

Civil Society in China

Spring 2016

Lecturer: Xiaomin YU

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Office: Main Building, Room 2007

Office hour: Thursday, 3:30-4:30 pm

Course Time: Thursday, 1:30-3:10 pm

Course Venue: 二 105 (62)

Course Type: optional course, 2 credits

Course Description

China's market transition over the last three decades has witnessed the emergence of a nascent civil society, as a wide range of civil society actors are playing growingly important roles in tackling China's development, governance and policy issues. The course examines the nature, pattern, composition and development of civil society in China, its roles in China's social, economic and political systems, as well as the complex interaction and relationship between civil society, state and market sector.

Course Objective and Structure

The course seeks to improve students' theoretical understanding and empirical knowledge of civil society in China and to enhance their ability to analyze the general civil society issues in comparison with China's reality. Specifically, the course is split into four sections:

1. Overview of Civil Society in China
 - ◆ Introduction
 - ◆ Citizenship
 - ◆ Volunteer/volunteering
 - ◆ Civil society organizations
 - ◆ Community
2. Domains of Activities of Civil Society in China
 - ◆ Social service
 - ◆ Policy advocacy
3. Interaction and Relationship between the Three Sectors
 - ◆ State-civil society relation
 - ◆ NGOs-company interaction: conflict and engagement
4. Emerging Issues on Civil Society in China
 - ◆ Internet and online civil society
 - ◆ Global civil society
 - ◆ Social enterprise

In order to balance lecturing and student's participation, each topic will be covered in two class sessions.

- ◆ The *lecturing* session exposes the students to an overview of the key research concerns on civil society in China, which includes introduction of main concepts and theories, general factual background, and major debates.
- ◆ The *class presentation* session allows students to discuss more deeply and interactively on each topic, through reading and analyzing topic-matching empirical studies.

Course Requirement and Grading

Students are expected to read required readings, attend lectures, actively participate in class discussion and conduct an independent study on an issue related to civil society in China. Accordingly, students' performance is assessed in three ways:

Grading item	Score	Due date
1. Class preparation and attendance	20%	Week 1-18
2. Class presentation	20%	Week 3-18
3. Field visit report (1 page, 12 font, 1.5 line spacing)	10%	Week 7
4. Research essay (10 pages, 12 font, 1.5 line spacing)	50%	July 28 th , 2016

Class Presentation (to be adjusted according to class size)

- ◆ Each student will give at least once the class presentation and select the topic on March 10th.
- ◆ Student will give a presentation of the main content of the selected reading. In addition, the presenter need to prepare 2-3 questions for class discussion, which need to be debatable issues either explicitly discussed in the reading or closely related to its content but not discussed specifically.
- ◆ Questions for class discussion need to be sent to the lecturer 24 hours before the presentation day.
- ◆ All students are encouraged to participate actively in each class discussion, raising your questions, sharing your viewpoints and debating with peers.

Field Visit Report

- ◆ Each student will write a one-page report of the filed visit, focusing on one issue that intrigued you or propelled your research during field visit and summarizing your main findings.
- ◆ Submit and present your report on April 14th.

Research Essay

- ◆ Each student will select a research topic which focusing civil society issues in China or in other countries in comparison with China's reality, and present research proposal on May 19th.
- ◆ Presentation slides (including research question, literature review, research

- method, research findings, and conclusions) will be submitted by June 23rd.
- ◆ Students will present their preliminary findings of the research on June 23rd and 30th.
 - ◆ Each student will write up a research essay and hand in it by July 28th.

Grading of Research Essay

Research essay is graded on a scale from “5” (outstanding) to “1” (unsatisfactory) and assessment criteria go as follows:

- ◆ Relevance of the research issues. To what extent the research topic you selected is relevant to civil society studies, especially issues we explored in the course?
- ◆ Effective use of exiting theories and studies. Do you achieve a full understanding of relevant and cited literature? Can you apply, extend or challenge previous literature to illuminate the research issues you selected?
- ◆ Thoughtful analysis and persuasive arguments. Do you provide a penetrating analysis of the studied issues through using data available?
- ◆ Concise and clear presentation. Is the paper a lucid presentation of your ideas? Is the paper well-written in terms of structure, logic, as well as grammar?

Course Schedule

PART 1. OVERVIEW OF CIVIL SOCIETY IN CHINA

The first section begins with a very brief introduction of key concepts and perspectives on civil society. It also deals with the general characteristics of civil society in China, exploring the development landscape of citizenship, volunteer/volunteering, civil society organizations, and community in China.

Week 1 (March 3rd): Introduction

Required Reading:

Howell, Jude (2012) “Civil society, corporatism and capitalism in China”, *Journal of Comparative Asian Development*, 11(2): 271-297.

Week 2 (Mar 10th): Citizenship

Required Reading:

Bellamy, Richard (2008) *Citizenship: A Very Short Introduction*. Oxford; New York: Oxford University Press. Chapter 1.

Video show and class discussion

Week 3 (Mar 17th): Volunteer/volunteering

Required Reading:

Xu, Ying (2012) “Chinese Communist Youth League, political capital and the legitimising of volunteering in China”, *International Journal of Adolescence and Youth*, 17(2-3): 95-112.

Reading for class discussion:

Fleischer, Friederike (2011) “Technology of self, technology of power:

Volunteering as encounter in Guangzhou, China”, *Ethnos: Journal of Anthropology*, 76(3): 300-325.

Week 4 (Mar 24th): Civil society organizations

Required Reading:

Ma, Qiusha (2006) *Non-Governmental Organisations in Contemporary China Paving the Way to Civil Society?* London & New York: Routledge. Chapter 3.

Reading for class discussion:

Lu, Yiyi (2009) *Non-Governmental Organisations in China*. London & New York: Routledge. Chapter 6

Week 5 (Mar 31th): Community

Required Reading:

Yan, Miu Chung and Jian Guo Gao (2007) “Social engineering of community building: Examination of policy process and characteristics of community construction in China”, *Community Development Journal*, 42(2): 222-236.

Reading for class discussion:

Heberer, Thomas (2009) “Evolution of citizenship in urban China or authoritarian communitarianism? Neighborhood development, community participation, and autonomy”, *Journal of Contemporary China*, 18(61): 491-515.

Week 6 (Apr 7th): Field visit

We will visit a community development organization

Week 7 (Apr 14th): Field visit report

Present and discuss what you learn from the field visit

PART 2. DOMAINS OF ACTIVITIES OF CIVIL SOCIETY IN CHINA

Civil society is playing increasingly important roles in enhancing social and sustainable development and fostering good governance in China. This section sheds light on four major domains of activities of civil society in China: social service, advocacy, grassroots governance, as well as social movement.

Week 8 (Apr 21th): Social service

Required Reading:

Teets, Jessica (2012) “Reforming service delivery in China: The emergence of a social innovation model”, *Journal of Chinese Political Science*, 17(1): 15-32.

Reading for class discussion:

Fisher, Karen R., Jing Li and Lei Fan (2012) “Barriers to the supply of non-government disability services in China”, *Journal of Social Policy*, 41(1): 161-182.

Week 9 (Apr 28th): Advocacy

Required Reading:

Zhang, Zhibin and Chao Guo (2012) “Advocacy by Chinese nonprofit organisations:

towards a responsive government?" *Australian Journal of Public Administration*, 71(2): 221–232.

Reading for class discussion:

Zhan, Xueyong and Shui-Yan Tang (2013) "Political opportunities, resource constraints and policy advocacy of environmental NGOs in China", *Public Administration*, 91(2): 381–399.

PART 3. INTERACTION AND RELATIONS BETWEEN THE THREE SECTORS

To achieve a larger social impact more effectively and sustainably, actors in civil society often engage across organization and sector boundaries to influence powerful actors in state and market sector. This section examines how civil society actors in China interact with governments and companies, and map the complex relationships of conflict and cooperation between them.

Week 10 (May 5th): State-civil society relation

Required Reading:

Schwartz, Jonathan & Shawn Shieh (2009) *State and Society Responses to Social Welfare Needs in China: Serving the People*, London: Routledge. Chapter 2.

Reading for class discussion:

Teets, Jessica C. (2013) "Let Many Civil Societies Bloom: The Rise of Consultative Authoritarianism in China", *The China Quarterly*, 213: 19-38.

Week 11 (May 12th): NGOs-company interaction: conflict and engagement

Required Reading:

Yaziji, Michael and Jonathan Doh (2009) *NGOs and Corporations: Conflict and Collaboration*. United Kingdom: Cambridge University Press. Chapter 7.

Video show and class discussion

Week 12 (May 19th) Student presentation (research proposal)

PART 4. EMERGING ISSUES ON CIVIL SOCIETY IN CHINA

The final section introduces new perspectives on emerging issues about civil society in China, discussing the ways civil society is affected by and respond to globalization, social innovation and internet.

Week 13 (May 26th): Global civil society

Required Reading:

Morton, Katherine (2005) "The emergence of NGOs in China and their transnational linkages: Implications for domestic reform", *Australian Journal of International Affairs*, 59(4): 519-532.

Reading for class discussion:

Spires, Anthony J. (2012) "Lessons from Abroad: Foreign Influences on China's Emerging Civil Society", *China Journal*, 68: 125-146.

Week 14 (Jun 2nd): Internet and online civil society**Required Reading:**

Herold, David Kurt and Peter Marolt (Eds.) (2011) *Online Society in China: Creating, Celebrating, and Instrumentalising the Online Carnival*. London & New York: Routledge. Chapter Introduction and Conclusion.

Reading for class discussion:

Huang, Ronggui and Ngai-ming Yip (2012) "Internet and activism in urban China: A case study of protests in Xiamen and Panyu", *Journal of Comparative Asian Development*, 11(2): 201-223.

Week 15 (Jun 9th): Public Holiday (The Dragon Boat Festival)**Week 16 (June 16th): Social enterprise****Required Reading:**

Kerlin, Janelle A. (2006) "Social Enterprise in the United States and Europe: Understanding and Learning from the Differences", *Voluntas*, 17(3): 246-263.

Reading for class discussion:

Yu, Xiaomin (2011) "Social enterprise in China: Driving forces, development patterns and legal framework", *Social Enterprise Journal*, 7(1): 9-32.

Week 17 and 18 (Jun 23rd and Jun 30th): Student presentation (Research findings)