

Chinese Society and Culture

Course Code:	<i>SOCI130137</i>
Course Title:	<i>Chinese Society and Culture</i>
Credit:	<i>2</i>
Instructor Name:	<i>YU Hai, Hu Anning</i>
E-Mail:	<i>yuhai_1998@yahoo.com</i> <i>huanning@fudan.edu.cn</i>

Staff of the Course

Course Instructor

- Yu Hai, Professor, Department of Sociology, Fudan University
yuhai_1998@yahoo.com

(M) 13321859728; (H) 65304777; (O) 55665380 (Rm. 929 in Art and Literature Building)

<http://www.oldssdpp.fudan.edu.cn/yuhai>

- Hu Anning, Professor, Department of Sociology, Fudan University
huanning@fudan.edu.cn

Teaching Assistant

- Li jiaxing, Department of Sociology, Fudan University
14110730005@fudan.edu.cn

(M) 15121030535

Time: TBA

Classroom: TBA

Objective of Course

This course aims to familiarize students with a number of themes about Chinese society and culture. As the rapid development and comprehensive social transition in China has increasingly been a global foci, it is necessary, for both native Chinese and foreigners, to better understand the social, cultural and political forces that underpin China's unique development trajectory and the current situation. In turn, such an understanding would further call for a process of learning an array of key notions and conceptual tools that will be methodically introduced and explicated throughout the semester.

Course Description

The content of this course consists of two components:

The first component, which occupies most lectures, addresses various aspects of Chinese society and culture. Specifically, we address some particular topics that relate to Confucian teachings, guanxi practices in Chinese's daily life, historical transition from Confucian to Maoist, and the comparison between Mao Era and Deng Era, the spiritual world of traditional Chinese society, and introduction to some major religions in Reform-Era China. These topics concern the most significant ones in the general sociology of China, thus serving to familiarize students, both domestic and international ones, with the present cultural, political, economic, and societal states of China.

The second component involves lectures focusing on Shanghai. By all measures, Shanghai is a unique place in China and to better understand Chinese society, especially the potential future development path, it is always necessary to learn more

about this metropolis. In this part, lectures will introduce the native Shanghainese culture, the formation and features of Shanghainese identity, and anecdotes pertaining to the history of Shanghai, to name a few. To be sure, these topics cannot exhaustively cover every aspect of this big city, but could set the stage for deeper explorations and investigations.

Course Evaluation

- **Attendance and class participation– 10%**

Attendance to lectures and fieldtrips is required for all students. Please inform the TA in advance if you want to ask for a leave due to eligible excuses.

- **Yuhai’s assignments: (1) a 1500-word essay titled “Shanghai**

Impression”-20%. Based your own observation, critical thinking and reflection in the field work in Shanghai. Empirical experiences are highly valued throughout the course. By fieldwork as well as observation, students will see the city through your own eyes. The reflection over first hand empirical experiences will be included in the paper. (2) **Pictures during your stay in Shanghai—20%**. You may take a lot pictures during your stay in Shanghai, please pick 10 of them and tell us what the most impressive things in Shanghai are. Write at least 50 words of explication below each picture.

Instruction: You can choose any scenes, any people or any aspects of the city life. But you will have to tell us 1. Why you choose these pictures. 2. (If you are a foreign student) What kind of difference or common point between Shanghai and your city you’ve got from the picture? 3. (If you are a Chinese student) What aspect of the city life does this picture remind you? 4. Any pictures you provide as

the assignment must be taken by yourself. The pictures from other resources would be taken as plagiarism ones.

- **Hu Anning's assignment: a 2000-word essay-50%**. Each student must choose one subject about Chinese religions and write an essay of about 2,000 words. This paper does not have to follow the structure of a formal academic article. Students can choose a topic such as a explaining a terminology in Chinese religions, describing a particular Chinese religious phenomenon, addressing an international comparison of religions between China and other civilizations, etc. You may choose one of the reflection questions listed below, but it is not required. The due time of this assignment is listed in the time table.
- **Hard copies are required for all three assignments.**

Reading materials

You can download some reading materials at:

1、 email account: luckyiaoyao@126.com Password: ssdpp2016

2、 <http://pan.baidu.com/s/1pKrSVjH> Password: ipvy

Some other reading materials can be accessible via the library serve. Call numbers are provided.

Teaching Schedule

Lecture 1 by Yu Hai: Course orientation and theme lecture: From Confucian China to Maoist China.

Reading List

- CHEN Na.2016. Revival of Confucianism and Reconstruction of Chinese Identity. Studies in Chinese Religions (Forthcoming).
- Wu, Shufang. 2015. "Modernizing" Confucianism in China: A Repackaging of Institutionalization to Consolidate Party Leadership. Asian Perspective 39: 301-324.
- Paul McDonald. 2011. Maoism versus Confucianism: ideological influences on Chinese business leaders. Journal of Management Development 30: 632 - 646.
- DANIEL A. BELL. 2010. From Communism to Confucianism: China's Alternative to Liberal Democracy. New Perspectives Quarterly 27: 18 - 27.
- Xie Xialing. 1996. Chinese Society is a Ethical Society. Studies in sociology.
- Yanjie Bian. 2002. Chinese Social Stratification and Mobility. Annual Review of Sociology 28:91-116.

Reflection Questions

Confucian China or Maoist China, which period has more influence on the temporary China?

Do you think Confucianism still have appeal to ordinary Chinese? How do Confucianism influence on China?

Lecture 2 by Yu Hai: Globalizing Shanghai (Field Study).

Reading List

- Tingwei Zhang: Striving To Be A global City From Below: The Restructuring of Shanghai's urban Districts. From Xiangming Chen, Shanghai Rising, 2009
- Fulong Wu: Globalization, Place Promotion and Urban Development in Shanghai, Journal of Urban Affairs, Vol.25, No.1, pp55-78, 2003.
- Shahid Yusuf and Weiping Wu: Pathways to a world city, Urban Studies, Vol. 39, No.7, 1213-1240, 2002

Yehua Dennis Wei, Chi Kin Leung, Jun Luo. Globalizing Shanghai: Foreign Investment and Urban Restructuring. *Habitat International*, 2006(30): 231~244

Reflection Questions

How do you think about the strategy of Globalizing Shanghai as a national strategy?

Is it necessary to preserve the tradition of a city? What is the feasible way to preserve the tradition of a city?

Lecture 3 by Hu Anning: Understanding Shanghainese Culture.

Reading List

- Bao, Yaoming. 2008. Shanghai Weekly: Globalization, Consumerism, and Shanghai Popular Culture. *Inter-Asia Cultural Studies* 9: 557-566.
- He, Shenjing. 2010. New-Build Gentrification in Central Shanghai: Demographic Changes and Socioeconomic Implications. *Population, Space, and Place* 16, 345–361.
- Lu, Hanchao. 2002. Nostalgia for the Future: The Resurgence of an Alienated Culture in China. *Pacific Affairs* 75: 169-186.
- Ren, Xuefei. 2008. Forward to the Past: Historical Preservation in Globalizing Shanghai. *City & Community* 7: 23-43.
- Wang, Jun and Stephen Siu Yu Lau. 2009. Gentrification and Shanghai's New Middle-Class: Another Reflection on the Cultural Consumption Thesis. *Cities* 26:57–66.

Reflection Questions

What do you think about the gentrification in Shanghai? Do you think gentrification is a global trend (e.g. the gentrification of the capital cities in your country)?

Nostalgia can be witnessed in many parts of China. Did you notice similar nostalgia in your country? What are the concrete activities?

Lecture 4 by Hu Anning: Understanding Shanghainese.

Reading List

Farrer, James. 2009-2010. Shanghai Bars: Patchwork Globalization and Flexible Cosmopolitanism in Reform-Era Urban-Leisure. *Chinese Sociology and Anthropology* 42: 22–38.

Farrer, James. 2010. ‘New Shanghailanders’ or ‘New Shanghainese’: Western Expatriates’ Narratives of Emplacement in Shanghai. *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies* 36:1211-1228.

Yang, Xiong. 2003. A Survey on the Professional Life of White-Collar Youth in Shanghai. *Chinese Education and Society* 35: 36-52.

Yip, Ngaiming. 2012. Walled without Gates: Gated Communities in Shanghai. *Urban Geography* 33: 221-236.

Yu, Hai. The Production of Space and the Distribution of Right-of-way.

Reflection Questions

Do you think identifying with hometown city or metropolis common in your society?

The stereotype of Shanghainese might not stand for the individual cases, what do you think about the characteristics of Shanghainese based on your personal life?

Lecture 5 by Hu Anning: Guanxi and Confucianism.

Reading List

- Guthrie, Douglas. 1998. The Declining Significance of Guanxi in China's Economic Transition. *The China Quarterly* 154: 254-282.
- Hom, Peter W. and Zhixing Xiao. 2011. Embedding Social Networks: How Guanxi Ties Reinforce Chinese Employees' Retention. *Organizational Behavior and Human Decision Processes* 116: 188–202.
- Li, Ling. 2011. Performing Bribery in China: Guanxi-Practice, Corruption with a Human Face. *Journal of Contemporary China*20: 1–20.
- Obukhova, Elena. 2012. Motivation vs. Relevance: Using Strong Ties to Find a Job in Urban China. *Social Science Research* 41: 570–580.
- Peng, Yusheng. 2010. When Formal Laws and Informal Norms Collide: Lineage Networks versus Birth Control Policy in China. *American Journal of Sociology* 116: 770-805.
- Wolf, Arthur P. 1974. Gods, Ghosts, and Ancestors. Pp. 131-182 in *Religion and Ritual in Chinese Society*, edited by Arthur P. Wolf. Stanford: Stanford University Press.

Reflection Questions

Do you have a counterpart of Chinese guanxi in your country?

What are the similarities and differences between Chinese guanxi and the Western counterpart?

What are the positive and negative social functions of guanxi in your mind?

Confucianism appears to be more and more popular in Western societies, do you think so? If yes, why?

Lecture 6 by Yu Hai: Modern China: From Zedong Mao to Xiaoping Deng.

Reading List

- Franklin Men, Jun Qian and Meijun Qian. 2007. China's Financial System: Past, Present, and future. Ssrn Electronic Journal.
- Loren Brandt and Thomas G. Rawski. 2008. China's Great Economic Transformation. Cambridge University Press.
- Jonathan Clark. 2002. The Danwei as a Means of Political and Practical Collective Action in Modern Chinese Society. Neighborhood Association Research.
- Dickson B.J. 2007. Integrating Wealth and Power in China: The Communist Party's Embrace of the Private Sector. The China Quarterly.
- Emily Hannum et al. 2008. Education in the Reform Era. Cambridge: *China's Great Economic Transformation*.
- Thomas W. Dunfee and Danielle E. Warren. 2001. Is Guanxi Ethical A Normative Analysis of Doing Business in China. Journal of Business Ethics 32: 191-204.
- Victor Nee and Rebecca Matthews. 1996. Market transition and societal transformation in reforming state socialism. Annual Review of Sociology 22:401-35.
- Ching Kwan Lee. 2002. From the specter of Mao to the spirit of the law: Labor insurgency in China. Theory and Society 31:189-228.
- Yunxiang Yan. 2005. Of Hamburger and Social Space: Consuming McDonald's in Beijing. Cultural Politics of Food & Eating A Reader 80-103.
- Andrew G. Walder. 1983. Organized Dependency and Cultures of Authority in Chinese Industry. The Journal of Asian Studies 43:51-76.

Reflection Questions

How to evaluate the contributions of the two leaders toward the development of China?

How to evaluate the relationship between China and the outer world in The Post-Mao China?

Lecture 7 by Hu Anning: The Spiritual World of Traditional Chinese.

Reading List

Goossaert, Vincent. 2005. State and Religion in Modern China: Religious Policy and Scholarly Paradigms. Paper presented at the 50th Anniversary of the Institute of Modern History, Academia Sinica, Taipei.

[<http://hal.archives-ouvertes.fr/docs/00/10/61/87/PDF/Paradigms.pdf>]

Vermander, Benoit. 2009. Religious Revival and Exit from Religion in Contemporary China. China Perspectives.

[<http://chinaperspectives.revues.org/4917>]

Lu, Yunfeng. 2012. Understanding the Rise of Religion in China. Chinese Sociological Review 45(2): 3-7.

[<http://web.a.ebscohost.com/ehost/detail/detail?sid=5ddb1d1-956f-40b3-bdd9-86fde18c3740%40sessionmgr4003&vid=0&hid=4104&bdata=Jmxhbmc9emgtY24mc2l0ZT1laG9zdC1saXZl#db=aph&AN=87441557>]

Reflection Questions

How do you understand the meaning of soul in Chinese culture?

What are the differences and similarities between the Western understanding and the Oriental understanding of religion?

Do you think it possible for a religious follower to study religion in a neutral way? Why?

How do you understand the theory of Yin and Yang and the theory of the five elements?

Lecture 8 by Hu Anning: Native Religions I.

Reading List

Tim, Laichi. 2003. Daoism in China Today, 1980 – 2002. Religion in China Today. New York: Cambridge University Press.

[Library Call No.: B928.2 /R382R]

Overmyer, Daniel. 1986. Chapter 2. In Religions of China, the World as a Living System. San Francisco: Harper.

[Library Call No.: B928.2 /O96 /E]

Yang, Der-Ruey. 2012. New Agents and New Ethos of Daoism in China Today. Chinese Sociological Review 45(2): 48-64.

[<http://web.a.ebscohost.com/ehost/detail/detail?vid=3&sid=a77a78b9-569e-4944-a976-595c05a8abec%40sessionmgr4003&hid=4104&bdata=Jmxhbmc9emgtY24mc2l0ZT1laG9zdC1saXZl#db=aph&AN=87441559>]

Reflection Questions

What are the positive effects of Taoist practices in the modern world?

Is Taoist practices popular in your home country/hometown? What are the reasons for its popularity / non-popularity in your opinion?

Is traditional Chinese medicine popular in your home country/hometown?

What are the reasons for its popularity / non-popularity in your opinion?

If you have some experience of Chinese Taoism, please describe it.

Why is Daoism not as popular as before in China?

Lecture 9 by Hu Anning: Native Religions II.

Reading List

Overmyer, Daniel. 1986. Chapter 2. In Religions of China, the World as a Living System, San Francisco: Harper.[Library Call No.: B928.2 /O96 /E]

Birnbaum, Raoul.2003. Buddhism China at the Century's Turn. In Religion in China Today. New York: Cambridge University Press.[Library Call No.: B928.2 /R382R]

Ji, Zhe. 2012. Chinese Buddhism as a Social Force: Reality and Potential of Thirty Years of Revival. *Chinese Sociological Review* 45 (2): 8-26.
[<http://web.a.ebscohost.com/ehost/detail/detail?sid=a77a78b9-569e-4944-a976-595c05a8abec%40sessionmgr4003&vid=0&hid=4104&bdata=Jmxhbmc9emgtY24mc2l0ZT1laG9zdC1saXZl#db=aph&AN=87441560>]

Reflection Questions

How would you comment on the commercialization of Chinese Buddhism?

Is Buddhism popular in your home country/ hometown? Why?

If you have some experience of Chinese Buddhism, please describe it.

In your opinion, what role Buddhism might play in China?

Lecture 10 by Hu Anning: Christianity in China.

Reading List

- Bays, Daniel H. 2003. Chinese Protestant Christianity Today. *China Quarterly* 174: 488-504.
- Bruun, Ole. 1996. The Fengshui Resurgence in China: Conflicting Cosmologies between State and Peasantry. *The China Journal* 36: 47-65.
- Dean, Kenneth. 2003. Local Communal Religion in Contemporary South-East China. *The China Quarterly* 174: 338-358.
- Fan, Lizhu. 2003. Popular Religion in Contemporary China. *Social Compass* 50: 449-457.
- Potter, Pitman B. 2003. Belief in Control: Regulation of Religion in China. *China Quarterly* 174: 317-337.
- Smith, Steve A. 2006. Local Cadres Confront the Supernatural: The Politics of Holy Water in the PRC, 1949-1966. *The China Quarterly* 188: 999-1022.

Tsai, Lily L. 2007. Solidary Groups, Informal Accountability, and Local Public Goods Provision in Rural China. *The American Political Science Review* 101(2): 355-372.

Yang, Fenggang. 2005. Lost in the Market, Saved at McDonald's: Conversion to Christianity in Urban China. *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion* 44:423-441.

Reflection Questions

What are the social functions of religion in your society?

What are the similarities and differences between Chinese folk religion and commonly practiced Tarot, Fortune-telling using a crystal ball, and horoscope?