

**Centre for East Asian Studies  
School of International Studies  
Jawaharlal Nehru University  
Programme: PhD**

**Course Code.:EA 620**

**Optional Course**

**Credit: Two Hours**

**Course Title: Society and Culture in Post Mao China**

**Semester: WINTER**

**Course Teacher: Dr. Ritu Agarwal**

**Evaluation Method: Term paper, Book Review, Class Participation- 50 %**

**End Term Examination – 50%, Total 100%**

### **Course Objectives**

The Course aims to introduce the main conceptual frameworks and processes to understand social transformations in China. Since the 1980s, the economic reforms have brought about structural changes in China's economy and society. From being an agrarian and state controlled society marked by sharp rural-urban boundaries as well as officially designated social categories, China has transformed into a moderately prosperous, urban, mobile, and consumption oriented modern society. If the social institutions including family, kinship, Hukou and Danwei have defined the role of individuals, household, neighbourhood and the work place, the post-reform society has largely freed from such regulations from above. The process of economic reforms have created new social groups with differential outcome in term of wages, occupation, place and social origin. It has also created a new network of mobile social groups in the form of entrepreneurs, workers, farmers and ethnic communities across different provinces and cities.

### **Learners' Outcome**

The course will use ethnographic and anthropological research based studies to map this process of social transformation in China. It will help students to engage with the new terms and concepts developed through social research which are specific to understanding Chinese society today. The course will elaborate

multiple approaches and perspectives to examine social changes by discussing different themes.

## **1. Understanding Chinese Society: Main approaches**

Social Institutions: Kinship, Family and Village

Self, Individual, Community and Women

Social Stratification and New Rich

Ching Kwan lee and Mark Selden, 'Inequalities and Its Enemies in Revolutionary and Reform China', *Economic and Political Weekly*, No. 52, December 27, 2008.

Jonathan Unger, 'Rich man, poor man', the making of new classes in the countryside', in David S. G. Goodman and Beverley Hooper, *China Quiet Revolution*, New York: St. Martin's Press, 1994.

R. Robinson and D.S.G. Goodman (eds.), *The New Rich in Asia: Mobile Phones, McDonald's and Middle Class Revolution*, London and New York: Routledge, 1996.

Pei Lin Li, Qiang Li and Liping Sun, *Social Stratification in China's Today*, Beijing: Social Sciences Documentation Publishing House, 2004.

## **2. Migration: Patterns and Trends**

Hukou and Rural –Urban Migration

Gender and Migration

Migration and Social Welfare

### Readings

Dorothy Solinger, *Contesting Citizenship in Urban China: peasants, Migrants, the State and the Logic of the Market*, Berkeley: University of California Press, 1999.

T. Scharping (ed.), *Floating Population and Migration in China: The Impact of Economic Reforms*, Hamburg: Instit Fur Asienkunde, 1997.

Lincoln H. Day and Ma Xia (eds.), *Migration and Urbanization in China*, Armonk, NY & London: M.E. Sharpe, 1994.

Fei-Ling Wang, *Organizing through Division and Exclusion; China's Hukou System*, Stanford: Stanford University Press, 2005.

Kam Wing Chan and Li Zhang, 'The Hukou System and Rural-Urban Migration: Process and Change', *The China Quarterly*, No.160, 1999.

Hein Mallee, 'China Household Registration System Under Reform', *Development and Change*, No.26, 1995.

Tiejun Cheng and Mark Selden, 'The Origins and Social Consequences of China's Hukou System', *The China Quarterly*, No. 139, 1994.

Lu Xiaobo and Elizabeth Perry (eds.), *Danwei: The Changing Chinese Workplace in Historical and Comparative Perspective*, Armonk, NY: M.E.Sharpe, 1997.

Ching Kwan Lee, *Gender and the South China Miracle: Two Worlds of Factory Women*, Berkeley : University of California Press, 1998.

### **3. Rural Urbanization in China: Questions of Land and Peasantry**

Understanding Rural Transformation

Commodification of farmland and Urban Expansion

Women , family and Demographic Crisis in Rural China

Guldin G. E. , *What's a Peasant to Do? Village Becoming Town in Southern China*, Boulder, Westview Press, 2001

Jean C. Oi and Andrew G. Walder (eds.), *Property Rights and Economic Reform in China*, Stanford: Stanford University Press, 1999.

George C.S.Lin, *Developing China: Land, Politics and Social Conditions*, London and New York: Routledge, 2009

#### **4. Prosperity and Social Inequality in China**

Poverty, Wealth and Regional Differences

Education and Employment among Youth

Consumerism and Urban social spaces

Khan, A. R and Carl Riskin, *Inequality and Poverty in China in the Age of Globalization*, Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2001

Hsing, You-tien, *The great Urban Transformation*, Oxford: Oxford University press, 2010

#### **5. Ethnic Minorities and Inclusion Practices**

Ethnic Minorities and Preferential Policies

Religious Revival and Cultural Resurgence

Modernization vs traditions of Ethnic Communities

Blum, Susan D. , *Portraits of “Primitives” : Ordering Human Kinds in the Chinese Nation*, New York: Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, INC, 2001

McCarthy A. Susan, *Communist Multiculturalism: Ethnic Revival in Southwest China*, Seattle and London: University of Washington Press, 2009