

Full Module Title:	INTRODUCTION TO CONTEMPORARY CHINESE SOCIETIES AND CULTURES
Short Module Title:	Introduction
Module Code:	1CCC7A2
Module Level:	7
Academic Credit Weighting:	20
School:	Social Sciences, Humanities and Languages
Department:	Centre for the Study of Democracy
Length:	One semester
Module Leader(s):	Professor Harriet Evans
Extension:	7603
Email:	evansh@wmin.ac.uk
Site:	Wells Street
Host Course:	MA International Studies (East Asian)
Status:	Elective
Relevant Course Titles/Pathways:	MA International Studies (East Asian) MA International Relations MA International Relations and Contemporary Political Theory MA CCS
Subject Board:	MA CCS
Pre-requisites:	None
Co-requisites:	None
Assessment:	2 essays of 2,500 words (50% each)
Special Features:	None
Access Restrictions:	Selection process for students not on the MA International Studies
Summary of Module Content:	This module covers the diversity of modern formation in Chinese societies, and examines the role of culture in this, with a focus on issues of nation, class and gender. It examines nationalism and global capitalism in the formation of Chinese modernity (ies), and the ramifications of Chinese cultural formations for prevailing theories and understandings of culture and transnationalism.

Module Aims

This modules aims to offer a unique overview of the diversity of modern formation in Chinese societies, with particular attention to issues of nation, class and gender. It will examine the complex influences of colonialism, nationalism and global capitalism in the formation of different paths to modernity in the Chinese socio-political world. Within this context, it will further examine issues of class and gender identity in the diverse societal and political processes of Chinese modernity. It will also look at the ramifications of diverse cultural formations, as manifested in contemporary China, Hong

Kong, Taiwan and elsewhere, for prevailing theories of culture. Finally, it will examine the processes of traditional revivalism, cultural syncretism and multiculturalism that contribute to better understanding of transnationalism and postnationalism.

Learning Outcomes

By the end of the module, students should be able to:

1. demonstrate a broad understanding of the complexity of contemporary Chinese cultural and social experiences, as they have evolved historically;
2. develop a critical understanding of geopolitical and socio-economic conditions that have given rise to different cultural formations in the Chinese world;
3. apply their cross-cultural knowledge to evaluate the viability of ongoing trends toward 'Greater China', 'Cultural China' and other forms of cultural hybridity;
4. formulate clearly structured and well-articulated arguments about relevant issues in written form.

Indicative Syllabus Content

The module will start with an overview of the diversity of Chinese cultural formations in the modern world, with an emphasis on introducing the kinds of issues debated in the interdisciplinary approach of cultural studies. On this basis, it will go on to examine the historical and cultural constructions and transformations of Chinese modernity; Chinese nationalism from global and local perspectives; cultural ideologies and political processes between Maoist and reform China; changing cultural constructions of class, gender and identity in China; ethnic nationalism in the 'borderlands'; tradition in post-war Taiwan; cultural transformations of colonialism and modernity in Hong Kong; historical and ethnographic overviews of the Southeast Asian Chinese Diaspora; ethnic and cultural mediations in Singapore; 'Greater China', 'Cultural China', and other transnational entities.

Teaching and Learning Methods

Seminars and talks (including student presentations).

Assessment Rationale

For a core module based on readings of the key theorists in the field of cultural studies, students should be able to demonstrate a sound critical grasp of the issues involved. For this reason, students will be asked to write two short essays in which they may demonstrate their familiarity with the themes and approaches of the module.

Assessment Criteria

The assessment criteria for this module are designed to test students' ability to present a reasoned study of a topic concisely and coherently in written form. For information on requirements and marking criteria for writing assignments, see MAIS Student Handbook, Section 7.3. Further guidelines will be issued to students when the module begins.

Assessment Methods and Weightings

2 essays of 2,500 words (50% each)

Sources

Primary

Abbas, A (1997) *Hong Kong: Culture and the Politics of Disappearance*, (Hong Kong: Hong Kong University Press).

Anagnost, A (1997) *National Past-Times: Narrative, Representation and Power in Modern China*, (Durham: University Press).

Ang, I (1994) 'On Not Speaking Chinese: Postmodern Ethnicity and the Politics of Diaspora', *New Formations*, 2, 1-18.

Barmé, G (1989) 'The Chinese Velvet Prison: Culture in the 'New Age', 1976-89', *Issues and Studies* 25, 8.

Barmé, G (1999) *In the Red: On Contemporary Chinese Culture* (New York): Columbia University Press).

Bell D A (1997) 'A Communitarian Critique of Authoritarianism: The Case of Singapore', *Political Theory* 25, 1.

Brown D (1998) 'Globalisation, Ethnicity and the Nation-State: The Case of Singapore', *Australian Journal of International Affairs* 52, 35-46.

Bulag, U (1998) *Nationalism and Hybridity in Mongolia*, (Oxford: Clarendon).

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Chun A J (1989) 'Pariah Capitalism and the Overseas Chinese of Southeast Asia: Problems in the Definition of the Problem', *Ethnic and Racial Studies* 12, 2.

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————— (1996) 'Fuck Chineseness: On the Ambiguities of Ethnicity as Culture as Identity', *boundary 2*, 23, 2.

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————— (1986) *State and Society in the Taiwan Miracle*, (Armonk, N.Y.: M. E. Sharpe).

————— (1993) 'Go With Your Feelings: Hong and Taiwan Popular Culture in Greater China', *The China Quarterly* 136.

Harding H (1993) 'The Concept of Greater China: Themes, Variations and Reservations', *The China Quarterly* 136.

Harrell S & Huang C eds. (1994) *Cultural Change in Postwar Taiwan*, Westview (Oxford: Oxford University Press).

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Tu, Wei-ming (1991) 'Cultural China: The Periphery as Center', in Tu Wei-ming, ed., *The Living Tree*, (Stanford: Stanford University Press, 1994).

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Yang M (1999) *Spaces of Their own: Women's Public Sphere in Transnational China* (Minneapolis/London: University of Minnesota Press).

Further Reading

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Chen X (1995) *Occidentalism: A Theory of Counter-Discourse in Post-Mao China* (New York/Oxford: Oxford University Press).

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Periodicals

Asian Survey
boundary 2
The China Journal
The China Quarterly
Comparative Studies in Society and History

Diaspora
Economic Development and Cultural Change
Human Organisation
Journal of the South Seas Society
Issues and Studies
Journal of Southeast Asian Social Science
New Formations
Political Geography
Transactions

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