Course Title: Social Stratification and Inequality in China

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Market oriented reform from 1978 has changed Chinese society fundamentally. This course will explore various aspects of social life before and after the reform, focusing on the stratification and inequality in social lives. First, we will quickly review the general picture of social stratification process in China before and after the reform. Then we will examine the social structure in rural and urban societies, paying attention to two systems that are essential to the stratification order in Chinese society: the Hukou and work-unit. We will also examine how market transition transforms the family life and women’s role and status in China.

This course is designed to provide a broad view of social stratification structure in Chinese society. By the end of the course, students should be able to (1) understand the basic structure of Chinese society, and (2) critically think and discuss about the social causes and consequences of changes in stratification and inequality. Your careful reading and participation are very important.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

The final grade will consist of four components: class participation and discussion/five summaries, two short papers, and one research project.

Class Participation and Discussion (30%)

The course will follow a presentation-lecture-discussion format. Students are expected to attend all classes. To make sure that all students come to class prepared for discussion, students are required to submit two-page, double-spaced summary and comment on the assigned readings (can focus on two assigned readings, one book chapter can be counted as one reading) by midnight (11:59pm, Beijing Time) of Wednesday every week for 5 weeks (your choice). The file submitted should be named as: your name_week #_summary_***.doc (e.g.: John_w2_summary.doc).

Short Papers (30%)

Besides 5 short summaries, there will be two equally weighted short papers (5-pages, double-space, font-12pt., margin-2.5cm). The short paper should be summary of at least four assigned readings of single topic/week (like literature review). The file submitted should be named as: your name_week #_paper_***.doc (e.g.: John_w2_paper.doc).

Summaries and papers should cover different topics (weeks) and be submitted through email. Please put “Chinese Society” as email subject.
Research Project (40%)

For the research project, the students are allowed to choose any topic that is related to social stratification and inequality issues in China and agreed upon with the instructor. Students are expected to develop their own ideas about the selected topics in the project and write a completed paper (10-pages, double-space). In addition, each student will present her/his research project to the class at the end of the semester. The final paper is due within a week after the last class session.

COURSE POLICIES

No any form of plagiarism and cheating will be tolerated. Please consult with http://www.plagiarism.org/ for the definition of plagiarism and proper methods of citation and attribution. Please consult with a paper published in American Sociological Review for citation style.

Necessary accommodations will be made for any documented physical or learning disability. Please inform the instructor by the first day of class.

RECOMMENDED READINGS


COURSE CALENDAR

Week 1
Introduction: from Revolution to Reform


Week 2
Economic Transition


Week 3
The Party and State


**Week 4**

Social Structure in Rural China


Film: The People's Republic of Capitalism: Joined at the Hip (Discovery Channel, 2008)

**Week 5**

Urban Society: Work Unit System & State-owned Enterprises


Film: The People’s Republic of Capitalism: from Mao-ism to ME-ism (Discovery Channel, 2008)

**Week 6**

Hukou System, Rural-urban Division and Migrant Workers

******The first short paper is due.******


Week 7
Social De-stratification and Re-stratification

Week 8
Gender and Family
Film: China Unbound: Women's Place, Sex and the Revolution (2006)

Week 9
Education System


Film: (BBC) *Chinese School (1)* (2008)
http://v.youku.com/v_show/id_XNDI2NzQwNjI0.html
http://v.youku.com/v_show/id_XNDI3MTE1MjY0.html
http://v.youku.com/v_show/id_XNDI3Mzc5MjYw.html
http://v.youku.com/v_show/id_XNDI1OTc2MzUy.html

**Week 10**

**Welfare System**


Film: *The People’s Republic of Capitalism: the Fast Lane* (Discovery Channel, 2008)

**Week 11**

**Collective Action and Resistance**


Week 12
Course Wrap-up

******The second short paper is due. ******

Project presentation
Final paper within a week after the last class session.