DRAFT

**Topics in Area Studies**

Fall 2009

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**I. Course Description**

This course is designed as a preparatory course for students in international area studies to develop their thesis writing skills. Students are expected to prepare a thesis topic and present it in class. The course is divided into two parts. The first part of the course will introduce methodologies essential to area studies. In the second part, students will read important researches in China area studies and give a presentation on each part of his or her thesis. Students will be evaluated based on weekly presentations (30%), final exam (30%), attendance and participation (20%), and a book review (20%).

**II. Course Schedule**

**Week 1. Introduction: Course Overview and What is "Area Studies"?**

**Week 2. An Overview of Methodology in Area Studies**

Crane, Julia and M. Angrosino, 1992. *Field Projects In Anthropology: A Student Handbook*, Waveland Press. pp. 13-22, 53-74.

Geertz, Clifford. 1973. "Thick Description," *Interpretation of Culture.* pp. 3-32.

Clifford, James. 1986. "Introduction: Partial Truths," in *Writing Culture*. University of California Press. pp. 1-26.

Eirc A. Hanushek and John E. Jackson, *Statistical Methods for Social Scientists. Academic Press.* 1977. Ch. 1 Empirical Analyses in the Social Sciences. pp. 1-23.

(Recommended Reading)

Bourdieu, Pierre, "Structures and Habitus," chapter 2 of his *Outline of a Theory of Practice*, 1977, Cambridge University Press.

Sewell, William, "A Theory of Structure: Duality, Agency, and Transformation," *American Journal of Sociology,* Vol. 98, No. 1, 1992.

**Week 3. The Structure of Scientific Revolution**

Kuhn, Thomas S. *The Structure of Scientific Revolution*, 1970, The University of Chicago Press

\*Research Statement

**Week 4. Strangers in the City(Li Zhang)**

\*Literature Review

**Week 5. Communist Neo-Traditionalism(Andrew Walder)**

\*Methodology

**Week 6. Outline Presentation**

**Week 7. Commodifying Communism: Business, Trust, and Politics in A Chinese City(David L. Wank)**

\*Research Questions

**Week 8. Red Capitalist in China (Bruce Dickson)**

\*Structure of the Dissertation

**Week 9. Chen Village(Chan, Madsen, and Unger)**

\*Main Chapter I

**Week 10. Creating Chinese Ethnicity(Emily Honig)**

\*Main Chapter II

**Week 11. A Nation-State by Construction(Suisheng Zhao)**

\*Introduction

**Week 12. Growing out of the Plan(Barry Naughton)**

\*Conclusion

**Week 13. Final Presentation I**

**Week 14. Final Presentation II**

**Week 15 Final Exam.**