

## Social Networks and Chinese Society

**Department:** Fudan International Winter Session 2025

<b>Course Code</b>	GEIS10029						
<b>Course Title</b>	Social Networks and Chinese Society						
<b>Credit</b>	2	<b>Experiment (including Computer) Credit</b>		<b>Practice Credit</b>		<b>Aesthetic Education Credit</b>	
<b>Credit Hours Per Week</b>	12 credit hours per week, 36+3 tutorial hours in total (one credit hour is 45 minutes)	<b>Education on The Hard- Working Spirit Credit Hours</b>		<b>Language of Instruction</b>	Engl ish	<b>Honors Course</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
<b>Course Type</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Core General Education Course <input type="checkbox"/> Specific General Education Course <input type="checkbox"/> Basic Course in General Discipline <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Others			2+X Major :			
				<input type="checkbox"/> Professional Core Course <input type="checkbox"/> Professional Advanced Course Non 2+X Major : <input type="checkbox"/> Professional Compulsory Course <input type="checkbox"/> Professional Elective Course			
<b>Course Objectives</b>	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.						
<b>Course Description</b>	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.						
<b>Course Requirements:</b>							
Class attendance, group discussion, essay writing.							

**Teaching Methods:**

Lecture and discussion

**Course Director's Academic Background:****Instructor's Academic Background:**

Felicia F. Tian is the 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 *Social Networks*, *Research in Social Stratification and Mobility*, *Journal of Marriage and Family*, and *Chinese Sociological Review*.

**Members of Teaching Team**

Name	Gender	Professional Title	Department	Responsibility

**Course Schedule:****\*\*PART1: Social networks basics\*\***

#1: course introduction

#2: bridging

(reading: Granovetter 1973)

#3: bonding

(reading: Coleman 1988)

#4: Watch: Social Network

**\*\*a reflection: 500 words\*\***

**\*\*PART2: Social networks in Chinese society\*\***

#5: family and lineage

(reading: Freedman 1966, chapters 1 & 2)

#6: face and favor

(reading: Hwang 1987)

#7: labor market

(reading: Bian 1994)

<p>#8: Watch: Ash is Purest White</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">**a reflection: 500 words**</p> <p>**PART3: trendy topics**</p> <p>#9: full network</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">(reading: Scott 1994)</p> <p>#10: social media</p> <p>#11: diffusion and innovation</p> <p>#12: student presentation</p>						
<p><b>The design of class discussion or exercise, practice, experience and so on:</b></p> 						
<p><b>If you need a TA, please indicate the assignment of assistant:</b></p> <p>Prepare course materials, grading reflections, check attendance.</p>						
<p><b>Grading &amp; Evaluation:</b></p> <p>[1] class participation (20%)</p> <p>[2] two reflections (30%)</p> <p>[3] essay (50%)</p>						
<p><b>Usage of Textbook:</b>   <input type="checkbox"/> Yes (complete textbook information form below)      <input type="checkbox"/> No</p> <p><b>Textbook Information</b> (No more than two textbooks) :</p>						
Title	Author	ISBN	Publishing Time	Publisher	Type I	Type II

**Teaching References:**

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

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

Coleman, J. S. (1988). Social Capital in the Creation of Human Capital. *American Journal of Sociology*, 94(Supplement), S95-S120.

Freedman, Maurice. 1966. *Chinese Lineage and Society: Fukien and Kwangtung*. New York, NY: Humanities 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) 74.

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