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/department-learning-goals

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

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
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
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
Students will read one or the other of the following:
10/10 – Week Five – Socioeconomic Change
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
-- “China’s Last Gunslingers.” National Geographic July 6, 2013.
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
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
Film (view in class): Tongzhi in Love 2008 30 mins. 10-2269

11/7 – Week Nine – Changing Sexual Norms
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
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.
Film: (view before class at 1 PM): Made in China 200710-1906 53 mins.
Film (in class): Out of Phoenix Bridge 1997 10-2272 110 mins:
Film (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

12/5 – Week Thirteen – Migrant Workers

12/12 – Week Fourteen – Inequalities and Wrap-Up
FINAL QUIZ AT BEGINNING OF CLASS
Film (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)