Anthro175Q: Ideology and Social Change in Contemporary China

This course introduces students to social-cultural changes in China from 1949 to the present. Main topics include: ideology and politics in everyday life, social stratification and mobility, the organization of work, women’s liberation movement, changes in courtship, intimacy, marriage, and the family, ritual and popular religion, the political economy of reforms, and consumerism and popular culture in post-Mao era.

There will be two exams: The mid-term exam is scheduled on May 1 and the final exam will be on June 11 (3:00-6:00 PM). Please keep it in mind that exam questions will be based on materials drawn from both assigned readings and lectures. The final grade will be determined on the mid-term exam (40%) and final exam (60%).

A Course Reader, which contains selected journal articles and book chapters, is available at Course Reader Material, 1141 Westwood Blvd., 310-443-3303. The textbook required for this course is China Urban: Ethnographies of Contemporary Culture, edited by Nancy Chen, Constance Clark, Suzanne Gottschang, and Lyn Jeffery (Duke University Press, 2001). The textbook can be purchased from UCLA bookstore, and it will also be put on reserve at the college library.

Lecture Topics and Reading Assignments

Week 1. Introduction: The Making of a New Society (April 1 & 3)


Week 2. The Radicalization of Social Life: The GLF and the CR (April 8 & 10)


Anita Chan, Richard Madsen, and Jonathan Unger, 1992. Chan Village Under Mao and
**Week 3. Social Mobility and Stratification** (April 15 & 17)


**Week 4. The Organization of Work** (April 22 & 24)


**Week 5. Sex, Marriage, and the Rise of Youth Culture** (April 29 & May 1)

*Mid-term exam on May 1, 12:30-1:45.*


Week 6. Socialist Transformation in the Domestic Domain (May 6 & 8)


Week 7. Ritual and Popular Religion (May 13 & 15)


Week 8. Being and Becoming Women Under Socialism (May 20 & 22)


**Week 9. Institutional Changes and Challenges in the Reform Era** (May 27 & 29)


**Week 10. Consumerism and Popular Culture** (June 3 & 5)

