

Sample Discussion Questions I:**Yunxiang Yan “Of Hamburger and Social Space: Consuming McDonald’s in Beijing”**

1. Why do you go to McDonald’s? Can you describe your dining experience in a McDonald’s restaurant?
2. What do you think of Allen Shelton’s argument that “restaurants as a theater can shape customers’ thoughts and actions”? Do you have any eating out experience that can support or challenge this argument?
3. According to Yan, what factors contribute to McDonald’s huge success in Beijing? Which social groups go to McDonald’s? How about in the States?
4. What strategies do local Chinese fast-food restaurants deploy to compete with American-style fast-food chains? Do they work?

Sample Discussion Questions II:**Martin Whyte "Filial Obligations in Chinese Families"**

1. According to the reading, what are the patterns of filial support in Taiwan and PRC? How does modernization modify the patterns in both places?
2. What does "networked family" mean? Which side of the Taiwan Strait has greater traditionalism, Taiwan or PRC? Why?
3. Do you see similar patterns of filial support in the United States? How are old people supported in the United States? What do you think of it in comparison to the Chinese way? Any examples or personal experiences to support your point?
4. Do you think we should continue practicing filial piety in today's world? Does your opinion change after watching the film Eat Drink Man Woman?

Sample Discussion Questions III:

Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon Questions (Dir. Ang Lee, 2000)

1. How do characters (such as Li Mubai, Yu Shu Lien, Jen, and Jade Fox) embody the yin/yang dynamics in the Taoist philosophy? How do they deviate from gender stereotypes that you normally find in Hollywood action films (dominated by male superheroes who save the world and the female victim)?
2. After watching the film and doing the reading, what is your understanding of the Chinese way of gendering male/female? Is it similar to or different from the American way? Any examples or personal experiences to support your point?
3. According to the reading "Tigers Crouch and Dragons Hide in the New Trans-Chinese Cinema," how is this film transnational? Why did Ang Lee say: "To be more Chinese you have to be Westernized"? (p. 183) In your opinion, what makes this film well-received in America? How would it help American audiences to develop a more nuanced understanding of Chinese culture and history?

Sample Discussion Questions IV:

Mass Media and Youth Culture

1. Contemporary Chinese youth culture is characterized by constant transnational flows of commodities, icons, and values. Give three examples of its exchange and interaction with Western culture in Chun Sue's writing "Born at the Wrong Time."
2. What was the most popular Chinese TV show in 2005? Why did Li Yuchun win the first place, according to the *Time* article? Have you seen a similar cultural phenomenon in America?
3. Both Chun Sue and Li Yuchun are singletons (only child) belonging to the ME generation (those who were born after 1980s). How are they different from the gendered expectations for girls as stipulated in "Growing Up Female"? Do they fit your assumptions about gender roles in Chinese society?
4. What did you learn about Chinese youth culture from the readings? Any challenges to general stereotypes of Chinese culture and society? Any similarities with American youth culture?