Social Development of Mainland China

I. Course Objective
This course is an introductory course to the understanding and study of the Chinese society. It is thus divided into two parts. The former covers China’s historical traditions, current situations, and uncertain future, with a focus on the origin, course, and consequences of China’s post-Mao reforms. The latter is a personalized learning project—students are asked to propose a research project and thus forced to cover the literature, substance, and methodology.

II. Course Requirements
The grade of the course is composed by following assignments:
class reports (7 one-paged summary and comments) and participation: 50%, and oral participation (presentation and defense) and written proposal (abstract and final proposal): 50%

III. Reading Materials
Required Readings

Recommend Readings
III. Course Schedule

Week 1 Introduction
Introducing the Course (handing out syllabus)
Tackling Housekeeping Questions

Week 2 Why/How to Study China?
Lecture 1: Making Sense of China

Required Readings:

Stories Sharing (Volunteering, 5 additional points for final grade)

Assignment: one-page summary/comments and group discussions

I. INTRODUCTION TO CHINESE SOCIETY

Week 3 Consequences of China’s Post-Mao Reforms
Lecture 2: The China Miracle: Origin and Implications

Required Readings:

Assignment: one-page summary/comments and group discussions

Stories Sharing (Volunteering, 5 additional points for final grade)

Week 4 State and Society in Today’s China
Lecture 3: State-Led or Market-Driven

Required Readings:


Assignment: one-page summary/comments and group discussions

**Week 5 Sociopolitical Tensions: Prospects of Unrests or Reforms?**

**Lecture 4: Is China Unstable?**

**Required Readings:**


Assignment: one-page summary/comments and group discussions

**Week 6 Socioeconomic Tensions: Prospects of Crisis or Reforms?**

**Lecture 5: Limits of Reforms: SOEs and Banks**

**Required Readings:**


Assignment: one-page summary/comments and group discussions

**Week 7 Socioeconomic Disparities: Life Changes and Regional Disparity**

**Lecture 6: Costal/Inland and Urban/Rural Disparity**

**Required Readings:**


Assignment: one-page summary/comments and group discussions

**Week 8 Prospects for the Future: Globalization and Its Discontents**
Lecture 7: China in World Economy

Required Readings:

Assignment: one-page summary/comments and group discussions

★★ Proposing a Research Topic
Pick up a subject of your interest, quickly survey the literature, and consult your classmates and the instructor. The subject is limited to DOMESTIC social, socioeconomic or sociopolitical issues.

II. THE STUDY OF CHINESE SOCIETY: PROPOSING YOUR OWN RESEARCH

Week 9 Making Sense of Chinese Study

Required Readings:

Assignment: in-class discussions on subjects to be chosen.

★★ Conforming the Research Topic
Make up your mind on the subject and propose a “research question” related to the subject. Ideally, the question should be presented in the language of social science—causal, operationalizable and, of course, theory-informed.

Week 10 A Few Words on Proposal Writing

Required Readings:

Assignment: one-page abstract of your proposal (with research subject, research question, and research hypothesis)
Week 11 Proposal Presentations
Assignment: We will invite three presentations (on the first-come-first-serve basis) and each take 10-15 min. to present the ideas—significance of the research, research question, main argument/hypothesis, brief review of the literature, and brief introduction of research methods—and the rest on the time for feedbacks and responses (50 min. altogether). Each presentation must be made with ppt. projection and 1-2 paged handout for the audience.

Week 12 Proposal Presentations
Assignment: We will invite three presentations (on the first-come-first-serve basis) and each take 10-15 min. to present the ideas—significance of the research, research question, main argument/hypothesis, brief review of the literature, and brief introduction of research methods—and the rest on the time for feedbacks and responses (50 min. altogether). Each presentation must be made with ppt. projection and 1-2 paged handout for the audience.

Week 13 Proposal Presentations
Assignment: We will invite three presentations (on the first-come-first-serve basis) and each take 10-15 min. to present the ideas—significance of the research, research question, main argument/hypothesis, brief review of the literature, and brief introduction of research methods—and the rest on the time for feedbacks and responses (50 min. altogether). Each presentation must be made with ppt. projection and 1-2 paged handout for the audience.

Week 14 Proposal Presentations
Assignment: We will invite three presentations (on the first-come-first-serve basis) and each take 10-15 min. to present the ideas—significance of the research, research question, main argument/hypothesis, brief review of the literature, and brief introduction of research methods—and the rest on the time for feedbacks and responses (50 min. altogether). Each presentation must be made with ppt. projection and 1-2 paged handout for the audience.

Week 15 Concluding the Course
Review the literature being covered.
Assignment: Submitting the written proposal, 1.5 spaced and 20-30 pages.

End of the Syllabus