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UCLA 2009 Summer Travel Study Program–Guangzhou

Sociology 181 (4)

State and Society in China (4)

Program Director: Dr. Min Zhou, Professor of Sociology & Asian American Studies

Program Assistant: Sam Guo, UCLA Confucius Institute

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<http://summer.ucla.edu/> or UCLA International Education Office, Travel Study

Programs: <http://www.ieo.ucla.edu/TravelStudy/>

## **SOC 181**

### **State and Society in China**

June 29 - July 31, 2009 (six hours per week for five weeks)

[SOC181 (4 units) and SOC180C (4 units) are offered in this travel study program]

<http://www.ieo.ucla.edu/TravelStudy/Sociology-China/overview.htm>

### **Course Description**

This five-week summer travel program will provide a thematic overview of post-1949 society, economy, and politics in China, with emphasis on post-Cultural Revolution reform of China's state and society from 1979 to present. The course will introduce students to sociological theories of social change, market transition, development, globalization, and migration. In particular, we zoom in on the movements of people and capital in and around Guangzhou and other major metropolises to examine how the city and its residents are impacted by globalization, marketization, and migrations. Through intensive reading, classroom discussions, and field trips, students will explore urgent sociological issues emerging from drastic changes in economy and society of urban China.

The travel program will be based in Guangzhou, known as China's Southern Gateway to the world. Guangzhou is the provincial capital of Guangdong Province, is located north of the Pearl River Delta and neighbors Hong Kong and Macao. The city has a long history of 2,200 years, has the oldest port of foreign commerce and trade, is a major *qiaoxiang* (the homeland of Chinese overseas) of the centuries-old Chinese Diaspora, and has been on the forefront of post-Cultural Revolution economic, social, and cultural transformations from the very beginning of Deng Xiaoping's Open-Door policy. Examining causes and consequences of economic, political, and cultural changes and cutting-edge sociological issues in Guangzhou will enhance our understanding and appreciation of the 21<sup>st</sup>-century China.

Based on the case of Guangzhou, we will address a central question: How is the Chinese city redefined from a site of production, or collective consumption, to a node with global flows of people and capital? We look at the Special Economic Zone (SEZ) of Shenzhen and/or Zhuhai (two oldest SEZs designated by the Chinese government), a renowned

‘global manufacturing base’ in Dongguan (with the world’s highest concentration of five-star hotels and China’s third largest exporting region), and a prominent *qiaoxiang* in Zhongshan (Sun Yat-sen’s birthplace and a major sending region of Chinese emigrants to the United States), as well as at corporate office buildings, specialized commercial districts, upscale neighborhoods, migrant enclaves, urban slums, and emigrant sending villages. We will examine macro structural changes and micro cultural and behavioral changes by analyzing social relations between place and capital, between capital and labor, and among people of different socioeconomic backgrounds and observing the everyday life and relationships of local residents and migrants in public spaces, e.g., parks, streets, urban enclaves, and cultural amenities.

The course objective is to be achieved through a close examination of the economic, political, and cultural changes and behavioral changes in a variety of urban settings—the southern capital city of Guangzhou, the Special Economic Zones (SEZ) of Shenzhen and Zhuhai, and major migrant sending communities in the Pearl River Delta region—Zhongshan and Jiangmen—and an in-depth analysis of the political economy of post-socialist China as it relates to the rest of the world.

The course combines lecture and seminar formats, the participation of guest lecturers, class discussions (sometimes in small groups), and field trips. Students are expected to read intensively and actively participate in classes and field trips to various sites. Students will also be required to write an analytic term paper, which addresses one of the significant issues covered in the course. Short courses in survival Chinese will be available to all students enrolled in the program.

*Specific themes to be explored in the course:*

**Focus:** The redefinition of the city—from a site of production, or collective consumption, to a node with global flows of people and capital

**The state, politics, and policymaking:** How has the socialist state been transformed since 1949? What are the unique characteristics of China’s policy-making? What does it mean by development with a Chinese character?

**Economic and structural changes:** How do globalization, marketization, and migrations impact Chinese Cities? What has changed? What drives the change? What are the key mechanisms of change?

**Changes in social relations on the ground:** How have urban changes impacted the city and people who live and work in it? How do migrants and locals interact in their everyday lives? Regarding migrants to the city, what practices and processes define who is accepted as insiders and who is excluded as outsiders? What practices do migrant workers and migrant organizations adopt to establish claims to citizenship rights in the city?

**Emerging opportunities and constraints:** Behind the myth that “anything is possible,” what are the challenges and potential crisis in the era of rapid growth for urban China?

### **Week 1: China since 1949**

#### *Thematic topics:*

The formation of the socialist state: Governance and systems of control

Economic developments: Five-year plans

Political struggles

The Cultural Revolution

### **Week 2: Economic Reform and Market transition**

#### *Thematic topics:*

The market as the new emperor

Special Economic Zones (SEZ) and other industrial development zones

- The role of the state: economic policies
- State investments: development projects v. 'face' projects

Foreign direct investments

- Capital flows from the Chinese Diaspora
- Direct investment from multinational corporations
- Joint ventures

Uneven regional developments

Internal migration and labor struggles

### **Week 3: Economic and Structural Changes**

#### *Thematic topics:*

The state bureaucracy

- The rise of the "third sector" (i.e. non-governmental, non-profit associations) and its linkages with the state bureaucracy, transnational social movements and global corporations

Segmented labor markets

- State-owned enterprises v. global corporations
- Restructuring of the occupational structure: low- v. high-skilled labor
- Gender division of labor
- Changing paths to social mobility

Changing urban landscape

- Skyscrapers and specialized commercial and manufacturing centers
- High-rise apartments and gated communities
- Old v. new urban neighborhoods, *Chengzhongcun*, migrant enclaves, and urban slums

### **Week 4: Changes in social relations on the ground**

#### *Thematic topics:*

Changing demographics

- Diversity: people, languages/dialects
- Foreigners: Europeans v. other Asians, Africans
- New components of urban culture: Migrants/transients (young urban elite v. migrant workers) v. local residents (who are no longer uniquely privileged in terms of defining the city); elite v. ordinary urbanites; young v. old people; only-child generation; the poor and homeless

Changing cultural landscape

- Outsider/insider divide
- Symbolic representation: Place-based identities (e.g., Beijing, Shanghai, Shenzhen, as opposed to Guangzhou) v. class-based identities, e.g., (the nouveau riche, migrant workers (*min-gong*), and foreigners
- Entrepreneurial spirits
- Culture of consumption: cars, cell phones, foodways, lifestyles (social eating and eating out, karaoke bars, name brands, and pets)

Changing social relationships

- The notion of citizenship
- Social inclusion and exclusion

**Week 5: Emerging opportunities and challenges**

*Thematic topics:*

Educational growth and oversupply of highly skilled workers v. uneven high-tech, knowledge-intensive investments and developments

Labor shortages v. labor struggles

The emerging urban middle class v. the rising gap between rich and poor in the city and the countryside

The communist doctrine v. moral crisis

**Required Readings:**

An electronic reader compiled by Professor Min Zhou

Required readings include the following (to be modified):

Bian, Yanjie. 2001. "Guanxi Capital and Social Eating: Theoretical Models and Empirical Analyses." Pp. 275-95 in Nan Lin, Karen Cook, and Ronald Burt, eds., *Social Capital: Theory and Research*. Aldine de Gruyter.

Chen, F. 2006. "Privatization and Its Discontent in Chinese Factories." *China Quarterly* 185: 42-60.

Cheng, Joseph Y.S. Ngok Kinglun, and Philip Y.K. Cheng. "China's Overseas Chinese Policy in the Globalization Era: Challenges and Responses." [http://www.cityu.edu.hk/searc/CSEA\\_Workshop/CSEA\\_Workshop/PAPERS/SeptemberSymposium/JosephCheng\(Eng\\_rev\).pdf](http://www.cityu.edu.hk/searc/CSEA_Workshop/CSEA_Workshop/PAPERS/SeptemberSymposium/JosephCheng(Eng_rev).pdf)

Davis, Deborah S. 2005. "Urban Consumer Culture." *The China Quarterly* 183 (September): 677-694.

Davis, Deborah S. 2006. "Urban Chinese Homeowners as Citizen-Consumers." Pp. 281-299 in S. Garon and P. Maclachlan, eds., *The Ambivalent Consumer*. Cornell University Press.

Fan, Cindy. 2003. "Rural-Urban Migration and Gender Division of Labor in Transitional China." *Internal Journal of Urban and Regional Research* 27 (1).

Haila, Anne. 2007. "The Market as the New Emperor." *Internal Journal of Urban and Regional Research* 31 (1): 3-20.

Huang, Y. 2005. "From Work-Unit Compounds to Gated Communities: Housing Inequalities and Residential Segregation in Transitional Beijing." In L. Ma and F.

- Wu (eds.), *Restructuring the Chinese City: Changing Society, Economy and Space*. London: Routledge.
- Lee, Ching Kwan. 1995. "Engendering the Worlds of Labor: Women Workers, Labor Markets, and Production Politics in the South China Economic Miracle." *American Sociological Review* 60: 378-397.
- 2002. "Revisiting the South China Miracle." *Labor Studies Journal* 27 (2): 61-64.
- Lin, George C.S. 2007. "Peri-Urbanism in Globalizing China: A Study of New Urbanism in Dongguan." *Eurasian Geography and Economics* 47 (1): 28-53.
- Nee, Victor. 1989. "A theory of market transition: from redistribution to markets in state socialism." *American Sociological Review* 54: 663-681.
- 1996. "The emergence of a market society: changing mechanisms of stratification in China." *American Journal of Sociology* 101: 908-949.
- Pain, Rachel, Sue Grundy, Sally Gill, Elizabeth Towner, Geoff Sparks, and Kate Hughes. 2005. "So long As I Take My Mobile"; Mobile Phones, Urban Life, and Geographies of Young People's Safety." *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research* 29 (4).
- People's Daily. 2004. "Shenzhen to become China's 1st city without village & farmer." July 1.
- Pickvance, C. 2002. "State socialism, post-socialism and their urban patterns: theorizing the Central and Eastern European Experience." In *Understanding the city: contemporary and future perspectives*, ed. by Eade, J. and Mele, C. Oxford: Blackwell. pp. 183-203.
- Portes, Alejandro. 1995. "By Passing the Rules: The Dialectics of Labor Standards and Informalization in Less Developed Countries." 1994 Lefrak Lectureship, Urban Studies and Planning Program, University of Maryland.
- 1995b. "Contentious Science: The Forms and Functions of Trespassing." 1994 Lefrak Lectureship, Urban Studies and Planning Program, University of Maryland.
- Rawski, T. 1999. "Reforming China's Economy: What Have We Learned?" *China Journal* 41: 139-149.
- Saxenian, AnnaLee. 2003. "Government and Guanxi: The Chinese Software Industry in Transition." UC Berkeley.
- Szelenyi, Ivan. 2008. "A Theory of Transition." *Contemporary China*.
- Szelenyi, Ivan and Lawrence Peter King. 2006. "The Three Trajectories from Socialism to Capitalism." Paper presented at the International Roundtable "The Perceptions of China: Images of a Global Player," March 22-26, 2006, China Business Center, Hong Kong.
- Tian, Li. 2008. "The Chengzhongcun Land Market in China: Boon or Bane?—A Perspective on Property Rights." *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research* 32 (2): 282-304.
- Walder, A. and J. Oi. 1999. "Property Rights in the Chinese Economy: Contours of the Process of Change." In J. Oi and A. Walder, eds., *Property Rights and Economic Reforms in China*. Stanford, CA: Stanford University Press.
- Wang, J. 2001. "The State Question in Chinese Popular Cultural Studies." *Inter-Asian Cultural Studies* 2 (1): 35-52.
- Wang, F. and So, A.Y. 1994. "Economic reform and restratification in urban Guangdong." In S. K. Lau, M.K. Lee, P. S. Wan, and S. L. Wong (eds.), *Inequalities and Development:*

- Social Stratification in Chinese Societies*. Hong Kong: The Chinese University of Hong Kong Press: 301-328.
- Wu, Fulong. 2004. "Urban Poverty and Marginalization under Market Transition: The Case of Chinese Cities." *Internal Journal of Urban and Regional Research* 28 (2): 401-
- Yeh, A. G. O., Xu, X. Q. and Hu, H. Y. 1995. "The Social Space of Guangzhou City, China." *Urban Geography*. 16 (7): 595-621.
- Zhang, Li. 2002. "Spatiality and Urban Citizenship in Late Socialist China." *Public Culture* 14 (2): 311-34.
- Zhang, Li. 2008. "Private Homes, Distinct Lifestyles: Performing a New Middleclass." Pp. 23-40 in Li Zhang and Aihwa Ong (eds.), *Privatizing China: Socialism from Afar*. Connell University Press.
- Zhang, Shuguang. 2008. "Rethinking The Makeover of Urban Villages." *The Economic Observer Online*, October 14.
- Zhang, T. "Land Market Forces and the Government's Role in Sprawl." *Cities* 17 (2): 123-35.
- Zhao, Dingxin. 2005. "An Angle on Nationalism in China today - Attitudes among Beijing Students after Belgrade 1999." *China Quarterly*.
- Zhao, Dingxin. 2001. "China's Prolonged Stability and Political Future: Same Political System, Different Policies and Methods." *Journal of Contemporary China* 10: 427-44.
- Zhao, X.B. and C.S. Chow. 1998. "Disparities between social and economic development in Guangdong." *The Journal of Contemporary China* 7(19): 477-492.
- Zhou, Min and Guoxuan Cai. 2007. "Trapped in Neglected Corners of a Booming Metropolis: Patterns of Residence and Adaptation among Migrant Workers in Guangzhou." In John R. Logan and Susan S. Fainstein (eds.), *Urban China in Comparative Perspectives*. Oxford: Blackwell Publishing.
- Zhou, Min and John R. Logan. 1996. "Market Transition and the Commodification of Housing in Urban China." *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research* 20 (3): 400-421.
- Zhu, J. 2005. "A Transitional Institution for the Emerging Land Market in Urban China." *Urban Studies* 42 (8): 1369-90.

### **Recommended Readings:**

- Friedman, Thomas, L. 2005. *The World is Flat A Brief History of the Twenty-first Century*. Farrar, Straus & Giroux.
- Lee, Ching Kwan. 1998. *Gender and the South China Miracle: Two Worlds of Factory Women*. University of California Press.
- Logan, John R. Logan and Susan S. Fainstein (eds.). 2007. *Urban China in Comparative Perspectives*. Oxford: Blackwell Publishing.
- Szelenyi, Ivan. 1983. *Urban Inequality under State Socialism*. New York: Oxford University Press.
- Yan, Yunxiang. 2003. *Private Life under Socialism: Love, Intimacy, and Family Change in a Chinese Village, 1949-1999*. Stanford: Stanford University Press.
- Zhao, X.B. and Z.Y. Wan. 1995. "The Paths of Small Town Development in China: A Case Study in Dongguan, Guangdong." *Zhongguo Zhehui Kexue Jikan (Chinese Social*

*Science Quarterly* 11(2): 5-23. Reprinted by *Xing Hua Digest* 95(12): 159-162.

## **Grading**

Grading is based on attendance, reading memos and field notes, class participation and presentation, and the final term paper which is due on September 20. The program director reserves the right to vary this format.

### *Field trips:*

Day trip in Guangzhou

Day trip to Shenzhen (Special Economic Zone)

Day trip to Dongguan (Manufacturing industries)

Day trip to Jiangmen (*qiaoxiang*—traditional emigrant sending communities, including Taishan and Kaiping)

Day trip to Zhongshan, Zhuhai, and/or Macau

Optional: Post-class tours to Hong Kong or Shanghai, Beijing, and Xian

### *Schedule*

All schedules, itineraries, and group activities are subject to change at the discretion of the program director.