

Social Networks and Chinese Society

Department: Fudan International Summer Session 2024

Course Code	SOCI170007		
Course Title	Social Networks and Chinese Society		
Credit	2	Credit Hours	36+3 tutorial hours (one credit hour is 45 minutes)
Course Nature	<input type="checkbox"/> Specific General Education Courses <input type="checkbox"/> Core Courses <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> General Education Elective Courses <input type="checkbox"/> Basic Courses in General Discipline <input type="checkbox"/> Professional Compulsory Courses <input type="checkbox"/> Professional Elective Courses <input type="checkbox"/> Others		
Course Objectives	By the end of the course, students will be able to: [1] distinguish the unique features of social networks in Chinese society; [2] know the cultural, institutional, and structural roots of <i>networks</i> ; [3] understand the relevance of the social networks in contemporary Chinese society; [4] demonstrate a basic ability to conduct independent research on topics in social networks and to effectively communicate the results via oral presentation.		
Course Description	This course provides an overview of the application of social networks in Chinese society. Topics covered in this class include the meaning of social networks in Chinese, its cultural, institutional, and structural roots, its everyday practice, as well as its application for contemporary economic and social life. Through the course, students will obtain a richer understanding of Chinese social networks and its relevance to contemporary Chinese society.		
Course Requirements:			
Class attendance, group discussion, essay writing.			
Teaching Methods:			
Lecture and discussion.			
Instructor's Academic Background:			
Felicia F. Tian is an Associate Professor of Sociology in Fudan University. She obtained her bachelor's degree from Renmin University, China, master's degree from University of Wisconsin-Madison, and Ph.D from Duke University. Her research includes social networks and social capital, at both individual level and community level. Her work appears in <i>Social Networks</i> , <i>Research in Social Stratification and Mobility</i> , <i>Journal of Marriage and Family</i> , and <i>Chinese Sociological Review</i> .			
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Course Schedule:

****PART1: Social Networks Basics****

#1: Course introduction

#2: why social networks

(reading: Granovetter 1973)

#3: social network method

(reading Scott 2017, chapter 5)

****PART2: social networks in Chinese society**

#4: the structure of the tie

(reading: Freedman 1966, chapters 1 & 2)

#5: the strength of the tie

(reading: Barbalet 2015)

#6: the activation of the tie

(reading: Hwang 1987)

****PART3: *The Practice of Social Networks*****

#7: The everyday practice networking

(reading: Yan 1996, chapter 4 & 5)

#8: The etiquette of networking

(reading: Yang 1994, chapter 3)

****PART4: *The Consequence of Social Networks*****

#9: social networks and labor market

(reading: Bian 1994)

#10: social networks and doing business

(reading: Nee and Opper, chapter 4)

#11: social networks and trust

(reading: Barbalet 2014)

#12: changes in social networks

(readings: Boist and Child 1996; Bian 2018)

The design of class discussion or exercise, practice, experience and so on:

Students need to actively participate in in-class group discussions

Grading & Evaluation:

[1] class attendance (10%)

[2] group discussion (50%)

group presentation 25%

group written assignment 25%

[3] two essays (40%)

Teaching Materials & References:

There is no required textbook for the course. However, our readings will be research papers or excerpts from books (detailed assignments see above).

Barbalet, Jack 2014. "The Structure of Guanxi: Resolving problems of Network Assurance." *Theory and Society* 43(4):51-69.

Barbalet, Jack. 2015. "Guanxi, Tie Strength, and Network Attributes." *American Behavioral Scientist* 59(8)

Bian, Yanjie. 1994. "Guanxi and the Allocation of Urban Jobs in China." *The China Quarterly* 140:971-99.

Bian, Yanjie. 2018. "The Prevalence and the Increasing Significance of Guanxi." *The China Quarterly*.

Boisot, Max, and John Child. 1996. "From Fiefs to Clans and Network Capitalism: Explaining China's Emerging Economic Order." *Administrative Science Quarterly* 41(4):600-28.

Freedman, Maurice. 1966. *Chinese Lineage and Society: Fukien and Kwangtung*. New York, NY:: Humanities Press Inc.

Granovetter, Mark 1973, "The Strength of Weak Ties." *American Journal of Sociology*, Vol.78, No.6.

Hwang, Kwang-Kuo 1987. "Face and Favor: The Chinese Power Game." *American Journal of Sociology* 92(4):944-74.

Nee, Victor, and Sonja Opper. 2012. *Capitalism from Below: Markets and Institutional Change in China*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press.

Scott, John. 2017. *Social Networks Analysis*. New York: Sage.

Yan, Yunxiang 1996, *The Flow of Gifts: Reciprocity and Social Networks in a Chinese Village*. Stanford, CA: Stanford University Press.

Yang, Mayfair Mei-hui. 1994. *Gift, Favors, and Banquets: the Art of Social Relationships in China*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press.