CCSS2120  Chinese Family and Marriage
Fall 2018, CUHK

Lecture: Mon 16:30 - 18:15 (YIA_503)
Tutorial: Wed 11:30 - 12:15 (AIT_G04)
Instructor: Prof. LING Minhua (email: mhlng@cuhk.edu.hk)
Office: Room 1106, 11/F, Yasumoto International Academic Park
Office Hours: Tues 14:30 – 17:30 or by appointment via email
TA: CHEN Yunyi (email: TBD)

COURSE DESCRIPTION
Family matters. According to Confucianism, it is the family not the individual that has been the fundamental unit of Chinese society. After Mao’s socialist revolutions and Deng’s market-oriented economic reforms, how have family structures, courtship patterns, and gender relations been changing across different regions and groups? And what new ethical configurations and new forms of inequality are emerging in the process?

This English-taught course goes beyond the idealized family patterns to examine critically recent transformations in family forms, reproductive technologies, politicized sexualities, and gender relations in China. After an introductory discussion of key concepts and debates on Chinese family and marriage, it will move on to specific ethnographic case studies to highlight the connections between everyday practices and large-scale political and socioeconomic processes.

Readings, drawn from anthropology, history, and sociology, examine the Chinese (Han and non-Han) family systems, marriage patterns and gender relations as well as their transformations during the Maoist and post-Mao eras. Case studies of contemporary social challenges facing Chinese families will also be discussed in depth.

LEARNING OUTCOMES
By the end of the semester, students should:
- be familiar with key concepts and social theories about family and marriage
- grasp main issues of family and marriage in the Chinese context
- improve analytical writing in English both individually and collaboratively
- develop oral skills to present coherent and succinct analysis

COURSE ASSESSMENT
Class Participation (25%): Regular, active attendance in lectures and tutorials is an important aspect of the learning experience in this course, and is therefore both expected and required. All reading must be completed prior to the class meeting for which they are scheduled. Unexcused absences will result in loss of points, and students with more than 3 unexcused absences will receive no points for class participation. Extreme lateness will be counted as absence.

Précis (15%): Students need to write an 800-word précis (no less than 700 words, no more than 900 words) in 12-point Times New Roman font, 1-inch margin at all sides, single-spaced, page numbered, with word count in the end) to summarize and evaluate one of the listed readings for this exercise.

1 This is a working syllabus. Contents and readings are subject to change upon notification.
Students should submit a **hard copy** of the précis together with a signed **Veriguide receipt** in class on Oct. 31, 2018.

**Group Presentation (25%)**: From Week 3 students will present as a group on their chosen week’s topic informatively based on the required readings and external resources. The presentation should be 20 minutes long with the aid of PowerPoint in class. A sign-up sheet will be circulated in class in Week 2. Each group should email the PPT to the instructor and the TA 2 days before the presentation. Grading guidelines will be disseminated in class.

**Final Exam (35%)**: Students will have a take-home exam, answering two essay questions by synthesizing and applying some of the theoretical arguments and/or case studies from the readings. Each answer should be a short essay of about 1200 words (in 12-point Times New Roman font, 1-inch margin at all sides, single-spaced, page numbered, with word count in the end of the essay). Grading guidelines will be disseminated in class. A hard copy of the essays together with a **Veriguide receipt** must be submitted to the TA’s mailbox no later than **5pm on Dec. 3** (Monday), 2018. **NO late submission** will be accepted.

Students should submit the papers to the Veriguide system and print out the Veriguide receipt and scan it into a PDF file before submitting to the Blackboard. See the website: [https://services.veriguide.org/academic/login_CUHK.jspx](https://services.veriguide.org/academic/login_CUHK.jspx).

Any cases of plagiarism will be severely penalized and reported to the Dean of the Faculty of Arts, which could result in failure or expulsion from the University.

**COURSE READINGS**
- All required readings (as listed below) will be provided in PDF format via CUHK’s eLearning system (downloadable on Blackboard).
- Two textbooks, *Wives, Husbands, and Lovers: Marriage and Sexuality in Hong Kong, Taiwan, and Urban China* & *Transforming Patriarchy: Chinese Families in the 21st Century* have been reserved in the University Library for this course. Students are strongly recommended to browse the books in addition to the assigned chapters for better understanding of the topics discussed in class.
- A list of recommended readings will be posted on the Blackboard. Students are encouraged to check out the additional readings for references while conducting group projects and writing term papers.

**COURSE MEETING & ASSIGNMENT DUE DATES**

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<th>Week 1</th>
<th>Introduction: Chinese Family in Transformation</th>
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<th>Week 2</th>
<th>Kinship and Lineage</th>
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<td>Sept. 10</td>
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2 This indicates the meeting dates of tutorials.


**Sept. 12**

**Week 3**  
**Marriage, Family, and Gender I**

**Sept. 17**


**Sept. 19**

**Week 4**  
**Marriage, Family, and Gender II**

**Sept. 24**


**Sept. 26**

**Week 5**  
**Marriage, Family, and Gender III**

**Oct. 1**  
**NO CLASS (PUBLIC HOLIDAY)**

**Oct. 3**


**Week 6**  
**Reproduction and Childrearing**

**Oct. 8**


**Oct. 10**

**Week 7**  
**Love and Sexuality**

**Oct. 15**


Oct. 17

Week 8  Family and Marriage among Non-Han Groups

Oct. 22

Oct. 25  NO TUTORIAL (Public holiday)

Week 9  Contemporary challenges I: Doing Family

Oct. 29


Week 10  Contemporary challenges II: Parenting

Nov. 5

Nov. 7

Week 11  Contemporary challenges III: Property

Nov. 12

Nov. 14

Week 12  Individual Consultation

Nov. 19  NO CLASS MEETING

Nov. 21

Week 13  Contemporary challenges IV: “Left-over Women”

Nov. 26
Guest Speaker: Dr. Jun ZHANG, Assistant Professor, City University of Hong Kong

Nov. 28  Course Wrap-up

➢ Take-home exam to be submitted in hardcopy (together with a signed Veriguide receipt) to the TA’s mailbox by 5pm, Dec. 3 (Mon).