

**Sociology 356 (Spring 2010)**  
**Sociology of China**  
**Prof. Seio Nakajima**  
**TR 10:30-11:45 am, SAUND 637**

Office hours: TBA or by appointment  
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 Texts**

- Robert E. Gamer, ed. 2008. *Understanding Contemporary China (Third Edition)*. Boulder: Lynne Rienner Publishers, Inc.
- Robert Benewick and Stephanie Hemelryk Donald. 2009. *The State of China Atlas: Mapping the World's Fastest-Growing Economy*, Revised and Updated. Berkeley: University of California Press.

**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, March 2, 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.

• E-mail potential research topics to professor on or before **Tuesday, March 9 by 11:59 pm.**

• **Due: Tuesday, May 4 by 11:59 pm** via e-mail. 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 **Tuesday, May 4.**

• **Due: Tuesday, May 11 by 11:45 am** via e-mail. **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, participation in discussions, as well as short presentations at the final conference scheduled on April 22, 27, and 29 (details TBA).
- (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, March 2: In class mid-term exam.
- Tuesday, March 9: E-mail potential research topics to professor by 11:59 pm.
- Thursday, April 22: Final conference (short presentation of research paper) I.
- Tuesday, April 27: Final conference II.
- Thursday, April 29: Final conference III.
- Tuesday, May 4: Final research paper due via e-mail by 11:59 pm.
- Tuesday, May 4: Take-home final exam questions distributed in class.
- Tuesday, May 11: Take-home final exam due via e-mail by 11:45 am.

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**Week One: Introduction**

Tuesday, January 12  
Thursday, January 14

Read for this week:

Gamer, ed. Preface.  
Gamer, ed. Ch. 1.  
Benewick and Donald. Foreword and Introduction.

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**Week Two: The Land and the People**

Tuesday, January 19  
Thursday, January 21

Read:

Gamer, ed. Ch. 2.

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**Week Three: Historical Context**

Tuesday, January 26  
Thursday, January 28

Read:

Gamer, ed. Ch. 3.

Colin Mackerras. "Overview History of the People's Republic of China." (will be posted on Laulima)

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**Week Four: Politics**

Tuesday, February 2  
Thursday, February 4

Read:

Gamer, ed. Ch. 4.

Benewick and Donald. Part Five (pp. 62-73) and Commentaries 22-26 (pp. 116-119).

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**Week Five: Economy**

Tuesday, February 9  
Thursday, February 11

Read:

Gamer, ed. Ch. 5.

Benewick and Donald. Ch. 1-2 (pp. 12-17) and Commentaries 1-2 (pp. 105-106); Part Three (pp. 34-51) and Commentaries 10-17 (pp. 110-114).

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

Tuesday, February 16  
Thursday, February 18

Read:

Gamer, ed. Ch. 6.

Benewick and Donald. Ch. 5 (pp. 22-23) and Commentary 5 (pp. 106-107); Ch. 8 (pp. 30-31) and Commentary 8 (pp. 108-109).

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**Week Seven: International Relations**

Tuesday, February 23  
Thursday, February 25

Read:

Gamer, ed. Ch. 7.

Jonathan S. Noble. "Foreword: Culture Matters—A Report from the Field of U.S.-China Relations." (will be posted on Laulima)

Benewick and Donald. Ch. 3-4 (pp. 18-21) and Commentaries 3-4 (p. 106).

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**Week Eight: Population Growth and Urbanization**

Tuesday, March 2: **IN-CLASS MID-TERM EXAM**

Thursday, March 4

Read:

Gamer, ed. Ch. 8.

Benewick and Donald. Ch. 6 (pp. 26-27) and Commentary 6 (p. 107); Ch. 9 (pp. 32-33) and Commentary 9 (pp. 109-110).

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**Week Nine: Environmental Issues**

Tuesday, March 9: **E-MAIL POTENTIAL RESEARCH TOPICS TO PROFESSOR BY 11:59 PM**

Thursday, March 11

Read:

Gamer, ed. Ch. 9.

Benewick and Donald. Part Four (pp. 52-61) and Commentaries 18-21 (pp. 114-116).

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**Week Ten: Family, Kinship, Marriage, and Sexuality**

Tuesday, March 16

Thursday, March 18

Read:

Gamer, ed. Ch. 10.

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**Week Eleven: Spring Recess**

Tuesday, March 23: **No Class**

Thursday, March 25: **No Class**

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**Week Twelve: Women**

Tuesday, March 30

Thursday, April 1

Read:

Gamer, ed. Ch. 11.

Benewick and Donald. Ch. 7 (pp. 28-29) and Commentary 7 (pp. 107-108).

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**Week Thirteen: Religion**

Tuesday, April 6

Thursday, April 8

Read:

Gamer, ed. Ch. 12.

Benewick and Donald. Ch. 32 (pp. 86-87) and Commentary 32 (pp. 123-124).

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**Week Fourteen: Film, Literature, and Popular Culture**

Tuesday, April 13  
Thursday, April 15

Read:  
Gamer, ed. Ch. 13.

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**Week Fifteen: Conclusions: Trends and Prospects/Final Conference I**

Tuesday, April 20: Conclusions  
Thursday, April 22: **FINAL CONFERENCE I**

Read:  
Gamer, ed. Ch. 14.  
Benewick and Donald. Ch. 27-31 (pp. 74-85) and Commentaries 27-31 (pp. 119-123).

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**Week Sixteen: Final Conference II & III**

Tuesday, April 27: **FINAL CONFERENCE II**  
Thursday, April 29: **FINAL CONFERENCE III**

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**Week Seventeen: Final Exam Review**

Tuesday, May 4: Final Exam Review: **FINAL RESEARCH PAPER DUE VIA E-MAIL BY 11:59 PM: TAKE-HOME EXAM QUESTIONS DISTRIBUTED IN CLASS**

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**TAKE-HOME FINAL EXAM DUE VIA E-MAIL BY TUESDAY, MAY 11, 11:45 AM. NO LATE SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED.**

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**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/e cafe/> to submit your evaluations.”