

DUKE UNIVERSITY COURSE, FALL 2002

Department of Sociology PROGRAM

COURSE NO. 197S.01-299S.01 SYNOPSIS and SYLLABUS

**COURSE TITLE Seminar Special Topic:
CHINESE POP, FAMILY & SOCIO-ECO**

(Note: The full title of this course is “Chinese Populations, Families, and Socio-economics”)

Tuesday and Thursday 12:40-1:55 p.m.

Instructor: Professor Zeng Yi

CROSS-LISTED DEPARTMENT(s) (if any): Comparative Areas Studies and Public Policy

Prerequisites: There are no prerequisites. Both undergraduate and graduate students are welcome to take this course. As compared with undergraduate students, graduate students will be given additional reading assignments and work to meet requirements at graduate level.

Synopsis of Course Content:

Background

With the most recent participation of Mainland China and Taiwan in the World Trade Organisation (WTO), it becomes more important and imperative for the world including undergraduate and graduate students in U.S. to know more about Chinese populations, families, and socio-economics.

General Objectives

This course offers the most-up-to-date descriptive review, empirical data, and discussions on the historical cultural background, current status and future perspectives of Chinese populations, families, and socio-economics in Mainland China, Taiwan, Hong Kong, and Chinese communities in the United States.

Primary Features

This course is not a technical one; it focuses on substantial issues. We will also explain the concept, definition and substantive meanings of the basic measurements of population, family, and socio-economics in order to enable students to better understand the related literature in their career. This course is very important for students in Comparative Area Studies with a major or minor in Asia/Pacific studies. For students who are not going to be specialised in Asian/Pacific studies, this course serves as an illustrative area study and the knowledge learned can be used as comparative references in studies of other ethnic groups and areas. Active classroom discussions among the students and instructor will be encouraged.

How Students will Benefit from this Course

Students in Comparative Area Studies, Asian/Pacific Studies, Sociology, Demography, Public Policy, Market and Management Program, Economics, Environmental Science, Community and Family Medicine, and other related fields will benefit from taking this course mainly in the following aspects:

(1) Comparative Area Studies, Asia/Pacific Studies, Sociology, and Demography.

Chinese populations, including those living in Mainland China, Taiwan, Hong Kong, Chinese communities in the United States and other countries, make up nearly one fourth of the World's total population and about 40 percent of the Asian total population. Family is the most important units of all societies and socio-economics are fundamental basis of people's living. Studying Chinese populations, families and socio-economics is obviously an essential requirement for students specialised in Comparative Area Studies, especially for those with major or minor in Asian/Pacific region. Most top demographers and many top sociologists and economists in the United States and Europe at least once conducted or were interested in studies on Chinese populations, families, and socio-economics, because such studies involve nearly one fourth of people, societies, and market potential of the World.

(2) Public Policy and Public Health Services.

It has been widely recognised that understanding populations, families, and socio-economics is remarkably useful in social planning and public policy-making, because the purpose of public policy is to improve people's life quality, family welfare, and to enhance socio-economic development. In all cultural settings, daily cares for the sick people are primarily provided or assisted at homes by the family members, and the community medicine/health services are carried out through helps of patients' family members. More importantly, changes in population size, age structure, geographical distribution, family households, and socio-economic development are directly related to international, national, and community policy and health services for different cultural groups and societies.

(3) Market and Economic Analysis.

Consumers, producers, purchase power, and consumption intention etc. are all closely related to populations, families, and socio-economics. Almost all consumer productions of materials and services, the development of public utilities such as nursing homes, gas and electricity, and the construction of roads and transportation networks are determined by the current status of and anticipated changes in population, family households, and socio-economics. Understanding nearly one fourth of the World consumers and their market potential is essential for a successful business manager, market analyst, and economist in the 21st century.

Reading Assignments: To be up-dated and assigned before each class

Examinations: take-home midterm

Term Papers: one final term paper of 10-15 pages on issues related to comparative area studies of family.

Grade to be based on: classroom discussion 30%; midterm take-home exam 30%; paper 40%.

Additional information:

Summary Biography, Zeng Yi, Ph.D., Professor

Zeng Yi is a Research Professor at Center for Demographic Studies and Department of

Sociology of Duke University. He is also a Professor of Institute of Population Research at Peking University in China, and Distinguished Research Scholar of Max Planck Institute for Demographic Research in Germany. He received his doctoral degree from Brussels Free University in May 1986, and conducted his post-doctoral study at Princeton University, 1986-87. His primary research fields are population healthy aging, family studies, and policy analysis, with major research grants from NIA/NIH and other funding agencies. Up to March 2002, 63 of his professional papers written in English have been published in academic journals or as book chapters in the United States and Europe; among them 37 articles were published in referred (peer-reviewed) academic journals. He has 58 professional papers written in Chinese and published in China; among them 38 articles were published in referred national top Chinese academic journals. He has published three research books, such as the book on Family Dynamics by the University of Wisconsin Press. He also published one textbook on demographic methods, two volumes of demographic software and user's manuals on family status life table analysis, four edited books (two as the first editor, and two as the second editor), and one translation book.

Zeng Yi has served as a member of several important advisory committees/panels, such as a member of the U.S. National Academy of Sciences / National Research Council Panel on a Research Agenda and New Data for an Aging World; U.S. National Institute on Aging Advisory Panel on Exceptional Longevity; International Advisory Committee of Ministry of Health of China; National Advisory Committee on Population of State Family Planning Commission; and Chairman of Advisory Committee of China National Research Center on Aging.

Zeng Yi was awarded more than ten national and international academic prizes, such as Dorothy Thomas Prize of the Population Association of America; Harold D. Lasswell Prize in Policy Science awarded by the international journal *Policy Sciences* and Kluwer Academic Publishers; The second-class prize for outstanding achievement in science and technology advancement awarded by the State Sciences and Technology Commission of China; Two first-class prizes for outstanding contribution in philosophy and social sciences awarded by the Ministry of Education; The first-class prize for outstanding achievement in science and technology advancement awarded by the State Education Commission; and the highest academic honor of Peking University "Prize for Outstanding Contributions in Sciences".

Zeng Yi has taught population and family courses at Duke University, University of Minnesota and Peking University for years and honed efficacious skills and gained rich experiences. His philosophy and goals of teaching are: (a) Up-to-date; (b) Equal and interactive discussions between professor and students; (c) Teaching is also beneficial to professor's research and professors can also learn from students.

SYLLABUS OF THE COURSE

CHINESE POP, FAMILY & SOCIO-ECO

(Note: The complete title of this course is “Chinese Populations, Families, and Socio-economics”. Unless specifying a particular region (either Mainland China or Taiwan), sections and subsections cover discussions and comparisons of the Mainland China and Taiwan (and also Hong Kong in some cases). Discussions on Chinese communities in the United States will be mostly integrated in a sense of comparative analysis in the relevant sections).

I. POPULATION TRENDS SINCE 1950

1.1. Historical background of Chinese populations

1.2. Demographic profile and population policy in the 1950's and 1960's.

1. Population trends
2. Population policy

1.3. Rapid demographic transitions and the population policy in the 1970's.

1. New Population policy and Rapid demographic transition in the Mainland China
2. Continued demographic transitions in Taiwan and Hong Kong.

1.4. The one-child policy of the Mainland China launched in 1979: its implementation, difficulties, and the relaxation in rural areas around 1984.

1.5. Demographic trends and policy discussions in the Mainland China in the second half of the 1980's.

1. Fertility levels in 1980s.
2. Demographic decomposition of increase in Crude Birth Rates (CBR) in late 1980s.
 - (1) Age structure effects are the results of the second baby boom in the 1960s: not avoidable.
 - (2) Earlier marriage: New marriage Law announced in 1980 made the late marriage regulations of 1970s void.
 - (3) Why did marital fertility level also contribute, although was not the main factor, to the increase of CBR in 1987 than in 1984?
3. Promote late marriage and late childbearing so as to slow population growth

1.6. New problems and challenges: recent increase in sex ratio at birth

1.7. The most recent fertility trends in 1990s

II. RURAL INSTITUTIONAL AND ECONOMIC REFORMS AND THEIR IMPLICATIONS IN THE MAINLAND CHINA

2.1. Previous production team system

2.2. Rural Institutional and Economic Reform: Household Responsibility System

1. Started in a few villages in Anhui province in 1979.
2. Poor areas launched reform first.
3. Reform timetable

2.3. Theoretical Hypothesis about how would the rural reform affect peasants' fertility

1. To increase the rural fertility

- (1) Administrative control capacity was weakened, e.g. village leaders work more for their own households; no food rations any more; household registration is less important etc..
- (2) Peasants need labour to become rich.
- (3) Peasants need more sons to increase social status and family kinship group power.
- (4) Mobility enables some people to have extra births in other places.

2. To decrease the rural fertility

- (1) Cost of raising children increased.
- (2) Market competition --> peasants may pay more attention on quality of children rather than quantity of children.
- (3) Women's time is more valuable for getting rich rather than bearing children after the reform.
- (4) Mobility makes some young people delay their marriage and childbearing and even change their fertility attitudes.

2.4. Estimates of the impacts of rural reform on probability of having the second, third and higher birth, based on survey data

III. URBAN AND INDUSTRIAL REFORMS AND THEIR IMPLICATIONS IN THE MAINLAND CHINA

3.1. The urban reforms up to 1989

1. 1978-1983: unlike the rural reform, urban and industrial reforms were very weak in this early period.

2. The urban reforms launched in Oct. 1984.

Major objectives:

- (1) To reduce the role of governmental agencies and to increase role of enterprises in economic production and distribution.
- (2) To reform the planning system but not abolish planning.
- (3) To reform prices.
- (4) To separate government from enterprises functions.
- (5) To introduce the economic responsibility system to urban enterprises; to link the income of workers with their job performance.

3. The success in achieving the above objectives in the years 1984-89 was limited:

- (1) Failure to reform prices

- (2) Iron rice bowl: workers are hired but not fired, promoted but not demoted.
- (3) Every one eating out of the same big pot: no connection between a worker's job performance and income. Started to have bonuses in addition to salary, but the bonuses were in most cases distributed more or less equally rather than by work performance.
- (4) Industrial Contract Responsibility System: became universal in mid-1987, but much more needs to be done.
- (5) Inefficient use of energy caused by low price of energy and the outmoded technology: serious problems.
- (6) Expanding retail stores; establishing urban free markets for farmers to sell their products directly to urban residents.
- (7) Increase of employment in the individual private sector:
- (8) To attract foreign investment

3.2. Reform in the most recent years

1. The fundamental theoretical base was changed from central planning economy system to the so-called "socialist market economy system" – essentially not a large difference as compared to the capitalist market economy.
2. Corporate Reform: A new corporate law has been in force since July 1, 1994, which is aimed at to have the losing state-owned enterprises to be merged, sold, or turned into joint-stock companies, with shareholders selecting the board of directors.
3. The recent modification to the constitution and its implication. The private sector was regarded as “a supplementary part of the economy” in the previous constitution. But it was changed to “an important part of the economy” in the new version of the Chinese constitution. The impacts of this change are expected to be very substantive.
4. Social security system reform: unemployment insurance, pensions (to be discussed in detail later), medical insurance, etc.
5. Tax reform: establishing two separate tax bureau (state and local) across the country.
6. Banking reform: create a western-style banking system.
7. Housing reform: to have a commercialised housing market.
8. Unemployment and underemployment.
9. Most recent decisions (7/1/01) that the capitalists can join the Communist party, and promoting “three representations” rather than “four insistences”—implications on the Chinese economics and society in the future are expected to be enormous.
10. Still a lot of problems such as corruption, social unrest, diversity and inequality of income distribution and poverty etc.

3.3. The impacts of the urban reform on fertility

1. Much more employees from the deficit state-owned enterprises have no work to do any more and have to stay at home or to conduct individual business. The urban family planning network may lose control over the fertility of these people.
2. The family planning program is also very weak in the fast growing private and foreign invested enterprises.

NOTE: The effects of rural and urban reforms on the marriage, divorce, family size and structure, and population ageing etc. will be discussed later in the corresponding sessions.

3.4. Rapid economic development, rural-urban migration and floating population, land use and environment pollution

IV. ECONOMIC TAKING-OFF OF TAIWAN AND HONG KONG: TWO OF THE FOUR ASIAN SMALL DRAGONS

- 4.1. The Economic Take-Off of Taiwan and Hong Kong since early 1970s**
- 4.2. Impacts of economic take-off on demographic transitions, families and societies.**
- 4.3. Development of democratic election system in Taiwan**
- 4.4. Impacts of Asian financial crisis on Taiwan and Hong Kong**
- 4.5. Recent economic recession in Taiwan**

V. PARTICIPATION OF THE MAINLAND CHINA AND TAIWAN IN THE WORLD TRADE ORGANISATION (WTO)

- 5.1. Historical background and the long process**
- 5.2. Why is Chinese participation in WTO beneficial for both Chinese and the World?**
- 5.3. Tremendously deep and wide effects of China's participation in WTO on Chinese economics, societies, families, and politics.**

VI. PROFILE OF THE CHINESE FAMILIES

6.1. Introduction

1. The Chinese feedback model (F1 <---> F2 <---> F3) versus the Western continued linear model (F1 ---> F2 ---> F3)
2. General definition of family household.
3. Definition of "family" and "household" in the Chinese context

6.2. Current status and comparisons of family size and structure between Mainland China, Taiwan, Hong Kong, and Chinese community in U.S.

1. Average family size and the family size distribution
2. Percentage distributions of family types

3. Discussion and comparisons on the latest and detailed data from 1990 and 2000 censuses

Compared with American and European societies:

- (1) One-person households overestimate the real ones. Nevertheless, it is still very low proportionally compared with American and European societies.
- (2) very low proportion of single-parent family
- (3) separation of husband and wife due to job assignment and urban household registration constraint in the mainland China is still one of the social problems, although it is much less serious now than several years ago.
- (4) nuclear family is the most popular family units in China today. However, the three-generation family is also one of the important family types.
- (5) family household consisting of two generation of grandparents and grandchildren is a special social phenomenon in the Chinese context. It may be more close to the three-generation family than nuclear ones.
- (6) joint family consists of a very small prop.

We will also make comparisons and discuss the differences in family size and structure between the Mainland China, Taiwan, Hong Kong, and Chinese community in the U.S.

6.3. Changes in family size and structure

1. Changes in Family size in Mainland China

- (1) Why was family size in 1982 even larger than in 1953?
- (2) Why was family size in 1990 substantially smaller than in 1987 and the decrease was so large in just three years of time?

2. Changes in family structure in Mainland China

- (1) Why was the proportion of one-person households reduced substantially in 1990 compared with 1982? One explanation is that the separation of husband (or wife) from the rest of the family was due to job assignment is reduced today.
- (2) Why did the proportion of three-generation families first increase in 1987 and then decrease in 1990, while the difference between 1990 and 1987 was not significant?
- (3) Why was the percent of nuclear families with separated parents decreased tremendously in 1990, as compared with 1982 (but separation of parents is still a social problem especially in Beijing, Tianjing and Shanghai)?

3. Changes in family size and structure since 1950s in Taiwan, Hong Kong, and Chinese Community in the United States

6.4. Co-residence and the inter-generation relationships

VII. DEMOGRAPHIC DETERMINANTS OF FAMILY DYNAMICS

7.1. Marriage in Mainland China, Taiwan, and Hong Kong

1. Recent trends in marriages

2. Impacts of institutional and economic reform on age at marriage in 1980s in Mainland China
3. Concentration of first marriage in a narrow age interval
4. Continued universality of marriage

7.2. Fertility in Mainland China, Taiwan, and Hong Kong

1. Recent trends in fertility
2. Overall level and age pattern of fertility
3. Fertility decomposed by parity

7.3. Mortality in Mainland China, Taiwan, and Hong Kong

1. Crude death rates
2. Infant Mortality Rate
3. Life expectation
4. Although somewhat underestimation of death rates in Mainland China, the Chinese mortality level is relatively low compared with other developing countries.
5. Reasons for under-reporting deaths.

7.4. Widowhood in Mainland China, Taiwan, and Hong Kong

1. Proportion currently widowed is very low
2. Widowhood rates were even low in 1920s and 1930s (because of high remarriage rates).

7.5. Divorce in Mainland China, Taiwan, and Hong Kong

1. Overall level of divorce
2. Trend of divorce over time
3. Socio-economic determinants of divorce
4. Why is divorce level in Chinese societies low?

7.6. Remarriage in the Mainland China, Taiwan, and Hong Kong

1. Overall level of remarriage
2. Stability of remarriage over time
3. Socio-economic and demographic determinants of remarriage

7.7. Marriage, Fertility, and Divorce of Chinese Americans

VIII. SOCIO-ECONOMIC DETERMINANTS OF FAMILY DYNAMICS

8.1. Cultural tradition: the Chinese feedback model versus the western continued linear model in family and inter-generation relation;

8.2. Economic development and economic reform

1. Impact of modernisation on people's attitudes of living arrangement
2. Efficiency of production under the new family household responsibility system in Mainland China and the small private business in all Chinese settings
3. Housing constraints and its improvement in recent years in Mainland China
4. Urbanisation and migration
5. Women's social and economic status
6. Traditional son-preference
7. Family supporting system for elderly
8. Decrease in proportion of separated couples due to job assignments under previous political pressures in the Mainland China
9. Remarriage of previous political victims may also reduce proportion of one-person household in the Mainland China

8.3. The impact of population policy on family dynamics in Mainland China

1. Through impact on marriage and fertility
2. Directly promote three-generation family

VIII. REGIONAL AND ETHNIC DIFFERENCES IN DEMOGRAPHIC TRENDS AND FAMILY DYNAMICS in Mainland China

8.1. Rural-urban comparison in fertility, marriage, divorce, family size, family structure and population policy.

1. Proportion of urban population: administrative boundary versus the reality.
2. Rural-urban differences in family size and structure.
3. Rural-urban differences in marriage, fertility, divorce and remarriage.

8.2. Ethnic differences

8.3. Regional differences

1. Provincial differentials and regional pattern of fertility.
2. Provincial differentials and regional pattern of population density.
3. Provincial differentials and regional pattern of divorce.

VV. FUTURE TRENDS AND POLICY OPTIONS

10.1. Demographic projections up to the year 2050 for Mainland China, Taiwan, and Hong Kong

1. Population projection versus forecasting; Simulation or scenario for policy analysis.
2. Projected population size in the future

10.2. General trends of Population ageing

1. Proportion and size of the future elderly population
2. Age composition of the future elderly population
3. Working population versus elderly
4. Major features of population ageing in Mainland China, Taiwan and Hong Kong
 - (1). High speed
 - (2). Large quantity
 - (3). Large proportion of "oldest old" in the next century
 - (4). Ageing is accompanied with Low GNP per capital in the Mainland China
5. Oldest old: demographic, socio-economic and health profiles.

10.3. Chinese agenda on old age supporting system in rural areas

1. Strategic importance
2. Field observations and statistics
3. Problems
4. Other social services for elderly.
5. Continue to encourage family support system.

10.4. Projecting Chinese Family Households into the Next Century

1. Data resources
2. Assumptions
3. Output

10.5. Tradeoffs in future population policymaking.

1. Tradeoffs in population growth and aging.
 - (1) Population size and prop. elderly
 - (2) Retirement age

2. The impact of increasing age at childbearing on the future population development in Mainland China
 - (1) Impact under the medium fertility assumption
 - (2) Impact under the high and low fertility assumption
 - (3) The long-term impact
 - (4) Is it practical to promote the increase of mean age at childbearing?
 - (5) Close link between age at 1st marriage and age at childbearing

3. Policy considerations for promoting later childbearing in Mainland China
 - (1) Focus on promoting late childbearing
 - (2) Encourage late marriage
 - (3) Economic incentives and housing policy etc...

4. The impact of urbanisation on the future population growth and ageing
 - (1) Impact on population growth
 - (2) Population ageing
 - (3) Policy considerations

10.6. Discussion: issues on fertility policy and ageing in the Mainland China

10.7. Beyond Family Planning: Social and Economic action needed to solve the population problems in the Mainland China

1. Continue to improve the service quality of family planning program.
2. To change peasants' fertility attitudes, and to promote late childbearing and late marriage.
3. To emphasise strengthening the compulsory education in rural areas.
4. Old age insurance systems
5. To encourage the maintenance of the three-generation family for supplement to old age care.
6. Properly develop urbanisation for reducing fertility of the country as a whole.

VVI. CONCLUSION SESSION: Presentations of the major findings of the course papers written by students

Reading Assignments: To be up-dated and assigned before each class