

Anthro 070:248 Index 26769

Spring 2021

T 2:15-5:15

Synchronous Online on Zoom/Sakai

Professor Louisa Schein

Departments of Anthropology and Women's & Gender Studies

Ofc Hrs: Tu 5:15-6 (Log off and log back on, then wait in Waiting Room)

Anthropology of China

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

This course will teach students to see China “after the Cold War,” “beyond the headlines” and outside the glittering cities, and to understand a rapidly changing global superpower. We will focus in on the differences, diversity and disparities that make up this complex country. The course 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 globalization
- to develop students' ability to write expressively and to articulate points of view 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

NOTE: This course meets the following CCD goal of the SAS core curriculum: “Diversities and Social Inequalities” and meets Anthropology Department Learning Goals, especially 2, 4 and 5 (see <https://anthro.rutgers.edu/academics/undergraduate/undergraduate-learning-goals>)

Required BOOK (available at the Rutgers bookstore and on Sakai Reading List (Login, Choose Reading List on left, Find Listing, Choose Temporary Access, then choose Check Out):

--Wolf, Margery. 1968. *The House of Lim: A Study of a Chinese Farm Family*. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall.

All other readings will be available on Sakai Resources under author's surname or by direct link on the syllabus. Required page numbers may be adjusted for the benefit of the class. See reductions on weekly list.

FILMS: All films listed 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. In most cases you can stream them through your Reading List in Sakai. A few will be accessed by direct link to be found on the syllabus. Sometimes you will be invited to view them during the class. In order to conserve bandwidth, I may direct you to take a break from Zoom and go to the Sakai Reading List to stream. Please always come to class first, unless you receive a Sakai email announcement for that date, then I will tell you *in class* when to go view a film and how much of it to watch. Then come back to the Zoom class. You will be able to use the same meeting link to return.

Note: I reserve the right to adjust readings and schedules for the benefit of the class and with full advance notice. It is crucial that you check Sakai regularly for announcements and adjustments.

Students with disabilities requesting accommodations must follow procedures at <https://ods.rutgers.edu/students/registration-form>

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 quality participation as well as online presence. Since the class meets only once a week, attendance for the full class period is very important. Excluding the first class meeting, you may miss one other class without an excuse, but this is discouraged. I will need documentation or notification if you must miss class: please speak to me about this and tell me if you know ahead of time. Viewing of films *before* class, when specified, is required.

“China in the News” Reports (6 points) – once during the semester you and a partner will find a news story related to China and make a 6-minute report on it to the class. Sharing breaking news is highly recommended!

Assignment to dates will be done at the beginning of the semester and guidelines will be posted on Sakai
Projects & Presentations (20 points). Students will form teams and work together to propose (2 points) an expansion of a theme from the course You will work together to coordinate a group in-class presentation which *may* be creative (8 points) then turn in an individual paper on your topic, which will include reflection and research results (10 points).

Event Response Papers (in-class 4 points each) Writing a short reflection paper on a guest speaker. Attend an outside event for 6 points. Due submitted to Assignments within two weeks after the event.

Midterm Take-Home (20 points) – essays and short answer responses covering readings, films, lectures (incl. guests), and discussions through Week 7. **Distributed March 4 AM; Due March 7 Noon.**

Final Take-Home (24 points) – essays putting the course materials and themes together in your own words. **Due May 8.**

CLASS MEETINGS: This is a synchronous discussion-based class that will take place through Zoom. Logon promptly and I will admit you from the Waiting Room. Expect to come to class prepared to raise questions and respond to others. It is important that you DO NOT record this class. When setting up, you will want to turn on video, set up virtual background (if you want), mute mic, open Chat and open Participants List. You should also turn your cell phone to airplane mode and close all competing applications (Facebook, social media, music, etc.). During class, your default should be to keep your video on and your mic muted except when speaking. It means a lot to everyone to see each other; you should let me know right away if video is a problem for you. Listen to your classmates as well as to the professor and don’t hesitate to jump in. When it is time to speak, I will let you know whether to unmute your mic yourself or to raise your hand. Sometimes we will use the chat function which can also be turned on from the bottom of your screen. You should familiarize yourself with how to shift between messages to “everyone” and messages to “Louisa Schein”. **Please do not leave class while it is in session unless you have a personal emergency.**

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS:

You will need a computer with a webcam and microphone and an internet connection for class. You will want a paper pad or notebook to take notes so that you can use your screen for Zoom interaction.

Please visit the [Rutgers Student Tech Guide \(https://it.rutgers.edu/technology-guide/students/\)](https://it.rutgers.edu/technology-guide/students/) page for resources available to all students. If you do not have the appropriate technology for financial reasons, please email Dean of Students deanofstudents@echo.rutgers.edu for assistance.

FINANCIAL HARDSHIP:

If you are facing other financial hardships, please visit the Office of Financial Aid at <https://financialaid.rutgers.edu/>.

NOTE: If you haven't already, you should activate your *Rutgers* Zoom account as soon as possible.
ZOOM MEETINGS: Below in yellow is all you will need to join class each time. Once you click on the link, you will get to the waiting room and I will let you in at start time. You may need to re-click the link if the meeting isn't opened yet.

Topic: Anthropology of China

Time: Jan 19, 2021 02:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Every week on Tue, until May 25, 2021, 19 occurrence(s)

Jan 19, 2021 02:00 PM

Jan 26, 2021 02:00 PM

Feb 2, 2021 02:00 PM

Feb 9, 2021 02:00 PM

Feb 16, 2021 02:00 PM

Feb 23, 2021 02:00 PM

Mar 2, 2021 02:00 PM

Mar 9, 2021 02:00 PM

Mar 16, 2021 02:00 PM

Mar 23, 2021 02:00 PM

Mar 30, 2021 02:00 PM

Apr 6, 2021 02:00 PM

Apr 13, 2021 02:00 PM

Apr 20, 2021 02:00 PM

Apr 27, 2021 02:00 PM

Please download and import the following iCalendar (.ics) files to your calendar system.

Weekly: <https://rutgers.zoom.us/meeting/tJEof-uurzoqG92YXj67T7aPPIU53FHvhn2l/ics?icsToken=98tyKuCtqzMoHNWUsBiORowMGYqga-7zmH5fjfoPpSfvVXdnNQLGBu53Z-FZOM7Y>

7zmH5fjfoPpSfvVXdnNQLGBu53Z-FZOM7Y

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://rutgers.zoom.us/j/95582611019?pwd=Vm9UUzVzQ2IxY0NzTTJRMlg5WnR5UT09>

Join by SIP

95582611019@zoomcrc.com

Meeting ID: 955 8261 1019

Password: 256355

One tap mobile

+13126266799,,95582611019# US (Chicago)

+16465588656,,95582611019# US (New York)

Join By Phone

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington D.C)

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

+1 669 900 9128 US (San Jose)

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

Meeting ID: 955 8261 1019

Find your local number: <https://rutgers.zoom.us/u/abfFMjWwhS>

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>

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1/19 – Week One – Overview

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

Film: (View in class): *Mulan* 1998 (2013), 88 mins. (first 26 mins.)

1/26 – Week Two – Family, Gender, Kinship and Orientalism

--Said, Edward. 1978. *Orientalism*. "Introduction." Pp. 1-9 ONLY.

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

Film: (view before class) *Small Happiness* 1984 60 mins.

Film: (view in class) *Edward Said on Orientalism* 1998 40 mins. (first 10 minutes)

2/2 – Week Three – Socioeconomic Organization and Change

--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. READ 26-40 ONLY, including footnotes.

--Gao, Mobo. 1999. "Reforms Since the late 1970s." In *Gao Village: Rural Life in Modern China* (Honolulu: University of Hawaii): 171-199. READ 179-90 ONLY.

--Schell, Orville. 1984. *To Get Rich is Glorious: China in the 80s*. New York: New American Library. READ ONLY 13-16 and 28-33.

Film (view before class): *To Live* 1995 132 mins. (available on youtube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wNTd0dydfE4>)

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

2/9 – Week Four – Intimacies and Disparities: Changing Social Life

--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. READ ONLY 17-21 and 29-37.

--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.

--Yu Hua. 2011. "Disparity." *China in Ten Words*. New York: Anchor Books. Pp. 142-162.

Film (view before class): *Morning Sun* 2003 approx 60 mins.

Film (view in class): *Morning Sun* second half approx 60 mins, selections

2/16 – Week Five– Differences: Land, People, Regions

--<http://depts.washington.edu/chinaciv/geo/land.htm>

--Blum, Susan D. "China's Many Faces: Ethnic, Cultural and Religious Pluralism." In *China Beyond the Headlines*. T. Weston and L. Jensen, eds. Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield. 69-95. READ ONLY 75-91.

--Oakes, Tim. 2011. "Laser Tag and Other Rural Diversions: The Village as China's Urban Playground." *Harvard Asia Quarterly* XIII (3):25-30.

--Bradsher, Keith. 2020. "As China Battles Poverty, Colossal Projects Draw Ire." *New York Times* B1, 5 Nov 27, 2020. <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/11/26/business/china-statues-economy.html>

--"UPDATE: County govt denies using poverty alleviation funds for 88-meter-high statue." *Global Times* October 21, 2020 <https://www.globaltimes.cn/content/1204171.shtml>

Film (view before class): *Summer Pasture* 2010, View minutes: 0:00 to 0:10 and then 1:00 to end

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

2/23 – Week Six – Environment, Conservation, Pollution

Guest Lecture: Ethan Goldings, Independent Scholar, "Conservation in Tibetan Areas of the PRC" 4 PM

--Wang, Alex. 2012. China's Environmental Tipping Point. In T. Weston and L. Jensen (eds.), *China In and Beyond the Headlines* (Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield): 112-131.

--Yeh, Emily et al. 2017. "Pastoralist Decision-Making on the Tibetan Plateau." *Human Ecology* 45:333-343. READ ONLY 333-336 and 340-341.

--Wuqiriletu. 2015. "Pollution Migrates to the West." *China Story Yearbook 2015: Pulling Apart* <https://www.thechinastory.org/yearbooks/yearbook-2015/forum-pulling-apart-%e5%89%a5/pollution-migrates-to-the-west/>

Film (view before class): *Wolf Totem* 2015 121 mins

3/2 – Week Seven – Ethnic Dynamics

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

--Khan, Almaz. 1996. "Who are the Mongols? State, Ethnicity and the Politics of Representation in the PRC." In *Negotiating Ethnicities in China and Taiwan*. Melissa J. Brown, ed. Berkeley, CA: Institute of East Asian Studies. Read ONLY pp 125-143.

--Osburg, John. 2020. "Consuming Belief: Luxury, Authenticity, and Chinese Patronage of Tibetan Buddhism in Contemporary China." *Hau: Journal of Ethnographic Theory* 10(1):69-84. READ ONLY 69-77.

Film (View before class): *The Fall of Womenland* 2009 46 mins.

MIDTERM – Distributed March 4 AM; Due March 7 Noon.

3/9 - Week Eight – Consuming, Shopping, Giving, Gaming

Guest Lecture: Lissa Crane, Dept of Anthropology, Rutgers "Philanthropy as Traditional Chinese Culture" 4 PM

--Farrelly, Paul J. 2018. "To Give is Glorious." In *China Story Yearbook 2017*. Jane Golley and Linda Javin, eds. Canberra: Australian National University Press.

--Wang Xiaowei. 2020. "Gone Shopping in the Mountain Stronghold." *Blockchain Chicken Farm and Other Stories of Tech in China's Countryside*. New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux. Pp. 171-202.

--Fang Fang. 2020. "February 12, 2020." *Wuhan Diary: Dispatches from a Quarantined City*. Michael Berry, trans. HarperVia. Pp. 78-83.

Film (view before class): *People's Republic of Desire* 2018, 95 mins.

3/16 NO CLASS SPRING BREAK

3/23 - Week Nine – Transnational Flows

Guest Lecture: Nick Bartlett, Department of Anthropology, Barnard "Translating Psychology: Group Relations Work and Psychoanalysis in Contemporary China" 4 PM

--Zhang, Everett Yuehong. 2007. "Switching Between Traditional Chinese Medicine and Viagra: Cosmopolitanism and Medical Pluralism." *Medical Anthropology* 26(1):53-96.

--Zhang Li. 2014. "Bentuhua: Culturing Psychotherapy in Postsocialist China." *Culture, Medicine and Psychiatry* 38:283-305.

Film (View before class): *Guangzhou Dream Factory: The African Community in Guangzhou China* 2016 66 mins.

3/30 – Week Ten – China Technologies

--Peckham, Robert. 2020. "Coronavirus: The Low Tech of the High Tech." *Somatosphere*

<http://somatosphere.net/forumpost/coronavirus-low-tech-high-tech/>

--Parsons, Samuel J. 2019. "Legalism and the Social Credit System." *China Story Yearbook 2019*.

<https://www.thechinastory.org/yearbooks/yearbook-2019-china-dreams/forum-under-observation/legalism-and-the-social-credit-system/>

--Yang, Guobin. 2020. "The Digital Radicals of Wuhan." <https://cdcs.asc.upenn.edu/guobin-yang-2/>

--Fang Fang 2020 "February 22, 2020." *Wuhan Diary: Dispatches from a Quarantined City*. Michael Berry, trans. HarperVia. Pp. 139-146.

--Wang Xiaowei. 2020. "No One Can Predict the Future." *Blockchain Chicken Farm and Other Stories of Tech in China's Countryside*. New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux. Pp. 141-169.

Film (view before class) *High Tech, Low Life* 2013, 90 mins.

4/6 – Week Eleven – Health

Guest Lecture: Dali Yang, Department of Political Science, University of Chicago "China's Public Health Crisis and Regulation" 4 PM

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

--Mason, Katherine. 2015. "H1N1 Is Not a Chinese Virus: The Racialization of People and Viruses in Post-SARS China." *Studies in Comparative International Development* 5 pp. 500-518.

Film (view before class at TBA): *Dust*: Zhu Rikun <https://vimeo.com/111339100> (pw: subtitle)

4/13– Week Twelve –Workers

Guest Lecture: Mingwei Liu, School of Management and Labor Relations, Rutgers "China's Trade Union and Labor Movement" 4 PM

--Sun Wanning. 2014. "Worker-Poets, Political Intervention, and Cultural Brokering" *Subaltern China: Rural Migrants, Media and Cultural Practices*. Rowman and Littlefield. Pp. 185-216.

--Litzinger, Ralph. 2016. "Regimes of Exclusion and Inclusion: Migrant Labor, Education, and Contested Futurities." In *Ghost Protocol: Development and Displacement*. Carlos Rojas and Ralph Litzinger, eds. Duke Univ. Press. Pp 191-204.

Film: (view before class): *Made in China* 2007, 53 mins. OR *Last Train Home* 2011, 90 mins.

Film (view in class): *Out of Phoenix Bridge* 1997, 110 mins, excerpts

4/20 – Week Thirteen – Mobilities and Stigmas

Student Presentations

Guest Lecture: Zhang Juan, Dept of Anthropology, University of Bristol, UK "Mobility, Responsibility and the Covid-19 Pandemic in China" 4 PM

--Lei, Guang. 2003. "Rural Taste, Urban Fashions: The Cultural Politics of Rural/Urban Difference in Contemporary China." *Positions* 11(3): 613-46. READ ONLY 613-622.

--Kong, Travis. 2011. "New, New China and New, New Tongzhi." In *Chinese Male Homosexualities: Memba, Tongzhi and Golden Boy*. Routledge READ ONLY Pp.145-164

Film (view before class): *Tongzhi in Love* 2008 30 mins. (available on Amazon Prime and Filmdoo)

4/27 – Week Fourteen – Wrap-Up & Student presentations

TAKE-HOME Essays DUE Noon Wed May 8, submitted to Sakai Assignments (distribution date/time TBA)