

## Study Center in Beijing, China

<b>Course name:</b>	Issues in Contemporary Chinese Society
<b>Course number:</b>	EAST 3001 CBSU/SOCI 3001 CBSU
<b>Language of instruction:</b>	English
<b>Programs offering course:</b>	Intensive Chinese Language
<b>Recommended credit:</b>	1 semester credit
<b>Term:</b>	Summer 2017

### Course Description

Through this brief survey of a set of issues critical to contemporary Chinese society and global sustainability, students will become acquainted with the social, economic, political, and ecological contexts in which the Chinese state operates. Major themes of the course will touch on political economy, social stratification, civil society, and sustainable development in China. The course consists of short readings, six contact hours of classroom discussion, attendance at five expert lectures, and an activity in the vicinity of Beijing. Students will be evaluated by participation and a final presentation that will engage major themes of the course.

### Learning Objectives

Through completion of this course, students will:

- be introduced to and be able to have informed discussion on current issues facing Chinese society, including sustainable development, land reform, urban migration, and civil society;
- understand and be able to discuss in-depth the background, current policy environment, relevant examples and projected future of one current issue of their choosing;
- be equipped to regularly access leading sources of information on China and to thereby stay informed of relevant China issues;
- See growth in their understanding of these issues proportional to the effort they exerted.

### Course Prerequisites

An interest in modern China and a willingness to prepare and participate.

### Methods of Instruction

Students are responsible to own their learning in this course and will be graded on their effort to learn, not on their existing knowledge reservoir. Student learning is dependent upon their preparation for each class, involvement in discussions, and participation in expert lectures. Instruction will focus on reading, discussion of reading materials, student reflections, current events (based on student-provided articles), peer feedback, guest expert lectures, a field trip, and final presentations.

### Assessment and Final Grade

The final grade is broken down by:

Participation:	40%
Final Presentation topic, introduction, presentation	10%
Current event sharing	10%
Final Presentation	35%
Reading checklist and Evaluation	5%

## **Course Requirements**

### **Participation (40%)**

In class participation is a must. Every single class discussion you will have opportunity to earn 10% toward your final grade by following this *Rule of Thumb*: be present and participate! "Participation" means: be on time, win the "Lucky Draw" (*see below*), contribute to discussion, ask informed questions of guest expert lecturers or classmates, and actively participate on the field trip. A full 10% means doing all of these well. Many students will earn 7% per class. Some may earn only 4%. Absent students will earn 0%.

*Lucky Draw*: Each week we will have a "Lucky Draw"! I will pull several names from a custom name deck throughout class to determine at random who will provide us with (1) a reading summary, synthesis, and one question; (2) feedback on peer summary; (3) discussion summary. Will you be one of the lucky ones?

### **Final Presentation Topic Introduction Presentation (10%)**

Students will present 5-7 timed slides (20 seconds each) introducing their Final Presentation topic to the class (*see details on Final Presentation below*). Topics should be unique (meaning they are *different* from our core discussion topics and other student final presentations) and should directly address an issue relevant to contemporary Chinese society. Topics are first come first serve, so sign up with the teacher as soon as possible. Please come to the teacher in advance if there are any troubles selecting a topic - I am glad to explore possible topics with you. If you would prefer to make an alternative type of presentation, please come explore your idea with me before deciding on your topic.

Criteria for Topic Introduction Presentation evaluation include:

- 1) Does the topic and content match the broad themes and content of the course?
- 2) Does your presentation demonstrate an overall understanding of the issue's root cause and impact?
- 3) Did your presentation engage the audience? (provocative content, presentation skills, aesthetics)
- 4) Was it well-timed? (a sign of preparation)

### **Current Event Sharing (10%)**

Students will find a total of 4 articles related to their final presentation topic and share them with the class. Criteria for evaluation:

- 1) Were the articles taken from different sources?
- 2) Were the articles from within the last two weeks?
- 3) Were the articles directly relevant to the students' topic?
- 4) Was the student - in under one minute – able to communicate the following:-
  - a) The key problem;
  - b) The main actors ;
  - c) The timeframe;
  - d) The resolution;
  - e) The relevance (to the final presentation topic and to us);
  - f) An outstanding question?

Possible resources:

New York Times (Sinosphere)

- The Wall Street Journal
- BBC
- CNN
- [People's Daily](#)
- China Daily
- [The Atlantic Magazine](#)
- The Economist
- Time
- South China Morning Post
- The [Sinocism](#) China Newsletter (sinocism.com)
- Chinasmack (www.chinasmack.com)

### **Final Presentation (35%)**

Students will combine their topic introduction, current event articles, and further synthesis into a final PowerPoint presentation for the class in PechaKucha style. PechaKucha is a style of presentation where 20 PowerPoint slides are automatically set to transition after 20 seconds each, for a grand total of 6:40. (For a great example, see YouTube's "A Pecha Kucha about Pecha Kucha" here:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jJ2yeplaAtE>). Remember: your purpose is to get your classmates to understand an issue relevant to contemporary Chinese society.

Final Presentation should cover the following:

- Background on topic – What are the root causes of this issue? (4-6 slides)
- Current situation – What's happening now? What's being done about it? (4-6 slides)
- Synthesis – What's this all mean? What do you project will happen? (5-7 slides)
- Examples (spread throughout presentation) – What's this look like everyday? (4-6 slides)

Criteria for presentation evaluation:

- Does the topic and content match the broad themes and content of the course?
- Was the thesis and takeaway message clear?
- Did the presentation and Q&A demonstrate an overall command of the issue's cause and impact?
- Did the presentation demonstrate incorporation of outside readings and current affairs news sources?
- Did your presentation engage the audience? (provocative content, presentation skills, aesthetics)
- Was it well-timed? (a sign of preparation)

Presentation should be submitted in PowerPoint form. Student should also submit a bibliography of works consulted in Word form with working hyperlinks. Bibliography can be in any format, as long as it is consistent.

### **Reading Checklist & Course Evaluation (5%)**

Each student will submit a document recording an approximate percentage of the readings that the student actually read during the course. Each student will also submit a course evaluation so that we can learn what is working and what we can do to improve. Your honesty is appreciated!

**Weekly Schedule****Week 1****Orientation Week**

Introduction to the course and to the complexity of the issues contemporary China faces today.

**Week 2****Discussion: *Sustainable Development with Chinese Characteristics***

Discussion of the tension between economic development and environmental sustainability in China.

*Read (21 pages):*

"The East is Grey." *The Economist* (2013), pp. 1-10. "Three Pillars of Sustainability" (2013), pp. 1-3.

The Sustainable Revolution. (2005), pp. 20-23. "A Roadmap for the Planet." (2011), pp. 1-4.

*Recommended:*

"Introduction: The Big Picture" China's Environmental Challenges (2012), pp. 1- 23.

Google book it: "Preface: Why are more perspectives needed?" Zheng Yisheng "Major ecosystems in China." *Environmental Management* (2011), pp. 19-23. "Towards Sustainable Development." *China Today* (2012), pp. 1

Due date: July 1@5:30pm, presentation of 2 articles to the class.

**Week 3****Discussion: *Macbeth on China: Bubble, Bubble, Housing Trouble***

Analysis of the appreciation of housing prices – where's it coming from and where's it going?

**Expert Lecture: *Greenpeace on Sustainable****Development Read (22 pages):*

"Building Rome in a Day." *The Economist* (2011), pp. 2-13.

"The Great Property Bubble of China May Be Popping." *WSJ* (2011), pp.1-4. "Housing markets." *The Economist* (2014), pp. 1-2.

"China's Property Bubble Has Already Popped." *WSJ* (2014), pp. 1-

2. "China's 'eco-cities'" *The Guardian* (2014), pp. 1-3.

Photo Essay: Google: "China's Abandoned Wonderland" + "*Atlantic*"

*Recommended:*

"Cities eye 'house-for-hukou.'" *China Daily* (2014), pp.1-2.

"Chinese city has many buildings." *New York Times* (2010), pp. 1-4.

**Week 4**      **Discussion:** *China's Urbanization: 爸爸去哪儿? (Where'd dad go?)*  
Introduction to and discussion of China's push toward urbanization and related issues, such as the migrant population, *hukou*, and social inequality.

**Expert Lecture:** *US Embassy on the Housing Bubble Read (29 pages):*  
"China's Great Uprooting." *New York Times* (2013), pp. 1-6.  
"Pitfalls Abound." *New York Times* (2013), pp. 1-6.  
"Picking Death over Eviction." *New York Times* (2013), pp. 1-6.  
"New China Cities." *New York Times* (2013), pp. 1-7.  
"Rural-urban divide: Ending apartheid." *The Economist* (2014), pp. 1-4.  
Slideshow (NYT) – Google "China's great uprooting' + nytimes + slideshow," 2nd link.

*Recommended:*

"The Hukou System." (2012), pp.41-55.  
"China: A New Approach for Efficient, Inclusive, Sustainable Urbanization." (2014), pp. 1-3.

**Watch this:** <http://on.wsj.com/1dzo7Nx>

**OR**

**Read this:** "Left-Behind Children of China's Migrant Workers Bear Grown-Up Burdens." *WSJ* (2014), pp. 1-4.

Chang, Leslie T. *Factory Girls: From Village to City in a Changing China.*  
New York: Spiegel & Grau, 2009. (*find on your own*)

**Week 5**      **Discussion:** *Civil Society: On your mark, get set, GONGO!*  
Understand the Chinese government's special relationship with Chinese civil society and projections of the future.

**Expert Lecture:** *{Included} on the Migrant Population*

*Read (25 pages):*

"Essential background on the nonprofit, philanthropic sector." *China Development Brief* (2011), pp. 1-7.  
"Does anyone trust the Chinese Red Cross?" *The Atlantic* (2013), pp. 1-3.  
"Draft of Charity Law submitted to State Council." *Caixin* (2012), pp. 1.  
"Chinese civil society: Beneath the glacier." *The Economist* (2014), pp. 1-7.  
"Changing role." *China Daily* (2012), pp. 1-7.

*Recommended:*

For the latest on developments in Chinese civil society see here:  
<http://philanthropynews.alliancemagazine.org/author/karla-simon/>

Simon, Karla. *Civil Society in China: The Legal Framework from Ancient Times to the 'New Reform Era.'* Oxford University Press: 2013.

Chen, Jie. *Transnational Civil Society in China: Intrusion and Impact.* Chapter 1, Edward Elgar Pub: 2012.

**Field Trip**      **Excursion**

**Week 6**      **Final Presentations**

**Expert Lecture:** *Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation on Civil Society*

## Course Readings

- Barboza, David. "Chinese city has many buildings, but few people." *The New York Times*, 20 October 2010.  
[http://www.nytimes.com/2010/10/20/business/global/20ghost.html?pagewanted=all&\\_r=0](http://www.nytimes.com/2010/10/20/business/global/20ghost.html?pagewanted=all&_r=0)
- Browne, Andrew. "Left-Behind Children of China's Migrant Workers Bear Grown-Up Burdens." *The Wall Street Journal*, 17 January 2014, pp. 1-4.  
<http://online.wsj.com/news/articles/SB10001424052702304173704579260900849637692>
- "Building Rome in a day: The sustainability of China's housing boom." *Economist Intelligence Unit*, 2011, pp. 2-13.
- Carter, Liz. "Does anyone trust the Chinese Red Cross?" *The Atlantic*, 2 May 2013, pp. 1-3. <http://www.theatlantic.com/china/archive/2013/05/does-anyone-trust-the-chinese-red-cross/275508/>
- "China: A new approach for efficient, inclusive, sustainable urbanization." *Targeted News Service*, 25 March 2014, pp. 1-3.
- "Chinese civil society: Beneath the glacier." *The Economist*, 12 April 2014, pp. 1-7.  
<http://www.economist.com/news/china/21600747-spite-political-clampdown-flourishing-civil-society-taking-hold-beneath-glacier>
- "Cities eye 'house-for-*hukou*' to boost property market." *China Daily*, 22 June 2014.  
[http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/business/2014-06/22/content\\_17607336.htm](http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/business/2014-06/22/content_17607336.htm)
- Davis, Bob. "The great property bubble of China may be popping." *The Wall Street Journal*, 9 June 2011.  
<http://online.wsj.com/news/articles/SB10001424052702304906004576367121835831168>
- "China's property bubble has already popped, report says." *The Wall Street Journal*, 5 May 2014.  
<http://blogs.wsj.com/chinarealtime/2014/05/05/chinas-property-bubble-has-officially-popped-report-says/tab/print/>
- "The East is grey: China and the environment." *The Economist*, 10 Aug 2013, 408, pp. 18-21. <http://www.economist.com/news/briefing/21583245-china-worlds-worst-polluter-largest-investor-green-energy-its-rise-will-have>
- Edwards, Andres R. The Sustainable Revolution. 2005, pp. 20-23.
- Fang, Xuyan and Lin Yunshi. "Draft of Charity Law submitted to State Council." *Caixin*, 8 June 2012, pp. 1. [http://english.caixin.com/2012-06-08/100398687.html?utm\\_source=mail.caixinonline.com&utm\\_medium=referral&utm\\_content=caixinonline\\_news\\_mail&utm\\_campaign=caixinonline](http://english.caixin.com/2012-06-08/100398687.html?utm_source=mail.caixinonline.com&utm_medium=referral&utm_content=caixinonline_news_mail&utm_campaign=caixinonline)
- Grey, David. "China's abandoned wonderland." *The Atlantic*, 13 December 2011.  
<http://www.theatlantic.com/infocus/2011/12/chinas-abandoned-wonderland/100207/>

- “Housing markets: Double bubble trouble” *The Economist*, 22 March 2014.  
<http://www.economist.com/news/china/21599395-chinas-property-prices-appear-be-falling-again-double-bubble-trouble>
- Jing, Meng. “Changing role.” *China Daily*, 11 May 2012, pp. 1-7.  
[http://usa.chinadaily.com.cn/weekly/2012-05/11/content\\_15269496.htm](http://usa.chinadaily.com.cn/weekly/2012-05/11/content_15269496.htm)
- Johnson, Ian. “China’s great uprooting.” *The New York Times*, 15 June 2013.  
<http://www.nytimes.com/2013/06/16/world/asia/chinas-great-uprooting-moving-250-million-into-cities.html?pagewanted=all>
- “Pitfalls abound in China’s push from farm to city.” *The New York Times*, 15 June 2013  
[http://www.nytimes.com/2013/07/14/world/asia/pitfalls-abound-in-chinas-push-from-farm-to-city.html?\\_r=0](http://www.nytimes.com/2013/07/14/world/asia/pitfalls-abound-in-chinas-push-from-farm-to-city.html?_r=0)
- “Picking death over eviction.” *The New York Times*, 8 September 2013.  
<http://www.nytimes.com/2013/09/09/world/asia/as-chinese-farmers-fight-for-homes-suicide-is-ultimate-protest.html>
- “New China cities: Shoddy homes, broken hope.” *The New York Times*, 9 November 2013.  
[http://www.nytimes.com/2013/11/10/world/asia/new-china-cities-shoddy-homes-broken-hope.html?pagewanted=1&\\_r=0](http://www.nytimes.com/2013/11/10/world/asia/new-china-cities-shoddy-homes-broken-hope.html?pagewanted=1&_r=0)
- Kaiman “China’s ‘eco-cities.’” *The Guardian*, 14 April 2014, pp. 1-3.  
<http://www.theguardian.com/cities/2014/apr/14/china-tianjin-eco-city-empty-hospitals-people>
- Lomborg, B. “A roadmap for the planet.” *Newsweek*, 20 June 2011.  
<http://www.newsweek.com/bjorn-lomborg-explains-how-save-planet-67833>
- Lü, Y., Fu, B., Wei, W., Yu, X., & Sun, R. “Major ecosystems in China: Dynamics and challenges for sustainable management.” *Environmental Management*, 2011, pp. 13-27.
- “Rural-urban divide: Ending apartheid.” *The Economist*, 2014, pp. 1-4 “Towards sustainable development.” *China Today*, 5 October 2012.  
<http://search.proquest.com/docview/1125655991?accountid=31480>
- “The Three Pillars of Sustainability.” 2013.
- Zhang, Jijiao. “The Hukou System as China’s Main Regulatory Framework for Temporary Rural Urban Migration and its Recent Changes.” *Die Erde*, 2012, pp. 41-55.