

EALC 121 Introduction to Contemporary China

Class Meetings: T R 11:00AM - 12:15PM

Wescoe 4022

Fall 2017

INSTRUCTOR

Prof. H. Faye Xiao, PhD, Office: Wescoe 2109, Email: hxiao@ku.edu

Office Hours: M W 10:30 – 11:30am and by appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course offers an overview of contemporary Chinese culture and society since the “Economic Reform and Opening Up” launched in 1978, through the study of changes in politics, the economy, society, culture, and everyday life in China. The course is taught in English. No prior knowledge of Chinese language is required. Global knowledge, cross-cultural consciousness, and communicational skills in an academic setting will be developed through a series of classroom activities, writing assignments, quizzes, and presentations.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS

Michael Dillon. *Contemporary China: An Introduction*. Routledge, 2008. 1st edition.

Supplementary readings can be found on the course website. Please print out assigned readings and bring the hard copies to class so that all of us can locate ourselves on the same page when we have class discussion.

REQUIREMENTS AND POLICIES

Students are required to complete assigned readings and participate actively in class discussion. Excused absences, extensions on assignments and makeup for conflict exams will be allowed only if timely, complete documentation of the reason for which these accommodations are needed is provided.

It is also every student’s responsibility to check email and Blackboard announcements on a daily basis to receive updates about the class!

For each unexcused absence, your attendance grade will be lowered by 1 point! For each violation of class behavior code (including being late to class, using electronic gadgets, surfing online, sleeping, reading non-class related materials, and so on), your participation grade will be lowered by 0.5 point!

GRADING:***Scale for the final grade:***

	B+ =87↑	C+ =77↑	D+ =67↑	F =60↓
A =93↑	B =83 ↑	C =73 ↑	D =63 ↑	
A- =90 ↑	B- =80↑	C- =70↑	D- =60 ↑	

Your grades in this course are determined by four categories of performance:

1. Attendance and Participation 30%

2. Mock Interview (10%)

Students will be paired and asked to interview each other about readings and films screened in class. An interview sheet will be distributed then.

3. Quizzes (5% X 4)

4. Final Project, due on Dec. 14 (30%)* and Presentation (10%)

Your final project should be an annotated bibliography focusing on any aspect of contemporary China. This is an opportunity for you to delve more deeply into a topic that interests you. Students are expected to read, summarize, compare, and provide thoughtful comments on a collection of 4-5 news articles and that of 2-3 academic articles.

***Without consultation in advance or an official document shown a reasonable excuse, late submission will be penalized with a grade letter down. NO make-up allowed for missed classes, quizzes and presentations.**

STUDENTS WITH DIABILITIES

Any student with a documented disability needing academic adjustments or accommodations is requested to speak with Prof. Xiao as soon as possible.

ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT

“As with any community, the University has established standards of conduct for its members. As members of the University community, students are expected to adhere to all published rules, regulations, and policies. Students are also members of the Lawrence community and are obligated to the laws of the city, county, state, and nation.”

For more information, please check the university's legal code about academic misconduct:

<http://policy.ku.edu/governance/USRR#art2sect6>

Note: *Anonymous* student work in this course may be collected, archived and analyzed for the purpose of assessing student learning and program evaluation. Occasionally, student work may also be used *anonymously* in class for instructional purposes. Additionally, student work may also be used for in-class group activities assigned by the instructor,

including quizzes, workbook/textbook homework and other assignments, for the purpose of team grading, peer editing and team handing-out of homework materials (excluding graded paragraphs, tests, midterm and final exams). If you object to your oral or written work being used in this manner, please notify your instructor in writing.

Schedule

(Subject to adjustment due to teaching and learning needs)

Week 1 Orientation

8/22 Self-Introduction

8/24 “Making Sense: What is ‘China’?”

Week 2 Economic Reform and Grassroots Democracy

8/29 “Economic Growth and the Changing Economy” (Dillon)

8/31 “Government and Politics” (Dillon)

Week 3 Urban China

9/5 “Urban and Industrial Economy” (Dillon)

9/7 Quiz 1

Week 4 Rural China

9/12 “Rural and Urban Social Change” (Dillon)

9/14 Mu Aiping. “To Have a Son: The One-Child Family Policy and Economic Change in Rural China” in *Women of China: Economic and Social Transformation*. New York: St. Martin’s Press, 1999.

Debate: Should the “One Child Policy” be carried on?

Week 5 Changing Family

9/19 Martin King Whyte “Filial Obligations in Chinese Families: Paradoxes of Modernization” in *Filial Piety: Practice and Discourse in Contemporary East Asia*. Stanford University Press, 2004.

9/21 Yunxiang Yan. “Elderly Support and the Crisis of Filial Piety” in *Private Life under Socialism: Love, Intimacy, and Family Change in a Chinese Village, 1949-1999*. Stanford University Press, 2003.

Debate: What is filial piety? Shall we carry on the tradition in today’s world?

Week 6 Martial Arts and Transnational Chinese Cinema

9/26 Quiz 2!

9/28 Film: *Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon*

Kwai-Cheung Lo. "Tigers Crouch and Dragons Hide in the New Trans-Chinese Cinema." In *Chinese Face/Off: The Transnational Popular Culture of Hong Kong*. University of Illinois Press, 2005.

Week 7 Education and Health

10/3 "Education and Health" (Dillon)

10/5 David Zweig. "Dollars, Scholars, and Fevers: The Political Economy of Educational Internationalization." in *Internationalizing China: Domestic Interests and Global Linkages*. Cornell University Press, 2002.

Week 8 Contemporary Chinese Literature and Art

10/10 Yu Hua. "One Kind of Reality," *China in Ten Words* (excerpts)

Questions: Why "one kind" of reality? What Western influences can you find in post-Mao Chinese literature?

10/12 Spencer Museum Tour

What common qualities do you perceive between contemporary Chinese literature and art? Do you perceive cultural elements and themes different from and/or similar to those in contemporary American literature and art?

*** 10/14-10/17 Fall Break!**

Week 9

10/19 *Sky Ladder*: Chinese Art under Globalization

Week 10 Gender and Women

10/24 Quiz 3

10/26 "Gender and Modernization" (Dillon)

Week 11 Media and Youth

10/31 Chun Sue. "Born at the Wrong Time"

11/2 Jonathan Landreth. "'Super Girl' Broadcast Sets Ratings Mark." *The Hollywood Reporter* (August 28, 2005); Susan Jakes. "Li Yuchun: Loved for Being Herself." *Time Asia* (October 10, 2005) 15.

Week 12 Sports

11/7 Film: *One Man's Olympics*

11/9 Susan Brownell *Beijing's Games: What the Olympics Mean to China* (excerpts).
Rowman & Littlefield, 2008.

Debate: Should the Olympics add martial arts as a formal game?

Week 13 Food Culture

11/14 Yunxiang Yan. "Of Hamburgers and Social Space" in *The Consumer Revolution in Urban China*. University of California Press, 2000.

11/16 Film: *Eat Drink Man Woman*

Week 14 Wrap-Up and Reflection

11/21 End-of-Semester Review and Mock Interview

*** 11/22-11/26 Thanksgiving Vacation!**

Week 15 Final Project

11/28 Quiz 4!

11/30 Presentation

Week 16 Final Project

12/5 Presentation

12/7 Presentation

Dec. 14, Final Project Due!