DRAFT

**Topics in Area Studies**

Spring 2021

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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 history, issues, debates and methodologies essential to area studies. In the second part, students will read important ethnographic 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%), attendance and participation (20%), and a final term paper (50%).

**II. Course Schedule**

**Week 1. Course Overview and What is “Area Studies”?**

**Week 2. History of Area Studies**

Ruth Benedict, *The Chrysanthemum and the Sword: Patterns of Japanese Culture* (Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company, 1989), Chapters 1-3.

Bruce Cumings. 1997. “Boundary Displacement: Area Studies and International Studies during and after the Cold War.” *Bulletin of Concerned Asian Scholars*, 29(1): 6-26.

Wallerstein, Immanuel et al. 1996. *Open the Social Sciences: Report of the Gulbenkian Commission on the Restructuring of the Social Sciences*. Stanford: Stanford University Press.

Wallerstein, Immanuel. 1997. “The Unintended Consequences of Cold War area Studies.” In Noam Chomsky (ed.), *The Cold War and the University: Toward an Intellectual History of the Postwar Years*. New York: The New Press.

**Week 3. 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.

Harrison, Lawrence and Samuel Huntington (eds.). 2000. *Culture Matters: How Values Shape Human Progress*. New York: Basic Books.

(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 4. The Structure of Scientific Revolution (Kuhn, Thomas)**

\*Research Questions

**Week 5. Weapons of the Weak (James Scott)**

\*Structure of the Dissertation

**Week 6, Chen Village (Chan, Madsen, and Unger)**

\*Literature Review 1

**Week 7. Communist Neo-Traditionalism (Andrew Walder)**

\*Literature Review 2

**Week 8. Creating Chinese Ethnicity (Emily Honig)**

\*Methodology

**Week 9. Outline Presentation**

**Week 10. Commodifying Communism: Business, Trust, and Politics in A Chinese City (David L. Wank)**

\*Main Chapter 1

**Week 11. Strangers in the City (Li Zhang)**

\*Main Chapter 2

**Week 12. Red Capitalist in China (Bruce Dickson)**

\*Main Chapter 3

**Week 13. Growing out of the Plan (Barry Naughton)**

\*Main Chapter 4

**Week 14. The China Model (Bell, Daniel A. 2015.)**

\*Conclusion

**Week 15. Final Presentation**