Instructor: Andrew KIPNIS
Class meeting and Tutorial: Thursday 6:30-9:15
Instructor Office Hours: Thursday 4:00-5:00 and by appointment: NAH410
abkipnis@cuhk.edu.hk

**Course Description:** In this course, students will read some recent ethnographies about China. We will come to understand China from a wide variety of perspectives and grapple with questions of the power and limitations of social anthropology to illuminate Chinese society. The weeks will organized according to topics, but students should remember that ethnographic writing tends to be holistic, so that the author of a given ethnography may use the “topic” of the book as a lens through which she or he explores a wide variety of issues. Students will be required to do a research paper on an ethnographic topic of their choosing.

**Learning Outcomes:**
- Learn how to read ethnographies critically
- Understand Chinese Society from many perspectives
- Understand how ethnographic methods vary with the topic addressed

**Required Course Text** (available in university bookstore):


**Language of Instruction:** English, some opportunity to read texts in Chinese.

**Assessment:**

1. Weekly Papers: 30%: For 10 out of the 11 weeks for which there are readings, students should hand in a 150-250 word reflection on the assigned reading. Paper are due at the start of class each week beginning in week 2. If students hand in 11 papers, their top ten will count.

2. Book review: 20%: Students will read one book in full from the class list of possible ethnographies. They will write a 1,500-word book review of an ethnography they choose and make a presentation about the ethnography in class. Students will be given a chance to sign up for their ethnography on the first day of class. The papers should analyse the book in terms of the research methods used, the style of writing, the organization of the book as a whole and the arguments the author makes. The paper should be submitted through the plagiarism detection engine VERIGUIDE and use the standard department style for citations. The paper will count for 15 points and the presentation 5.

3. Annotated Bibliography: 10%: Students must prepare a bibliography of at least 8 sources that they will refer to in their final paper. The bibliography should start with a 200-word description of the student’s chosen essay topic. After each entry in the bibliography the student should write a sentence or two explaining how the source relates to the student’s
topic. The bibliography should turned in by hard copy at the beginning of the class on 1 November. This assignment is really just the first step in writing the final paper and is meant to ensure that students begin their research early enough in the semester. Sources may be in any language but the paper must be written in English.

4. Final Paper: 40%: The paper may be on a topic of the student’s choosing that is relevant to the course and that is approved by the instructor. The approximate length of the paper should be 2,500 words. The paper should be submitted through the plagiarism detection engine VERIGUIDE and use the standard department style for citations. Students will make a brief oral presentation about their topic in class during the final lecture period. The presentation will count for 5 points and the paper itself 35 points. The paper should be submitted on Veriguide with a hardcopy turned into the office by FRIDAY 7 December at 12 noon.

Grade descriptors are as follows for the assessment of this course:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Overall course</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>Outstanding performance on all learning outcomes.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>Generally outstanding performance on all (or almost all) learning outcomes.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>Substantial performance on all learning outcomes, OR high performance on some learning outcomes which compensates for less satisfactory performance on others, resulting in overall substantial performance.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>Satisfactory performance on the majority of learning outcomes, possibly with a few weaknesses.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>Barely satisfactory performance on a number of learning outcomes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>Unsatisfactory performance on a number of learning outcomes, OR failure to meet specified assessment requirements.</td>
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Course Schedule:

Week One: 6 September Introduction
- Sign up for book reviews
- Chinese modernities

Week Two: 13 September ETHNOGRAPHIC RESEARCH
Read (Kipnis 2016) Part One. Hand in reflection #1.
- Ethnographic Methods
- Research in Zouping

Week Three: 20 September URBAN CHINA, URBANIZATION
Read (Kipnis 2016) Part Two. Hand in reflection #2.
- Urban ethnography
- Typing people in China
Possible ethnographies:

Cliff, Tom
2016 Oil and Water: Being Han in Xinjiang. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

Jankowiak, William R.

Zhang, Li

Zhang, Li

(Cliff 2016; Jankowiak 1993; Zhang 2001; Zhang 2010)

Week Four: 27 September RURAL CHINA

Read: (Steinmuller 2010); (Fang 2015). Hand in reflection #3.

- Rural Ethnographies
- Morality and Ethics

Possible ethnographies

Lai, Lili

Liu, Xin

Lora-Wainwright, Anna

Oxfeld, Ellen

Steinmuller, Hans

Wu, Ka-ming

(Lai 2017; Liu 2000; Lora-Wainwright 2013; Oxfeld 2010; Steinmuller 2013; Wu 2015)

Week Five: 4 October RELIGION


Hand in reflection #4.

- Politics of Religion in China
• Popular Religion

Possible ethnographies

Boretz, Avron

Cao, Nanlai

Chau, Adam Yuet

Chen, Nancy N.

Palmer, David A.

(Boretz 2011; Cao 2011; Chau 2006; Chen 2003; Palmer 2007)

**Week Six: 11 October CHANGING FAMILY RELATIONS**

Read the introductions from Brandtstadter and Santos, and then Harrell and Santos

Hand in reflection #5.

• Kinship
• Social Relations

Possible ethnographies

Brandtstadter, Susanne, and Goncalo D. Santos, eds.

Harrell, Stevan, and Goncalo D. Santos

Kipnis, Andrew B.

Sangren, P. Stevan

Shi, Lihong

Wolf, Margery

Yan, Yunxiang

Yang, Mayfair Mei-hui

(Brandtstadter and Santos 2009; Harrell and Santos 2017; Kipnis 1997; Sangren 2017; Shi 2017; Wolf 1972; Yan 2003; Yang 1994)
**Week Seven:** 18 October; **WORLDS OF WORK**

Read (Jacka, et al. 2013); Chapter five. Hand in reflection #6.

- Work
- Occupational and Class difference in Contemporary China

Possible ethnographies

Cho, Mun Young

Chumley, Lily Hope

Hanser, Amy

Osborg, John

Pun, Ngai

Wong, Winnie Won Yin

Zheng, Tiantian


**Week Eight:** 25 October; **EDUCATION AND PARENTING**

Read (Kipnis 2001; Kipnis 2006). Hand in reflection #7.

- Education
- Parenting

Possible Ethnographies

Bregnbaek, Susanne

Fong, Vanessa L.

Hansen, Mette Halskov

Hansen, Mette Halskov

Kipnis, Andrew B.
Week Nine: 1 November; MIGRATION AND MOBILITY

ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY DUE

Read (Rofel 2007), Chapter 4. Hand in reflection #8.

- Migration
- Mobility

Possible Ethnographies

Chu, Julie Y

Fong, Vanessa L.

Jacka, Tamara

Yan, Hairong

Zavoretti, Roberta

(Chu 2010; Fong 2011; Jacka 2005; Yan 2008; Zavoretti 2017)

Week Ten: 8 November; CHINESE MEDICINE AND ANALOGIC THOUGHT

Read (Hay 1983) and Farquhar (19xx). Hand in reflection #9.

- Health
- Chinese Medicine
Possible Ethnographies

Farquhar, Judith
Farquhar, Judith
Farquhar, Judith, and Qicheng Zhang
Mason, Katherine A.
Uretsky, Elanah
Zhang, Everett Yuehong

(Farquhar 1994; Farquhar 2002; Farquhar and Zhang 2012; Mason 2016; Uretsky 2016; Zhang 2015)

WEEK ELEVEN OFF (15 NOVEMBER) GRADUATION DAY

Week Twelve: 22 November ETHNIC MINORITIES AND TOURISM

Read (Harrell 1995). Hand in reflection #10.

- Travel
- Ethnicity

Possible ethnographies

Chio, Jenny
Gillette, Maris Boyd
Litzinger, Ralph A.
Makley, Charlene
Mueggler, Erik
Notar, Beth E.
Schein, Louisa
Week Thirteen: 29 November ONLINE ETHNOGRAPHIES

Read the introduction from Yang Guobin (2010). Hand in reflection #11.

- Online Life
- Relations on the Internet

Possible ethnographies

Carrico, Kevin

McDonald, Tom

Wang, Xinyuan

Yang, Guobin

(Carrico 2017; McDonald 2016; Wang 2016; Yang 2010)

Make Up Week: 3 or 4 December, time TBA FINAL PRESENTATIONS

- Student presentations

FINAL PAPERS DUE FRIDAY 7 December at 12 NOON

LIST OF POSSIBLE ETHNOGRAPHIES AND REQUIRED READINGS CITED ABOVE

Boretz, Avron

Brandtsdatter, Susanne, and Goncalo D. Santos, eds.

Bregnbaek, Susanne

Cao, Nanlai

Carrico, Kevin

Chau, Adam Yuet

Chen, Nancy N.


Chio, Jenny


Cho, Mun Young


Chu, Julie Y


Chumley, Lily Hope


Cliff, Tom

2016 Oil and Water: Being Han in Xinjiang. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

Fang, I-chieh


Farquhar, Judith


Farquhar, Judith, and Qicheng Zhang


Fong, Vanessa L.


Gillette, Maris Boyd


Goossart, Vincent, and David A. Palmer


Hansen, Mette Halskov


Hanser, Amy
Harrell, Stevan

Harrell, Stevan, and Goncalo D. Santos


Hay, John
Jacka, Tamara

Jacka, Tamara, Andrew B. Kipnis, and Sally Sargeson

Jankowiak, William R.

Kipnis, Andrew B.


Kuan, Teresa


Lai, Lili


Litzinger, Ralph A.


Liu, Xin


Lora-Wainwright, Anna


Makley, Charlene

Mason, Katherine A.

McDonald, Tom

Muegger, Erik

Notar, Beth E.

Obendiek, Helena

Osborg, John

Oxfeld, Ellen

Palmer, David A.

Pun, Ngai

Rofel, Lisa

Sangren, P. Stevan

Schein, Louisa

Shi, Lihong

Steinmuller, Hans

Uretsky, Elanah

Wang, Xinyuan
Wolf, Margery

Wong, Winnie Won Yin

Woronov, Terry E.

Wu, Ka-ming

Yan, Hairong

Yan, Yunxiang

Yang, Guobin

Yang, Mayfair Mei-hui

Zavoretti, Roberta

Zhang, Everett Yuehong

Zhang, Li


Zheng, Tiantian