

ANT 252 Cultures of China

Spring, 2012

Tue, Thur 6:45-9:15

CSS 135

Instructor: Mr. Sean Graham

E-mail: sgraham@rollins.edu

Course Overview

This course is an introduction to the culture and society of China. We will consider the origins of culture, differences among the Chinese, fundamental structures and values at the core of Chinese cultural traditions and contemporary transformations under the impacts of both China's socialist state and global capitalism.

This course will also familiarize students with methods of research in anthropology, including participant observation and the identification of culture-specific conceptual categories. Upon completion of this course, a student will be able to (1) identify the philosophical bases of traditional Han Chinese cultures; (2) describe the connection between Confucian philosophy and the traditional and modern family systems; (3) define filial piety or *xiaoshun* 孝順; (4) describe the linkage between Daoism and the concept of *qi* 氣; (5) identify gender-related behavior patterns that foster equality or inequality between women and men in traditional China and other societies; (6) outline the major cultural exchanges that took place between China and the West in the 19th and 20th centuries; (7) explain how cultural, economic, and social patterns in modern China have helped shape contemporary Chinese society; (8) describe the basic features of the Chinese writing system and the significance of writing and calligraphy in Chinese society; and (9) identify China's major minority ethnic groups and describe the place that ethnicity plays in Chinese society.

This is an anthropology course and some basic principles of anthropology including the nature of culture and appropriate methods for studying culture will be covered. A complex society that has the historical depth and regional variety of China cannot be grasped through the simple listing of a set of culture traits, such as foods, clothing styles or religious beliefs. We will focus attention on those aspects of Chinese culture that are pervasive and also on those that have been most vividly brought to light as China has reacted to the pressures of colonialism and globalization, always keeping in mind that there is no single way of "being Chinese."

Texts

<i>The House of Lim</i> by Margery Wolf	(978-0133949735	\$33.60)
<i>Son of the Revolution</i> by Liang Heng and Judith Shapiro	(978-0394722740	\$16.60)
<i>Only Hope</i> by Vanessa Fong	(978-0804753302	\$21.95)

Additional readings will be available on Blackboard or on reserve at the Olin Library.

General Education Requirement

In accordance with the C requirement standards you will write two essays:

In your first essay you will explain how China's family system inculcates values relating to children's obligations to their parents and vice versa. In particular you should focus on an important feature of parent-child relations that have widespread ramifications in Chinese behavior. Then compare and contrast these Chinese patterns with corresponding patterns typical of American culture. Finally, consider some of the ways in which these contrasting cultural patterns (Chinese and American) might be evaluated: can one be said to be better than the other?

In your second essay you will describe gender relationships in China as these are depicted in scholarly sources such as the texts assigned for this course. You may focus either on Han Chinese or on a minority group, or you may reference more than one cultural tradition, Han or non-Han. The Confucian tradition and other minority group traditions are often described as catering to male interests, but what kinds of opportunities or sources of strength does your source describe that provide a means by which Chinese women can wield subversive power against male authority? How would you describe the balance of power between the genders in terms of what your author describes? Does this power relationship have implications for the lives of women and men in contemporary China? (either Mainland or Taiwan, your choice).

Academic Standards

You should expect that class assignments will require at least three hours outside of class for every hour in class. Budget your time accordingly. Don't let unexpected circumstances such as illnesses throw you off. Prepare ahead in completing your assignments so that even if personal or other events cut into your schedule, you will be able to hand everything in on time. **Be sure to refer to your Rollins email address regularly since assignments and other information will be sent to you at that address.**

Video and Test Make-us

Video and test make-ups are available with excused absences. You are responsible to contact Mrs. Byrd (hbyrd@rollins.edu or extension 2670) to schedule your missed video.

Blackboard

This class is available on Blackboard. Check the Assignments and Course Materials section of Blackboard regularly.

Grades

Grades will be based on three exams, each worth 20% of the course grade, plus two focus papers, quizzes and weekly response papers (10) making up 40% of the course grade.

A 93-100	A- 90-92	B+ 87-89	B 83-86	B- 80-82	C+ 77-79	C 73-76
C- 70-73	D+ 67-79	D 63-66	D- 60-62	F 0-59		

Attendance and Participation

The majority of this class will be discussion based. Your participation is crucial to an interesting and through-provoking class. All students are expected to participate in class discussion.

Attendance is expected at every class. Failure to attend class on an exam day without providing a valid excuse for an absence *beforehand* will result in a 0 for that exam grade.

The Academic Honor Code

Membership in the student body of Rollins College carries with it an obligation, and requires commitment to act with honor in all things. Because academic integrity is fundamental to the pursuit of knowledge and truth and is the heart of the academic life of Rollins College, it is the responsibility of all members of the College community to practice it and to report apparent violations.

The following pledge is a binding commitment by the students of Rollins College:

The development of the virtues of Honor and Integrity are integral to a Rollins College education and to membership in the Rollins College community. Therefore, I, a student of Rollins College, pledge to show my commitment to these virtues by abstaining from any lying, cheating, or plagiarism in my academic endeavors and by behaving responsibly, respectfully and honorably in my social life and in my relationships with others.

This pledge is reinforced every time a student submits work for academic credit. Students shall add to all papers, quizzes, tests, lab reports, etc., the following handwritten abbreviated pledge followed by their signature (on electronic submissions, a typed version is acceptable):

“On my honor, I have not given, nor received, nor witnessed any unauthorized assistance on this work.”

Plagiarism

You must distinguish clearly between your work and the work of others. To do otherwise may constitute plagiarism. The formal policy is: “If you fail to acknowledge borrowed material, then you are plagiarizing. Plagiarism is literary theft. When you copy the words of another, put those words inside quotation marks, and acknowledge the source with a footnote. When you paraphrase another’s words, use your own words and your own sentence structure, and be sure to use a footnote giving the source of the idea. A plagiarist often merely changes a few words or simply rearranges the words in the source.” (*Harbrace College Handbook*, p. 407) Please read Parish (1994) carefully for more information on plagiarism. <http://weber.ucsd.edu/~jmoore/courses/Parish.html>

COURSE OUTLINE

- Jan. 17** **Introduction to Anthropology and the History and Geography of China**
No assigned readings.
- Jan. 19** **Being Chinese**
1) Harell, Stevan “The Role of the Periphery in Chinese Nationalism” (elec. res.)
2) Diamond, Jared “Ch. 16: How China Became Chinese” (elec. res.)
- Jan. 24** **Chinese Language & Writing**
Wolf: pgs. 1-22
- Jan. 26** **Daoism, Buddhism & Folk Religion**
Wolf: pgs. 23-58
- Jan. 31** **Confucianism and the Traditional Family**
Wolf: pgs. 59-114
- Feb. 2** **Food, Medicine and Culture *with a capital C* (Or culture vs. 文化 *wenhua*)**
Wolf: pgs. 115-148
- Feb. 7** **EXAM I**
Hong Kong, Taiwan and Macao
- Feb. 9** **Social Upheaval: 1927-1976**
Heng & Shapiro: pgs. 3-71
- Feb. 14** **Modernization & the New Family System**
Heng & Shapiro: pgs. 72-147
- Feb. 16** **The End of Private Life: 1966-1976**
Heng & Shapiro: pgs. 148-216
- Feb. 21** **Gender and the New Conjuality**
Heng & Shapiro: pgs. 217-292
- Feb. 23** **EXAM II**
Ethnic Minorities
- Feb. 28** **Consumers and Tourists**
Fong: pgs. 1-68

Feb. 28 **Popular Culture, Media and Youth Culture**
Fong: pgs. 69-126

Mar. 1 **China and the World in the 21st Century**
Fong: 127-153

Spring Break March 4-11

Mar. 13 **Review**
Fong: pgs. 154-182

Mar. 15 **FINAL EXAM**

This outline is subject to change during the course of the semester. It is the responsibility of the student to keep up with any changes announced in class.