

Anthro 070:248 Index 18132
Fall 2016
M 2:15-5:15
Ruth Adams 209B
Screenings M 12-2, F 3-5 Douglass Media Library

Professor Louisa Schein
Departments of Anthropology and Women's & Gender Studies
Ofc Hrs: Mon 5:15-6:15, Tue 7-7:30 PM,
Ruth Adams Bldg, Rm. 210 848-932-4109

Anthropology of China

This course encounters China as many things: historical, socialist, marketizing, and as always internally differentiated, unequal, multi-ethnic, regional, gendered, etc. We will cover traditional Chinese society, the Maoist revolution, and focus on the contemporary post-Mao period. A range of issues will be surveyed through feature films, documentaries and readings – gender/sexuality, popular culture and media, health and environment, public and private, minorities and migration, changing policies and economy... from farm life to urban housing.

This course will teach students to see China “after the Cold War” and “beyond the headlines” and to understand a rapidly changing global superpower. It is appropriate for students of all disciplines and will help students to prepare for living in a globalizing world or for doing work overseas.

Learning Objectives:

- to introduce students to the recent history and contemporary social issues and trends in China
- to give students tools for thinking critically, globally and crossculturally and for locating themselves in this world
- to develop students' proficiency in speaking critically and clearly about issues relating to China and Asia
- to develop students' ability to write expressively and to articulate arguments systematically
- to help students be attentive to different writing and media genres and modes of representation and to experiment with them in their own writing
- to encourage students to integrate their course insights into their daily lives and interactions and their thinking about current events and their own futures

See also Anthropology Learning Goals: <http://anthro.rutgers.edu/undergrad-program/departments-learning-goals>

Required books (available at the Rutgers bookstore and on reserve at Douglass library):

--Wolf, Margery. 1968. *The House of Lim: A Study of a Chinese Farm Family*. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall.
--Zhang, Li. 2010. *In Search of Paradise: Middle-Class Living in a Chinese Metropolis*. Ithaca, NY: Cornell Univ Press.

All other readings will be available through sakai.

Films: All films listed, or portions of them, are required and will be on the quizzes and in papers. Some are required to be viewed prior to class meetings, as noted week by week below. You are encouraged to view them *with classmates* on Fridays or Mondays in the Media Center in the basement of Douglass Library. Start times vary depending on length of the film. Alternately, you may view them on your own at Douglass Music/Media library in the Douglass library basement during the week **prior** to screening. Films shown **in class** will be available on reserve for a week following class, and you may view any film at any time if it is in the library. You may call ahead for availability or booking at 848-932-5034.

REQUIREMENTS (graded on 100-point basis):

Participation and Absences (24 points) – based on your attendance in class, participation in discussion, in-class writings, and key passages. You may earn up to two points for each attendance; full credit will depend on participation as well as presence. Since the class meets only once a week, attendance is very important. I will need appropriate documentation or notification if you need to miss class. Excluding the first class meeting, you may miss one other class without an excuse, but this is discouraged. Note that viewing of films *before* class, when specified, is required. [CA 2, 5]

“China in the News” Reports (6 points each) – twice during the semester you will find a news story related to China and make a 5-minute report on it to the class. Sign-ups for dates will be done at the beginning of the semester. [CA 5]

Mini Research Papers (16 points, including 3 for timely topic proposals). You must speak with me at least once to get feedback on your topic and research. [CA 3,4] You will turn in a topic 10/24 and a 5-page paper 11/14.

Midterm Quiz (22 points) – covering readings, films, lectures (incl. guests), and discussions through Week 7 (10/24).

Final Quiz (12 points) – covering readings/films in the 2nd half of the course, large concepts for the entire course (12/12).

Final Take-Home (14 points) – essays putting the course materials and themes together in your own words. Due 12/23

Note: I reserve the right to adjust readings and schedules for the benefit of the class and with full advance notice.

Class meetings: This is a discussion based class. Expect to come to class with your readings prepared to raise questions and respond to others. Listen to your classmates as well as to me and our guest speakers. Please do not bring in any other reading, such as newspapers, or conduct conversations during class. Cell phones and other electronic devices should be silenced and put away. It is disruptive to check or send messages during class. Laptops may be used only under special circumstances by permission only or during designated notetaking times. Please do not leave class while it is in session unless you have a personal emergency.

Academic integrity: No cheating or plagiarism will be tolerated. All work, unless you are directed to do teamwork, must be your own. Any borrowing of others' work or ideas, whether published or not, is unacceptable unless fully credited. Students are encouraged to read the full policy on academic integrity at the following website:

<http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/academic-integrity-policy/>

For guidance on avoiding plagiarism see: *Consult Don't Plagiarize: Document Your Research! For tips about how to take notes so that you don't plagiarize by accident.* http://www.libraries.rutgers.edu/avoid_plagiarism

<http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/resources-for-students>

Students with disabilities: requesting accommodations must follow the procedures outlined at

<https://ods.rutgers.edu/students/registration-form>.

9/12 – Week One – Overview

Film: (View in class): *Sparrow Village* 2003 28 mins. 2-6546

Film: (View in class): *Mulan* 1998(2013), 88 mins. 10-4758 (selections)

9/19 – Week Two – Family, Gender, Kinship and Orientalism

--Said, Edward. 1978. *Orientalism*. "Introduction." Pp. 1-21 (21-28 recommended).

--Wolf, Margery. 1968. *The House of Lim: A Study of a Chinese Farm Family*. Prentice Hall, Pp. v-74.

--Potter, Sulamith Heins and Jack M. 1990. *China's Peasants: The Anthropology of a Revolution*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. "Chinese Birth Planning: A Cultural Account." Pp. 225-250

Film: (view before class at 1 PM) *Small Happiness* 1984 60 mins. 2-1326

Film: (view in class) *Edward Said on Orientalism* 1998 40 mins 2-3695

9/26 – Week Three – Socioeconomic Organization

--Wolf, Margery. *The House of Lim*, Pp. 75-148.

--Hinton, William *Fanshen: A Documentary of Revolution in a Chinese Village*. New York: Vintage. Pp. 17-45.

--Yan, Yunxiang. 2003. *Private Life Under Socialism: Love, Intimacy and Family Change in a Chinese Village 1949-99*. Stanford University Press. "The Changing Local World" Pp. 17-41.

Film (view before class at 12:30): *To Live* 1995 132 mins. 2-2826

Film (view in class): *To Live* 1995 132 mins. 2-2826, second half

10/3 – Week Four – Media, Spectacle and the Global Arena

Visit of Fan Yang, University of Maryland

--Yang Fan. 2008. "The Politics of Exhibition: China's 'Fake' in the 2008 Olympics." *Antithesis* 19 (June): 56-70.

--McLagan, Meg. 2002. "Spectacles of Difference: Cultural Activism and the Mass Mediation of Tibet." In *Media Worlds: Anthropology on New Terrain*. Faye Ginsburg et al (eds.), Berkeley: UC Press. Pp. 90-111.

--Wallis, Cara. 2012. *Technomobility in China: Young Migrant Women and Mobile Phones*. NYU Press. Pp. 53-61
Students will read one or the other of the following:

--Sun Wanning. 2016. "By Accident or by Design? A Chinese Dating Show and Soft Power." *Media Asia* 43(2): 28-30.

--Sun Wanning. "If You are the One: Dating Shows, Reality TV, and the Politics of the Personal in Urban China." *Australian Review* October 2014.

10/10 – Week Five – Socioeconomic Change

--Zhang, Li. 2010. *In Search of Paradise: Middle-Class Living in a Chinese Metropolis*. Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press. Pp. 1-51.

--Zhang Xian. 1983. "A Place Forgotten by Love." In *The New Realism: Writings from China after the Cultural Revolution*. Lee Yee, ed. New York: Hippocrene. Pp. 244-260.

Film (view before class at 1 PM): *Morning Sun* 2003 Cassette 1 2-6839, approx 60 mins.

Film (view in class): *Morning Sun* Cassette 2 2-6840 approx 60 mins

10/17 – Week Six – Gender, Minorities, Nostalgia, Cultural Heritage

Visit of Luo Yu, UC Berkeley

--Liebold, James. 2010. "More than a Category: Han Supremacism on the Chinese Internet." *The China Quarterly* 203(1):539-559.

--Schein, Louisa. 1997. "Gender and Internal Orientalism in China." *Modern China* 23(1): 69-98.

--Harrell, Stevan. 2013. "China's Tangled Web of Heritage" In T. Blumenfield and H. Silverman, eds. *Cultural Heritage Politics in China*. Pp. 285-294.

--"China's Last Gunslingers." *National Geographic* July 6, 2013.

<http://news.nationalgeographic.com/news/2013/07/pictures/130706-china-guns-guizhou-culture-minorities/>

Film (View before class at 12:15): *Lala's Gun* (2008) Dir Ning Jingwu, 3 Dots Entertainment 103 mins.

Film (View in class): *The Fall of Womenland* 2009 46 mins 10-2413

10/24 – Week Seven – What Does Privatizing Mean?

MINI RESEARCH PAPER TOPIC PROPOSALS DUE

--Zhang, Li. "Unlocking the Real Estate Machine." Pp. 52-78.

--Yang, Mayfair Mei-hui. 1994. *Gifts, Favors and Banquets: The Art of Social Relationships in China*. Cornell University Press. Pp. 1-15, 123-135.

--Farquhar, Judith. 1996. "Market Magic: Getting Rich and Getting Personal in Medicine after Mao." *American Ethnologist* 23(2): 239-57.

Film (view before class at 12:30) *High Tech, Low Life* 2013, 90 mins. 10-4567

10/31 - Week Eight - Homoerotics

MIDTERM QUIZ IN FIRST HALF OF CLASS PERIOD

--Hinsch, Bret. 1990. "Husbands, Boys and Servants: Yuan and Ming Dynasties (1264-1644)." In *Passions of the Cut Sleeve: The Male Homosexual Tradition in China*. Berkeley: University of California Press. Pp. 118-138.

--Kong, Travis. 2011. "New, New China and New, New Tongzhi." In *Chinese Male Homosexualities: Memba, Tongzhi and Golden Boy*. Routledge

Film (view in class): *Tongzhi in Love* 2008 30 mins. 10-2269

11/7 – Week Nine – Changing Sexual Norms

--Zhang, Everett. 2011. "China's Sexual Revolution." In *Deep China*. Kleinman et al, eds. Berkeley: University of California Press. Pp. 106-151.

--Osburg, John. 2014. "Tough Love." *Foreign Affairs* online June 12 (pdf on sakai)

--Zhang Zhen. 2000. "Mediating Time: Rice Bowl of Youth in Fin de Siecle Urban China." *Public Culture* 12(1):93-113.

Film (View before class at 12:30): *Qingchun Ji* 1989, 95 mins, 2-2354

11/14– Week Ten – Style, Bodies, Desires

MINI RESEARCH PAPERS DUE IN CLASS

--Zhang, Li. "Emerging Landscapes of Living." Pp. 79-106.

--Kam, Lucetta Y. L. 2014. "Desiring T, Desiring Self: T-Style Pop Singers and Lesbian Culture in China" *Journal of Lesbian Studies* 18(3): 252-265.

--Ko, Dorothy. 2005. *Cinderella's Sisters: A Revisionist History of Footbinding*, Univ. of California Press, pp 187-212

--Levy, Howard S. 1967. *Footbinding: The History of a Curious Erotic Custom*. New York: Walton Rawls, Pp. 107-119.

Film (View in class, first 25 mins.): *Chinese Footbinding: The Vanishing Lotus* 2000, 52 mins, 10-1680 dir. Tang Yuen Mei Joani and Fung Wing Chan Tely 52 mins, (screen to "starve")

11/21 – Week Eleven – Development, Displacement and Uneven Spaces

Visit of Austin Hudgins, Asian Studies Program, Rutgers

--Zhang, Li. "Spatializing Class" and "Accumulation by Displacement." Pp. 137-162.

--Fairbank, John King. 1992. "Geography: The Contrast of North and South." In *China: A New History*. Cambridge, MA: Belknap Press of Harvard. Pp. 4- 14

--Goodman, David. 2002. "The Politics of the West: Equality, Nation-Building and Colonisation." *Provincial China*, 7(2): 127-150.

Film: (view before class at 1 PM): *Made in China* 2007 10-1906 53 mins.

Film (view in class): *Out of Phoenix Bridge* 1997 10-2272 110 mins:

Film (view in class): *Iron Ministry*, 2014, dir. J.P. Sniadecki, 83 mins., 10-6211 (first 33 minutes)

11/28– Week Twelve – Health, Pollution, Biopolitics

Visit of Chen Junjie, Independent Scholar

--Lora-Wainright, Anna. 2009. "Of Farming Chemicals and Cancer Deaths: The Politics of Health in Contemporary Rural China." *Social Anthropology* 17(1): 56-73.

--Chen Junjie. 2011. "Globalizing, Reproducing and Civilizing Rural Subjects: Population Control Policy and Constructions of Rural Identity in China." In *Reproduction, Globalization and the State*. Carole H. Browner and Carolyn F. Sargent, eds. Pp 38-52. Duke.

--Zhan, Mei. 2001. "Does it Take a Miracle? Negotiating Knowledges, Identities and Communities of Traditional Chinese Medicine." *Cultural Anthropology* 16(4): 453-80.

12/5 – Week Thirteen – Migrant Workers

--Pun Ngai and Jenny Chan. 2013. "The Spatial Politics of Labor in China: Life, Labor, and a New Generation of Migrant Workers." *South Atlantic Quarterly* 112(1): 179-190.

--Sun Wanning. "Worker-Poets, Political Intervention, and Cultural Brokering" *Subaltern China: Rural Migrants, Media and Cultural Practices*. Rowman and Littlefield. Pp. 185-216.

--Wallis, Cara. 2012. *Technomobility in China: Young Migrant Women and Mobile Phones*. NYU Press. Pp.150-169

12/12 – Week Fourteen – Inequalities and Wrap-Up

FINAL QUIZ AT BEGINNING OF CLASS

--Zhang, Li. "Recasting Self-Worth" and "Epilogue." Pp. 163-186 and 211-216.

--Shao Jing. 2006. "Fluid Labor and Blood Money: The Economy of HIV/AIDS in Rural Central China." *Cultural Anthropology* 21(4):535-569.

Film (view in class): *The Blood of Yingzhou District* 2007 40 mins.10-2270

FINAL TAKE-HOME EXAM DUE Dec 23 12 noon, posted to Sakai (distribution date and time TBA)