



Shanghai Jiao Tong University

SO216 Asia Social Science Perspectives

Instructor:	Qingli Meng	Email:	ztmeng99@yahoo.com
Instructor's Home Institution:	University of Northern Iowa	Office:	TBD
Office Hours:	TBD		
Term:	July 15-August 9, 2019	Credits:	4 units
Classroom:	TBD	Teaching Assistant(s):	TBD
Class Hours:	Monday through Friday, 120 mins per teaching day		
Discussion Sessions:	2 hours each week, conducted by teaching assistant(s)		
Total Contact Hours:	66 contact hours (1 contact hour = 45 mins, 3000 mins in total)		
Required Texts (with ISBN):	<p>“Understanding Contemporary China,” by Robert E. Gamer and Stanley W. Toops, editors, 5th edition, 2017. Lynne Rienner Publishers. ISBN: 978-1-62637-653-3 or : 978-1-62637-704-2</p> <p>“From the Soil, the Foundations of Chinese Society,” (A translation of Feixiaotong’s Xiangtu Zhongguo. By Xiaotong Fei (Author), Gary G. Hamilton (Introduction), Wang Zheng (Introduction), Gary C. Hamilton (Epilogue), Wang Zheng (Epilogue). 1992. University of California Press. ISBN: 978-0-52007-796-6</p>		
Prerequisite:	Competent in English (Oral and Written)		



Course Overview

This course is designated to expose students to the knowledge of China, its society and culture of the fundamental aspects in sociological studies. In this course, we examine the rapidly changing contemporary Chinese society with recent sociological and anthropological research to help students understand Chinese society and culture by in-depth study of China's geography, history, cultural tradition and heritage, economy, politics, and its international relations with many different regions and countries. This course explores various aspects of the changing Chinese society— how the contemporary Chinese society took shape in the key events of the past one and a half centuries, the major social issues of inequality, social contentions, and its position in the globalizing world. This course is organized into three sections. Section I depicts the geography of the vast land and its geographic location and landscape, its history from which China has become what it is today. Section II examines China's political systems and tradition, its economic development, and its international relations with other countries. Section III evaluates the current social issues like population growth, environment, resource re-distribution and social polarization.

Learning Outcomes

At the end of the course, students will:

- 1). Recognize the cultural and social diversity of the global world.
- 2). Construct critical understandings of contemporary China and multiple social issues in Chinese society
- 3). Relate a global and comparative perspective to understand critical social issues in different societies.
- 4). Analyze how social science researchers study a society and communicate their research to educated readers

Grading Policy

Course requirements

In this class, students are working in groups for most of the assignments (except for the exams). The groups will be decided in the first class, and then it is up to the group members to withdraw or change to another group.

Students will watch video talks at the beginning of sections and sub-sections. we'll also watch movies, documentaries, and TV news excerpts in addition to weekly readings and lecture notes.



Grading Policy

Exams	50%
Group Assignments	20%
Journal Article Summary and Presentations	20%
Class Participation	10%

Grading Scale is as follows:

Number grade	Letter grade	GPA
90-100	A	4
85-89	A-	3.7
80-84	B+	3.3
75-79	B	3
70-74	B-	2.7
67-69	C+	2.3
65-66	C	2
62-64	C-	1.7
60-61	D	1
≤59	F (Failure)	0



Class Schedule

Date	Day	Topics	Chapter
July 15 Monday	1	Introduction	<i>Gamer Chapter 1 Page 1 – 18</i>
July 16 Tuesday	2	China: A Geographic Preface	<i>Gamer Chapter 2 Page 19-38</i>
July 17 Wednesday	3	The Historical Context	<i>Gamer Chapter 3 Page 39-78</i>
July 18 Thursday	4	Chinese Politics	<i>Gamer Chapter 4 Page 79-134</i>
July 19 Friday	5	Chinese Corruption Exam 1 Review	Assigned Journal Paper Take-home Exam
July 22 Monday	6	China's Economy	<i>Gamer Chapter 5 Page 135-178</i> Exam 1 due before class time
July 23 Tuesday	7	China Beyond the Heartland	<i>Gamer Chapter 6 Page 179-234</i>
July 24 Wednesday	8	International Relations	<i>Gamer Chapter 7 Page 235-276</i>
July 25 Thursday	9	Population Growth and Urbanization	<i>Gamer Chapter 8 Page 277-308</i>
July 26 Friday	10	Population Growth and Urbanization Exam 2 Review	Assigned Journal Paper Take-home Exam
July 29 Monday	11	China's Environmental Problems	<i>Gamer Chapter 9 Page 309-336</i> Exam 2 due before class time
July 30 Tuesday	12	Family, Kinship, Marriage, and Sexuality	<i>Gamer Chapter 10 Page 337-366</i> <i>From the Soil Chapter 6 Page 80-86</i>



July 31 Wednesday	13	Women and Development	<i>Gamer Chapter 11 Page 367-404</i> <i>From the Soil Chapter 7 Page 87-93</i>
August 1 Thursday	14	Religion	<i>Gamer Chapter 12 Page 445-488</i> <i>From the Soil Chapter 8 Page 94-100</i>
August 2 Friday	15	Literature and Popular Culture	<i>Gamer Chapter 13 Page 337-366</i> <i>From the Soil Chapter 5 Page 60-79</i>
August 5 Monday	16	Trends and Prospects	<i>Gamer Chapter 14 Page 489-506</i>
August 6 Tuesday	17	Special Characteristics of Rural Society	<i>From the Soil Chapter 1-3 Page 37-59</i>
August 7 Wednesday	18	Consanguinity and Regionalism	<i>From the Soil Chapter 12-14 Page 120-140</i>
August 8 Thursday	19	Rural Society	<i>From the Soil Chapter 9-11 Page 101-119</i>
August 9 Friday	20	Final Exam	