topics to Laulima, Drop Box on or before **Tuesday, October 16 by 11:59 pm.**

• **Due: Thursday, December 6 by 11:59 pm** at Laulima, Drop Box. Papers turned in after the due date will be lowered 1/3 of a letter grade for each day late.

(3) A take-home final exam (30%).

• Take-home final exam questions distributed in class on **Thursday, December 6.**

• **Due: Thursday, December 13 by 11:59 pm** at Laulima, Drop Box. **No late submissions**

accepted.

- Details TBA.
 - Could consist of identifications, short answers, and/or essay questions based on readings, lecture, and other class activities.
 - We'll have a thorough review session before the exam.
- (4) Class attendance and participation (**10%**).
- Class attendance and active participation in class is mandatory and will make up 10% of the final grade. This could include in-class assignments and participation in discussions.
- (5) Extra credit (**up to 5-10%**).
- Details TBA.

* Grade percentage in sum: mid-term exam (30%), final research paper (30%), final exam (30%), attendance and participation (10%), extra credit (up to 5-10%).

Note:

For all of the course requirements, other than externally verified emergencies (i.e., medical emergencies explained with a doctor's note), there will be no exceptions.

Summary of Important Dates:

- Tuesday, October 9: In-class mid-term exam.
- Tuesday, October 16: Submit potential research topics to Laulima, Drop Box by 11:59 pm.
- Thursday, December 6: Final research paper due at Laulima, Drop Box by 11:59 pm.
- Thursday, December 6: Take-home final exam questions distributed in class.
- Thursday, December 13: Take-home final exam due at Laulima, Drop Box by 11:59 pm.

Week One: Introduction

Tuesday, August 21
Thursday, August 23

Read for this week:
Gamer, ed. Preface.
Gamer, ed. Ch. 1.

Week Two: The Land and the People

Tuesday, August 28
Thursday, August 30

Read:
Gamer, ed. Ch. 2.

Week Three: Historical Context

Tuesday, September 4
Thursday, September 6

Read:

Gamer, ed. Ch. 3.
@Colin Mackerras. "Overview History of the People's Republic of China."

Week Four: Politics

Tuesday, September 11
Thursday, September 13

Read:
Gamer, ed. Ch. 4.

Week Five: Economy

Tuesday, September 18
Thursday, September 20

Read:
Gamer, ed. Ch. 5.

Week Six: Diversity Within and Outside the People's Republic of China

Tuesday, September 25
Thursday, September 27

Read:
Gamer, ed. Ch. 6.

Week Seven: International Relations

Tuesday, October 2
Thursday, October 4

Read:
Gamer, ed. Ch. 7.
@Jonathan S. Noble. "Foreword: Culture Matters—A Report from the Field of U.S.-China Relations."

Week Eight: Population Growth and Urbanization

Tuesday, October 9: **IN-CLASS MID-TERM EXAM**
Thursday, October 11

Read:
Gamer, ed. Ch. 8.

Week Nine: Environmental Issues

Tuesday, October 16: **SUBMIT POTENTIAL RESEARCH TOPICS TO LAULIMA, DROP BOX BY 11:59 PM**
Thursday, October 18

Read:
Gamer, ed. Ch. 9.

Week Ten: Family, Kinship, Marriage, and Sexuality

Tuesday, October 23
Thursday, October 25: **NO CLASS**

Read:
Gamer, ed. Ch. 10.

Week Eleven: Women

Tuesday, October 30
Thursday, November 1: **NO CLASS**

Read:
Gamer, ed. CH 11

Week Twelve: Religion

Tuesday, November 6: **ELECTION DAY-NO CLASS**
Thursday, November 8

Read:
Gamer, ed. Ch. 12.

Week Thirteen: Film, Literature, and Popular Culture

Tuesday, November 13
Thursday, November 15

Read:
Gamer, ed. Ch. 13.

Week Fourteen: Conclusions: Trends and Prospects

Tuesday, November 20
Thursday, November 22: **THANKS GIVING-NO CLASS**

Read:
Gamer, ed. Ch. 14.

Week Fifteen: Final Paper Preparation/Final Exam Review I

Tuesday, November 27: Details TBA
Thursday, November 29: Details TBA

Read:

No required readings.

Week Sixteen: Final Paper Preparation/Final Exam Review II

Tuesday, December 4: Details TBA

Thursday, December 6: Details TBA: **FINAL RESEARCH PAPER DUE AT LAULIMA, DROP BOX BY 11:59 PM: TAKE-HOME EXAM QUESTIONS DISTRIBUTED IN CLASS**

Read:

No required readings.

TAKE-HOME FINAL EXAM DUE AT LAULIMA, DROP BOX BY THURSDAY, DECEMBER 13, 11:59 PM. NO LATE SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED.

Academic Honesty: “Acts of dishonesty, including but not limited to the following:

- a. Cheating, plagiarism, or other forms of academic dishonesty.
- b. Furnishing false information to any UH official, faculty member, or office.
- c. Forgery, alteration, or misuse of any UH document, record, or form of identification.

The term ‘cheating’ includes, but is not limited to: (1) use of any unauthorized assistance in taking quizzes, tests, or examinations; (2) use of sources beyond those authorized by the instructor in writing papers, preparing reports, solving problems, or carrying out other assignments; (3) the acquisition, without permission, of tests or other academic material belonging to a member of the UH faculty, staff or student (4) engaging in any behavior specifically prohibited by a faculty member in the course syllabus or class discussion.

The term ‘plagiarism’ includes, but is not limited to, the use, by paraphrase or direct quotation, of the published or unpublished work of another person without full and clear acknowledgement. It also includes the unacknowledged use of materials prepared by another person or agency engaged in the selling of term papers or other academic materials.”

[E7.208 UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEMWIDE STUDENT CONDUCT CODE, July 2009]

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.”

eCAFE: “The Department of Sociology is committed to a continual improvement of the quality of its course offerings. To allow for this to occur, your help, as the consumers of these courses is needed. You are there and only you can tell us about your educational experience in your classes. Towards the end of the semester, you will be informed that the eCAFE system is available to you to complete your course evaluation. We encourage you to login to <http://www.hawaii.edu/ecafe/> to submit your evaluations.”

Department of Sociology, Student Learning Objectives (SLO): Students will have clear and effective verbal and written communication skills. Students’ written work is clear and the meaning of ideas is effectively conveyed. The author displays a wide vocabulary and proper choice of words and exhibits proper sentence structure, some sentence variety, and cohesion between sentences. There are few errors in grammar and the author observes conventions of standard written English.