Basic Information
Stony Brook University; College of Arts and Sciences
Spring 2016
This course satisfies the DEC category J
This course satisfies the SBC category SBS+

Meeting Times: Mon/Wed 2:30-3:50 pm
Campus: Stony Brook
Classroom: Humanities 1003

Instructor: Professor Gregory Ruf
Department of Cultural Analysis & Theory
(joint appointments in Asian & Asian American Studies and in Anthropology)

OFFICE HOURS:
Tuesdays 2:00-3:00 & Wednesdays 10:00-12:00
and other times (M-W) by appointment

CONTACT INFORMATION:
Email: Gregory.Ruf@stonybrook.edu
- The most effective way to reach me is via my official university email address, and email is the designated ‘official’ mode of contact for all communication with the instructor concerning this course. I monitor email daily, and I usually reply within one working day (weekends excluded); if you do not receive a response within 24-hours on a weekday, please re-send your message.

Phone: 631-632-7652
- You may also reach me via my office telephone, usually Mondays, Tuesdays, and Wednesdays, when I am on-campus. Although voicemail options may be available, I do not monitor voicemail messages remotely; I will check them upon return to campus after each weekend. If you need to reach me for any reason, email is the preferred method and likely the most effective means.

Office: 2068 Humanities
- My office is located on the second floor of the Humanities Building, south-wing (near the southwest stairwell at the building corner closest to the Javits Lecture Center). I strongly encourage every student to visit my office during the first weeks of the semester.

Office Hours: Appointments Encouraged; Appointments Required Outside of Scheduled Office Hours
- With rare exceptions, I am always available during regularly scheduled office hours. Students with scheduled appointments (via email confirmation) will receive priority. Drop-in visits – without appointment – during Office Hours are always welcomed and managed on a first-come first-serve basis (as time permits around scheduled appointments). If you need to see me in person, it always best to schedule an appointment – both for Office Hours as well as other times. I am not available during the 30-minutes prior to any of my classes. My teaching schedule is posted outside my office door.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:
This course examines forms and dynamics of social organization in Chinese society, focusing on cultural, social, economic, and political aspects of domestic and extended kinship units. Particular attention is devoted to how relationships based on gender and generation, ancestry and descent, as well as patterned ritualized exchange shape identity, status, and power.

Course Prerequisite: ANT 102; Advisory Prerequisites: AAS 220 and ANT 354

This course adopts a perspective derived from sociocultural anthropology. While it focuses largely on kinship and marriage among ethnic Han Chinese, it also employs comparative references to diverse forms of social organization in other cultures both in China and beyond.
Course Goals & Learning Objectives
This course aims for mastery of both content and critical analysis. The primary goal is to develop a nuanced understanding of human social organization. As a basic objective, students should acquire a firm understanding of the normative principles and operational dynamics of kinship and marriage in China. More broadly, the course seeks to train students in developing skills of critical reasoning and analysis, in examining how principles of kinship organization have been applied, and experienced, in concrete historical contexts in diverse cultural settings. Thirdly, students should gain an appreciation of changes and continuities in Chinese social organization, in both its material and symbolic forms. Upon successful completion of the course, students will meet the following learning outcomes of the SBS+ category under the Stony Brook Curriculum:

1. Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the interconnectedness of the world, past and present (particularly through the medium of kinship and marriage).
2. Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of a society or culture outside the United States (in this case, Chinese culture).

Course Structure & Materials Needed
The class is a combination of lecture and discussion, and will be run in the style of a modified seminar based on active student participation. It requires intensive reading and considerable time commitment. Required texts have been ordered through the campus bookstore (you are not “required” to buy any of them, but you are required to read them). Assigned readings from these main texts are listed in abbreviated form below in the Course Schedule; additional required readings for each weekly session are listed with full bibliographic citations and are accessible through JSTOR.

The first half of the course introduces key concepts and ideas in an anthropological analysis of social organization, and deconstructs analytically various aspects of kinship and marriage in Chinese society and society. Discussion is framed within a cross-cultural perspective of comparative ethnology, and draws on ethnographic and historical research to highlight parallels and contrasts in contexts around the world. After midterm, focus shifts to critical scrutiny of two case studies: one examines community dynamics in an ethnic Han Chinese village in rural Sichuan province throughout the twentieth century; the other explores egalitarian gender relations in a contemporary ethnic Lahu village in the highlands of Yunnan province near the border with Myanmar (Burma). The course is taught in lecture format, including audio/visual illustrations as well as discussions with active participation. Students must attend class regularly, having read in advance the materials assigned for each respective class session. You are not required to purchase assigned readings and texts, but you are required to read them. Come to class with prepared notes on the assigned reading(s), and participate actively in discussion, analysis, and commentary regarding that material. If you miss a class, seek a copy of lecture notes from a classmate rather than from the instructor.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS
Please take particular note of the following course requirements:

1. Regular attendance and active participation are required. Any unexcused absence will result in a five-point deduction from your Attendance grade.
2. You must silence all electronic devices (especially mobile phones) for the duration of class time.
3. Required reading for each session must be completed prior to class-time; come to class prepared to discuss the material.
4. Students are required to complete all assignments on time, and to contribute regularly and on-time to the weekly Discussion Forum maintained on the course Blackboard site.
5. You are welcome to bring a laptop or tablet computer to class, but you are required to set it to silent operation, and to confine its use during class sessions to activities and functions relevant and pertinent to class discussions (for example, you may search the web for class-related material; you should NOT use the device during class time to monitor or update social networking sites, watch videos, play games, shop, or otherwise distract the attention of yourself or those around you from class discussions; improper use of electronic media during class time will result in loss of points for that session’s Participation grade).
6. Recording (audio or visual) of class sessions is NOT allowed. All course material is protected intellectual property and its distribution (including uploading to the Internet) is STRICTLY PROHIBITED; violators will be subject to academic penalty and may face criminal prosecution.

REQUIRED READINGS
Most assigned readings in the first half of the course will be accessible on-line, either through JSTOR or through the course Blackboard site. There are two books that we will be reading in their entirety; these have been ordered through the university’s campus bookstore. You also may procure them through other means or vendors:


For those who develop an interest in reading further about the topics covered in each class session, “Recommended Readings” are also included (in greyed-out text) under many required reading assignments. These are merely a suggested starting point from which to pursue additional information. They are not required readings and will not be included in assessment exercises. Pursue them voluntarily, at your own interest.

**“BLACKBOARD”**

A restricted-access website for this course will be maintained through the University’s Blackboard platform. You should visit the course’s Blackboard site regularly. Posted there you will find various Announcements, Course-related Materials, Guidelines for Assignments, Discussion Forums (in which you are expected to participate regularly), and all Grades.

**Assignments, Exams, & Grading**

There will be two examinations (midterm and final), each preceded by a series of quizzes structured around course material and assigned readings. A “Make-Up” Mid-term Exam will be permitted only in extraordinary circumstances and will require pre-approval from the instructor (i.e., before the date of the midterm, you must obtain advance email approval of instructor). Approval requires a compelling or legitimate reason to miss a scheduled assessment. There are no make-up Quizzes, and no make-up Final Exam. Near the end of the term, students must also submit a family genealogy and life history based on original research: the deadline for this assignment will be absolute; no extensions granted. Final Grades for the course will be calculated on the following basis:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Weight</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Attendance &amp; In-Class Participation</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discussion Forum Posts</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Genealogical Life History</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quizzes</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midterm Exam</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Exam — or — Term Paper</td>
<td>25%</td>
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**ATTENDANCE & IN-CLASS PARTICIPATION: 10%**

Regular attendance is required; students are permitted two unexcused absences without penalty. This is by far the easiest portion of the course grade in which to excel. The course seeks to foster a lively and robust conversation among all participants. Regular participation during class time is a fundamental part of the course. You should come to class having read the assignments thoroughly, taken careful notes, and prepared your own summaries, questions, and comments to share with the class.

**DISCUSSION FORUM POSTS: 10%**

Students are required to participate regularly in a Weekly Discussion Board forum maintained on the course Blackboard site. A question or topic for online discussion will be posted each Wednesday, and student responses must be uploaded before 11:59pm that Sunday. Students are encouraged to continue threaded discussions even after this initial deadline.

**GNEALOGICAL LIFE HISTORY: 15%**

By the end of the semester, each student is required to submit a family genealogy and personal life history narrative (3-5 three pages in length) that they have obtained through interviews with a third-party. You are permitted – even encouraged – to research your own family history, but this must entail interviewing another person (e.g., an elderly relative). You are not permitted to base your genealogy and life history solely on your own memory. The narrative should describe key events, personal milestones, and influential experiences that shaped the lives of individuals. You must include a ‘family tree’ or other diagrammatic representation of the subject’s genealogy. All work must be submitted electronically in PDF format.
QUizzes: 15%
Over the course of the semester, several short quizzes will be conducted to assess basic comprehension of reading assignments and/or mastery of lecture material. Quizzes are intended, in part, to help students prepare for examinations. Most quizzes will be announced in advance, although there may be some quizzes without prior notice. At the end of the term, the lowest quiz score is dropped or ‘erased’ from each student’s record of grades.

Midterm Exam: 25%
The Mid-Term Exam will constitute a more comprehensive assessment exercise combining True/False, Multiple Choice, and Short Identification, and possibly Essay Questions.

Final Exam or Term Paper: 25%
The course will have a cumulative Final Exam covering material from throughout the semester. All students are required to the exam at the time designated by the University Registrar (Tuesday, May 10, 5:30-8:00pm; Day 1, Period IV). NB: No ‘Make-up’ Final Exam will be permitted. However, in lieu of sitting for the Final Exam, students have the OPTION of submitting a research-based Term Paper at least twelve (12) pages in length. If you submit a Term Paper, you are excused from the Final Exam; if you take the Final Exam, you are not required to write a Term Paper.

The Term Paper Topic is open, although it must be on a topic of direct relevance to the course subject matter. Proposed topics must be submitted via email to the instructor no later than Tuesday, 1 March, for review and approval. Guidelines for term papers will be posted to Blackboard. Term Papers are to be submitted to the Instructor both electronically (as WORD format [.doc or .docx] email-attachment) and in printed ‘hard-copy’ no later than the final class session on Wednesday, May 4. NO EXTENSIONS WILL BE PERMITTED. Students who opt to write a research paper are strongly urged to consult with the campus Writing Center located in HUM 2009: http://www.stonybrook.edu/commcms/wirheth/writing_center/writing.html

FYI: Official SBU Final Examination Schedule for Spring 2016 may be found at: http://www.stonybrook.edu/commcms/registrar/registration/1164 Spring 2016 Final Exams 12112015.pdf

Course Grading Scale
Letter grades for individual assessments – and for the course overall – will be based on the scale below. There will be No Exceptions.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Description</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>90s</td>
<td>A range: A 94 &amp; above</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>80s</td>
<td>B range: B+ 87-89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>70s</td>
<td>C range: C+ 77-79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&lt;70s</td>
<td>D or F range: D+ 68-69</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Course Policies and Expectations
The course maintains high standards of expectation regarding the work of both student and instructor. Regular attendance, robust participation in class discussions, and timely completion of all assignments – both readings as well as essays – required. All assignments are due at class-time on the designated date; failure to complete and submit assignments on time will incur penalties. There are no ‘extra credit’ opportunities in this course. Cheating and plagiarism will not be tolerated. Students are strongly encouraged to study and review with classmates, and to retrieve your quiz papers after each assessment. Those who review their quizzes and work with study partners historically have statistically significant higher grades in the course. If you are concerned about your grade(s) or your standing in the course, you should consult with the instructor during office hours as soon as possible. The time to address any concerns about your academic standing is early in the semester – not at the end of the semester. Grade appeals will be considered only if there is empirical evidence of computational error. I will not consider grade appeals on the grounds that you tried really hard, you need a certain minimum grade to graduate, you have a relative who is ill in the hospital, your visa is expiring, your pet died, or any other personal reason.

Academic Integrity
Each student must pursue his or her academic goals honestly and be personally accountable for all submitted work. Representing another person’s work as your own is always wrong. Faculty are required to report any suspected instance of academic dishonesty to the Academic Judiciary. For more comprehensive information on academic integrity, including categories of academic dishonesty, please refer to the academic judiciary website. Please take a moment to review the University Conduct Code.

EMAIL
All email sent to you via Blackboard will be sent to your @stonybrook.edu email address. Be sure to check your Stony Brook University email account frequently and regularly. The following is a notice from the Interim CIO and Assistant Provost for Teaching, Learning + Technology, Stony Brook University:

Electronic Communication
Email and especially email sent via Blackboard is one of the ways we will officially communicate with you for this course. It is your responsibility to make sure that you read your email in your official University email account. For most students that is Google Apps for Education but you may verify your official Electronic Post Office (EPO) address at: http://it.stonybrook.edu/help/kb/checking-or-changing-your-mail-forwarding-address-in-the-epo
If you choose to forward your official University email to another off campus account, I am not responsible for any undeliverable messages to your alternative personal accounts. You can set up email forwarding using these DoIT-provided instructions found at: http://it.stonybrook.edu/help/kb/setting-up-mail-forwarding-in-google-mail

If you need help accessing your @stonybrook.edu email account, or for other technical assistance, please contact Client Support at 631-632-9800 or SupportTeam@stonybrook.edu.

MINIMAL UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES
The University's statement of Minimal Instructional and Student Responsibilities was updated by the University Senate’s Undergraduate Council in Fall 2008. Please review it carefully, especially the sections on Responsibilities in the Classroom, Absentee Policy, and Course Responsibilities. Consult the ‘Academic Policies and Regulations’ section of the on-line Undergraduate Bulletin:
http://sb.cc.stonybrook.edu/bulletin/current/policiesandregulations/policies_expectations/min_instructional_student_resp.php

STUDENT SUCCESS RESOURCES
A brief guide to 'Student Success Resources' on campus may be found at:

DISABILITY SUPPORT SERVICES (DSS)
If you have a physical, psychological, medical, or learning disability that may impact your course work, please contact Disability Support Services at (631) 632-6748 or at http://studentaffairs.stonybrook.edu/dss/. They will determine with you what accommodations are necessary and appropriate. All information and documentation is confidential. Students who require assistance during emergency evacuation are encouraged to discuss their needs with their professors and Disability Support Services. For procedures and information: http://www.stonybrook.edu/ehs/fire/disabilities

CRITICAL INCIDENT MANAGEMENT:
Stony Brook University expects students to respect the rights, privileges, and property of other people. Faculty are required to report to the Office of Judicial Affairs any disruptive behavior that interrupts their ability to teach, compromises the safety of the learning environment, and/or inhibits students’ ability to learn.
Course Calendar

**Week 1**

Mon., Jan 25

Introduction
No Readings

Wed., Jan 27

Engendering Identity

Read:

Fri., Jan 29 = Last Day to Submit Major/Minor Changes Effective Spring/Summer 2016 Semesters

**Week 2**

Mon., Feb 1

Family and Household

Read:

Recommended:

Wed., Feb 3

Segregating Public and Domestic Domains, Space, and Action


Recommended:

Fri., Feb 5 = Last Day to Add, Swap, Drop, or Submit LOA/Term Withdraw from the University Without a “W” (Deadline 4:00pm)

**Week 3**

Mon., Feb 8

Domestic Group Rituals

Read:

Recommended:
Wed., Feb 10
Socialization and Enculturation
Read:
Recommended:

Week 4
Mon., Feb 15
Women’s Community and Matrilateral Relatives
Read:
- Margery Wolf, 1972, “Uterine Families and the Women’s Community,” from *Women and the Family in Rural Taiwan*, Stanford, pp. 32-41
Recommended:

Wed., Feb 17
Rituals of Patrilineal Kinship and Marriage
Read:

Week 5:
Mon., Feb 22
Affinity, Status, and Social Mobility
Read:
Recommended:

Wed., Feb 24
Family, Lineage, and Clan
Read:
Recommended:

Week 6:
Mon., Feb 29
Corporate Aspects of Lineage Groups
Read:
Recommended:

**Tues., Mar 1 = Optional Term Paper Topic Due**

**Wed., Mar 2**

**Rituals of Solidarity**

**Read:**

**Recommended:**

**Week 7:**

**Mon., Mar 7**

**Ritual Kinship, Voluntary Association, and Social Networking**

**Read:**

**Recommended:**

**Wed., Mar 9**

* **MID-TERM EXAM** *

* **Mon., Mar 14 & Weds., Mar 16 – NO CLASS – Spring Recess** *

**Week 8:**

**Mon., Mar 21**

**The Social Organization of Political Economy in Rural Sichuan**

**Read:**
- Ruf, *Cadres & Kin*, ch. 1

**Wed., Mar 23**

**Alliance and Antagonism**

**Read:**
- Ruf, *Cadres & Kin*, ch. 2

Mon., Mar 28 = Major/Minor Changes Begin for Summer/Fall 2016 Semester

**Week 9:**

Mon., Mar 28
Social Organization of Revolutionary Mobilization
Read:
  ● Ruf, Cadres & Kin, ch. 3

Wed., Mar 30
Collectivism and Community
Read:
  ● Ruf, Cadres & Kin, ch. 4

Fri., Apr 1 = Last Day to Submit Section/Credit Changes; to Select Grade/Pass/NoCredit (GPNC) option, to Withdraw from a Course (W recorded) – 4pm deadline

Week 10:
Mon., Apr 4
Corporate Village as Family
Read:
  ● Ruf, Cadres & Kin, ch. 5

Wed., Apr 6
The Lahu of the Yunnan-Myanmar Frontier
Read:
  ● Du, Chopsticks Only Work in Pairs, Introduction

Week 11:
Mon., Apr 11
Ideologies of Gender Equality
Read:
  ● Du, Chopsticks Only Work in Pairs, ch. 1

Wed., Apr 13
Dyadic Perceptions of Personhood
Read:
  ● Du, Chopsticks Only Work in Pairs, ch. 2

Week 12:
Mon., Apr 18
Gender Unity in Production and Reproduction
Read:
  ● Du, Chopsticks Only Work in Pairs, ch. 3

Wed., Apr 20
Gender and Community Leadership among the Lahu
Read:
  ● Du, Chopsticks Only Work in Pairs, ch. 4

Week 13:
Mon., Apr 25
Gender Unity in Kinship and Reciprocal Exchange
Read:
  ● Du, Chopsticks Only Work in Pairs, ch. 5

Wed., Apr 27
Modernizing the Primitives
Read:
• Du, Chopsticks Only Work in Pairs, ch. 6
Week 14:
Mon., May 2 = Family Genealogy and Life History Project Due
Contemporary Issues
Read:

Recommended:

Wed., May 4 = Optional Term Paper Due (electronic AND print submission)
Concluding Discussion
No Readings

ADVISORY: Wednesday, May 4 -- Instructor’s Last Regularly-Scheduled Office Hours

Fri., May 6 = Last Day to Take LOA or to Withdraw from the University

Tues., May 10 - Final Exam: 5:30-8:00 pm