CHES5135 State and Civil Society in Contemporary China

2020-21, Term 1, Thursdays 1:30-4:15pm
Venue: TBC

Lecturer: Dr. Stephan ORTMANN (ortmann.stephan@googlemail.com)
Teaching Assistant: TBC

This course debates the relationship between the state and civil society in contemporary China. The first part of the course reflects on different paradigms in which the evolving relationship has been studied. On the one hand, there has been a rise of contentious politics and pressure for fundamental change. This was met with some optimism about the potential effect of civil society on the democratization of the country. At the same time, however, others have argued that the state has effectively coopted the society and non-governmental organizations, which has enhanced the state’s ability to govern the country and has reduced the pressure for more fundamental political change. In the second half of the course, these debates will be placed in the context of various examples of the state-society relationship including the environmental movement, women’s rights movement, religious movements, and traditional as well as online media. Students will also be able to apply their knowledge to other cases in individual research papers.

Learning Outcomes
After completing this course, you should:
- analytically reflect on state-society relations in China
- understand the role of state and civil society
- critically reflect on political and social transformations
- develop important critical thinking skills

Learning Activities
Students are required to attend a two-hour lecture followed by a one-hour tutorial session every week. They will be expected to have done the required readings before the lecture, so that they can ask informed questions. The tutorial time will be used to discuss the readings, the lecture and the various research topics. This course uses the CUHK eLearning system, which can be found at https://elearn.cuhk.edu.hk. The course readings, assignments and recent announcements are uploaded on this platform. Make sure to check it regularly.

Assessment Scheme
- Attendance and active participation: 5% of the course grade is attendance and 10% goes to active participation in class discussions.
- Short reflections on the reading: Students are required to prepare for the class by reading the required reading and sending a short reflection (200-500 words) on the reading by email (10%).
- Research paper: ~5,000 word paper (50%)
  - Short presentations related to their paper topic (15%).
  - A one-page paper outline (unmarked)
  - A peer review (10%) in the form of a full text
  - The final paper should be submitted to VeriGuide by 12am (midnight) of the due date.
  - Please also submit a hard copy of the paper and the signed VeriGuide receipt to the mailbox as soon as possible afterwards. VeriGuide can be found at http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/veriguide.
- Late assignments will NOT be accepted.
- Further details will be provided in the first week

Course Grading System:
- Attendance and active participation: 15%
- Short reflections on the reading: 10%
- Presentation: 15%
- Peer review: 10%
- Research paper: 50%

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 Schedule

[PDF versions of readings and assignments can be found on the CUHK eLearning System. Registered students may access the CHES5135 account by using their Student ID and OnePass password]

| WEEK 1 (10 Sep): | Introduction |
| WEEK 2 (17 Sep): | Debating state and civil society |
| WEEK 3 (24 Sep): | Overview of state-society relations in China |
| WEEK 4 (1 Oct): | NO CLASS – Holiday |
| | 4 October 2020 Paper outline due |
| WEEK 5 (8 Oct): | State, society and the 1989 Tiananmen Massacre |
| WEEK 6 (15 Oct): | China’s middle class and democratization |
| WEEK 7 (22 Oct): | Contentious politics in China |
| WEEK 8 (29 Oct): | Corporatism in China |


**WEEK 9 (5 November): Civil society and the environment in China**


**WEEK 10 (12 November): Women and civil society in China**


15 November 2020: Paper draft due for peer review

**WEEK 11 (19 November): Religion, state and society in China**


22 November 2020: Peer review due

**WEEK 12 (26 November): Traditional media and society in China**


**WEEK 13 (3 December): The rise of social media and censorship**


Sunday, 6 December 2020: Final paper due
Selected additional readings


