

CHES5001B Perspectives on Chinese Studies Issues in Contemporary China Stream

2020-21, Term 1

Lecture: Wednesday 9.30am - 11.15pm

Tutorials to be arranged separately

Conducted online (Zoom details TBC)

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Teaching Assistant: Cecilia Chan (cmceciliachan@cuhk.edu.hk)

Course description

This is a required course for all students on the Issues in Contemporary China (ICC) stream of the MA in Chinese Studies. It has two aims:

- (i) To enhance students' academic literacy and develop writing and research skills required to complete the MA at the Centre for China Studies. The course will focus particularly on writing literature reviews and book reports, as well as citation guidelines and research ethics (including regarding plagiarism).
- (ii) To engage a selection of the English-language literature on contemporary China, as a way of introducing debates across research into China's politics, society and international relations.

Learning outcomes

Upon completion of the course, students should:

1. Have improved their skills at academic writing, active reading, and critical thinking, in particular reviewing existing literature and understanding what is needed to produce a research paper to the standards required for the MA programme at CCS.
2. Be able to engage in informed discussion of issues in the study of contemporary Chinese politics, society and international relations, with reference to some of the major literature.

Learning activities

The course will be delivered through weekly interactive online lectures, tutorials, workshops and small-group discussions focused on course assignments (see schedule below).

Tutorials: Students will be divided into groups of five and each group will meet ten times during term according to a tutorial schedule distributed in Week 1. Tutorials will involve discussion of course content and readings and any other issues relating to the MA programme.

All learning activities will take place online using Zoom, unless face-to-face classes become possible.

Assessment and grading

Assessment will consist of four elements (no in-class assessment or exam):

1. Academic writing and citation exercises (20%). Two short exercises will be set for completion at home by **Wednesday 30 September**.
2. Book review (20%). Students should submit a review of around 800 words of one book on the course bibliography (available on Blackboard) by **Wednesday 14 October**.
3. Literature review of 2,500-3,000 words (50%) to be submitted by **Monday 14 December**.
4. Attendance and participation in lectures and tutorials (10%). Credit will be given for good questions and comments, and evidence that students have read the course readings.

All written assignments should include a word count and be submitted by email in PDF format by **6pm** on the date for submission. Late submission will be penalized. For Veriguide, assignment numbers should follow the order in the list above (e.g. literature review is assignment number 3). A hard copy of the signed Veriguide receipt should be given to the Teaching Assistant.

Further guidance on all assignments will be given in class at the beginning of term. For the literature review, students should review academic (secondary) literature relating to some aspect of contemporary China's politics, society, economy or international relations, based on reading five books or 20 articles (books and articles can both be used, with one book equivalent to four articles). Students are encouraged to select from the course bibliography for their review, and should consult some material not on that list. The literature review should be 2,500-3,000 words, including footnotes and bibliography. It will be graded on content, structure and organization, language and overall presentation, and references and citations. The criteria for a good literature review will be further discussed in class.

Students who are considering taking the Independent Study Project (CHES5201A) in Term 2 are encouraged to discuss their interests with the lecturer when deciding on the topic of their literature review. Please consult the CHES5201A course outline for details of the Independent Study Project.

Attention is drawn to University policy and regulations on honesty in academic work, and to the disciplinary guidelines and procedures applicable to breaches of such policy and regulations. Details may be found at http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/policy/academic_honesty/. With each assignment, students will be required to submit a signed declaration that they are aware of the policies, regulations and procedures.

Course readings

There are many books about contemporary China, and a course bibliography will be posted on Blackboard at the start of term, with a long menu from which students can choose books to review. We will discuss reading strategies in Week 1. Readings to assist with the research methodology lectures will be posted separately on Blackboard.

The following books may be particularly helpful (electronic copies are available through the CUHK Library):

- Brown, Kerry. *China's Dream: The Culture of Chinese Communism and the Secret Sources of its Power*. Cambridge: Polity, 2018.
- Cheek, Timothy, David Ownby and Joshua A. Fogel, eds. *Voices from the Chinese Century: Public Intellectual Debate from Contemporary China*. Columbia University Press, 2020.
- Economy, Elizabeth. *The Third Revolution: Xi Jinping and the New Chinese State*. Oxford: OUP, 2020.
- Gao Mobo. *Constructing China: Clashing Views of the People's Republic*. London: Pluto Press, 2018.
- Heilmann, Sebastian. *Red Swan: How unorthodox policy making facilitated China's rise*. Hong Kong: CUHK Press, 2018.
- Hung, Ho-fung. *The China Boom: Why China Will Not Rule the World*. New York: Columbia University Press, 2016.
- Lardy, Nicholas R. *The State Strikes Back: The End of Economic Reform in China?* Peterson Institute for International Economics, 2019.
- Pun Ngai. *Migrant Labor in China*. Cambridge, UK: Polity, 2016 (no e-copy in the library).

Lecture schedule

Unless otherwise stated, classes will be led by the lecturer for the course, Dr Tim Summers, and will last two hours. Additional recommended readings may be circulated in advance of class.

In Weeks 2, 5 and 9 there will be no lecture; instead each group will meet with the Lecturer or Teaching Assistant for workshops or discussion of progress with course assignments.

Week 1: Introduction (9 Sept.)

This class will discuss the course outline and requirements, the scope of 'issues in contemporary China', and the approach to be adopted in this programme.

Week 2: Academic literacy workshops (no lecture)

Students will participate in workshops on academic literacy, with a particular focus on paraphrasing and citation. To be conducted by the Teaching Assistant.

Academic writing and citation exercises will be distributed by the TA in Week 2.

Week 3: Studying contemporary China (23 Sept.)

This lecture will provide a further introduction to the study of 'issues in contemporary China'.

- Kevin J. O'Brien. "Speaking to Theory and Speaking to the China Field". *Issues & Studies* 54(4), 2018.
- Norman Stockman. "Working in No Man's Land: Between Sociology and Chinese Studies". *Journal of the British Association for Chinese Studies* 8(2), 2018.

Week 4: Academic literacy and research methods (30 Sept.)

This lecture will cover further discussion of academic literacy and what is needed to produce a good book review and literature. It will also give an overview of research methods.

To support discussions in weeks 2 and 4, recorded material on academic literacy and useful additional readings will be posted on Blackboard.

Week 5: Group discussions (no lecture)

Students will be required to meet (via Zoom) with the lecturer in small groups to begin preparation for literature reviews. A detailed schedule will be circulated in advance.

Week 6: Interpreting the rise of China (14 Oct.)

This class will discuss different interpretations of the rise of China.

Week 7: China and globalization (21 Oct.)

This class will examine the rise of China as an important feature of a period of intensified globalization, and identify what this means for understanding China's economy and business.

Week 8: Issues in Chinese politics and society (28 Oct.)

This class will discuss issues in the development of Chinese politics and society, highlighting different views in the literature.

Week 9: Group discussions (no lecture)

Instead of a lecture, students will meet in tutorial groups with the lecturer to discuss progress with literature reviews. Each student will have the opportunity to present their progress to a small group of peers, followed by discussion. A detailed schedule will be circulated in advance.

Week 10: China and international politics (11 Nov.)

This class will examine the implications of the rise of China for international politics, with a particular focus on US-China relations.

- Harding, Harry. 'Has U.S. China Policy Failed?' *The Washington Quarterly* 38(3), 2015, 95-122
- Alastair Iain Johnston. 'The Failures of the "Failure of Engagement" with China.' *The Washington Quarterly* 42(2), 2019, 99-114.

Week 11: Special topic (18 Nov.)

The lecturer will present his ongoing research into the 'Community of Shared Future for Humankind'.

Week 12: Are we living in a Chinese century? (25 Nov.)

This class will involve an extended class discussion around current debates about China's rise: is it the next superpower or a partial power?

Week 13: Conclusion (2 Dec.)

This class will review the main issues covered in the course, and discuss further topical issues in contemporary China.