

# **SOCI 32703/AIST 32703: Sociology of China**

**Fall 2025**

## SYLLABUS ONLINE AT

<https://yangwang.hosted.uark.edu/soci32703/soci32703.htm>

## CLASS INSTRUCTOR

Dr. Song Yang

Office Hours: Wednesday 10:30 – 11:30 am or by Appointment

Office Address: 228 Old Main

Office Phone: 575-3206

Email: [yangwang@uark.edu](mailto:yangwang@uark.edu)

## PLACE AND TIME FOR THE CLASS

This is a in person class. We will be conducting class lectures on Monday and Wednesday from 3:05 to 4:20 pm @ Kimpel 214 from August 18 (Monday) to December 12 (Friday), 2025.

Meanwhile, lecture notes, syllabus, and homework will be posted on the class webpage

<https://yangwang.hosted.uark.edu/soci32703/soci32703.htm>

You can also access to your grade through the UARK blackboard system.

## COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES

China, with its vast size of land, of culture, of people, of history, of government, of civilization, of economy, of military, and currently of its influences, has presented a forever fascination to scholars, students, practitioners, businesspersons, and random observers. This class offers a sociological account of China, focusing on two aspects of China. The first focus is on its social ethos, the fundamental undergirds for Chinese people's actions, beliefs, customs, moral standards, and assumptions. The second focus is on Chinese Americans in US, examining their arrivals, immigrations, and discrimination in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, studying their situations and achievements in the 20<sup>th</sup> century, and discussing their current and future conditions.

This class offers rich information about Chinese people, about their cultures and practices. That information is facilitative to those doing business in China, or doing business with China, to those who want to familiarize with and sensitize themselves in multi-culture environment. Students can also take this course for general cultural enrichment – getting to know a drastic different culture than the west has lots of fun.

### REQUIRED TEXTBOOK

Fei, Xiaotong, 1992, *From the Soil: The Foundations of Chinese Society*, California: University of California Press (ISBN-13: 978-0520077966)

Chang, Iris, 2003, *The Chinese in America: A Narrative History*, New York: Vikings (ISBN-13: 978-0142004173)

### GRADING

The class contains three exams and attendance credits. The following table shows the score distribution for the class.

### SOCI32703

Test1	25%
Test2	25%
Test3	40%
<u>Attendance</u>	<u>10%</u>
Total	100%

The following chart converts raw scores to letter grade

A:	91% – 100%
B:	81% – 90%
C:	71% – 80%
D:	60% – 70%
F:	Below 60%

The grading will be based on absolute scale rather than a curve. Regular and active participation is the key to the success of the class. Notice that we do not have plus or minus signs in the grading system. All decimal places will be rounded up to its nearest integer value.

## POLICIES

Incomplete will NOT be granted except for prior agreement with the instructor for some extreme situations.

Late Assignment (N/A) will NOT be accepted except for prior consent from the instructors for some extreme cases.

Attendance is extremely crucial for this course. I will be awarding you 10 points (10% of your total grade) for your participation in the class, which will be measured with five unannounced roll-call throughout the semester. Thus, each roll-call should be counted as two points.

Policy regarding disruptive behavior – I shall remind you that Good Classroom Conduct is indispensable to your completion of this course. Disruptive behaviors, such as constant interruptions that interfere with classroom lecturing or presentations made by the instructor or other students, confrontational behaviors toward the instructor should be avoided by all means. I will be sending out warning note to those students exhibiting disruptive behaviors, inviting them for a personal meeting between me and the students for a solution to their disruptive behaviors. If the students refuse to participate in the meeting or after the meeting the behaviors are not corrected immediately, I will be deducting 10 points from their total grade and produce written document for such decision. The 10-point deduction could be exercised multiple times for those who repeatedly commit disruptive behaviors.

Often, we have students who have personal mishaps (diseases of themselves, family member illness or death, close friends illness or death) that prevent them from attending the classes for a significant period of time. Here is the rule of thumb that the students need to follow to decide whether to stay with the class or drop. If the students miss the classes more than they attend the classes, they need to drop. OR if the students attend for less than 50 percent of the covered classes, they need to drop. In any event, I strongly recommend that the students who are facing such situations come to talk to me about the class as early as possible. DO NOT wait until the end of the semester and after missing a significant number of classes to come in to solve the problem. I will NOT be able to help at that late stage.

Academic Integrity is essential to completing your courses. Violations carry severe consequences; please consult the University of Arkansas webpage for the details (<http://provost.uark.edu/245.php>)

Exam Makeup will NOT be granted unless with prior consent from the instructor for some very rare situations.

Email is the best way to contact me. I check my email many times a day, and normally respond your email within a couple of days.

Students with CEA request must request a meeting with me. The meeting is to discuss how to accommodate your needs. You can request such meeting any time during the semester. However, keep in mind that we must have such meeting before we can provide any CEA accommodations.

Being late to the class should be avoided by all means. I strongly recommend you NOT to come in to the class if you are more than 10 minutes late for the class. Repeated offenses to this are considered disruptive behaviors, and maybe subject to the point deduction (see the attendance policy).

I will determine the inclement weather, and send you a group-email before 7:30 am if I decide to cancel classes due to the inclement weather condition. If U of A issues an inclement weather in effect, our class is automatically cancelled.

Grade Disputes for SOCI32703 should be addressed directly to the instructor, Song Yang.

We will try to synchronize our hand-back of your homework and the exams (N/A), so you would have the homeworks that correlate with the exams before you take the exam. However, this is much easy say than done. Homework grading may not complete before the test takes place. If you wish to make use of the homework for your tests, one foolproof method is to make a personal copy of your homeworks before you turn them in, and keep your copies for your preparation for the exams. In case you have questions about the homework that may affect your preparation of the exam, contact the instructor for help.

Grade release/notification is taking place at the classroom only during the class sessions. If you miss the classes when we hand back your homework or exams, you can stop by my office. Such policy applies during the semester and after the semester. As we will be having no classes after the semester, any inquiries about your grades will be handled through your personal visit to my office (228 Old Main).

Good faith effort is expected, especially when students are called upon to resolve the disruptive behaviors. Those good faith efforts include, but not limited to, respectful behaviors to the instructor, responsible act by students to correct those disruptive behaviors or other issues that impede class lecturing and instructor's efforts to manage students. Violations to good faith efforts exemplify in rude/disrespectful treatment to the instructor, repeatedly dispute on the issues that were clarified by the instructor, excessive demand placed to the instructor to elucidate the issues that were clearly communicated with the students. Students exhibiting those "bad faith acts" after they receive the "disruptive behavior notice" are subject to 10-point deduction to their total grade.

If you are sick with contagious virus, such as flu or covid-19, please follow doctor's note to quarantine and notify me immediately.

The instructor holds the right to interpret those policy terms

## EMERGENCY PROCEDURES

Many types of emergencies can occur on campus; instructions for specific emergencies such as severe weather, active shooter, or fire can be found at [emergency.uark.edu](http://emergency.uark.edu).

### Severe Weather (Tornado Warning):

- Follow the directions of the instructor or emergency personnel
- Seek shelter in the basement or interior room or hallway on the lowest floor, putting as many walls as possible between you and the outside
- If you are in a multi-story building, and you cannot get to the lowest floor, pick a hallway in the center of the building
- Stay in the center of the room, away from exterior walls, windows, and doors

### Violence / Active Shooter (CADD):

- CALL- 9-1-1
- AVOID- If possible, self-evacuate to a safe area outside the building. Follow directions of police officers.
- DENY- Barricade the door with desk, chairs, bookcases or any items. Move to a place inside the room where you are not visible. Turn off the lights and remain quiet. Remain there until told by police it's safe.
- DEFEND- Use chairs, desks, cell phones or whatever is immediately available to distract and/or defend yourself and others from attack.

# CLASS SCHEDULE

## **WEEK August 18**

Orientation to the class

Fei, Xiaotong: Introduction

## **WEEK August 25**

Fei, Xiaotong: chapter 1 – special character of rural society

Weekly topic: China: seen from a foreigner's perspective

PBS China: Frame by Frame (2023: 57 minutes)

## **WEEK September 1**

No class on September 1, have a good Labor Day

Weekly topic: Covid-19, and international relations

PBS documentary: China's Zero- COVID Challenge (2022: 30 minutes)

## **WEEK September 8**

Fei, Xiaotong: chapter 4 – the differential mode of association

Weekly topic: China political regime/PBS interviews with Ai Weiwei (2021: 30 minutes)

## **WEEK September 15**

Fei, Xiaotong: chapter 5 – the morality of personal relationships

Weekly topic: Chinese Communism Party (CCP)

Youtube: 100 Years Of Chinese Communist Party: Its Mark On Modern China | CNA  
Documentary (2021: 50 minutes)

## **WEEK September 22**

Test 1 on September 22 (Monday) – Group 1

Test 1 on September 24 (Wednesday) – Group 2

## **WEEK September 29**

Fei, Xiaotong: chapters 6 & 7 – “patrilineages” and “between men and women, there are only difference”

Weekly topic: Chinese families, marriages and a society of Patriarchy/

youtube video: China's Unmarried 'Leftover' Women (2018: 30 minutes)

## **WEEK October 6**

Fei, Xiaotong: chapter 8 – A rule of ritual &

Fei, Xiaotong: chapter 9 – a society without litigation

Weekly topic: China's new international ambition,

PBS video: China's New Silk Road: 2019: 55 minutes

## **WEEK October 13**

**No class on Monday October 13, Enjoy Fall Break on Oct. 13 and 14**

Fei, Xiaotong: chapter 10 – An inactive government & 11 – rule by elders

## **WEEK October 20**

Fei, Xiaotong: chapter 12 – consanguinity and regionalism

Weekly topic: China's economic success

Amazon Prime Video: How China Got Rich (2019) 57 minutes

## **WEEK October 27**

Test 2 on October 27 (Monday) – Group B

Test 2 on October 29 (Wednesday) – Group A

### **WEEK November 3**

Chang, Iris: Chapter 1 through 6 – Chinese Americans in the 19<sup>th</sup> century (1)

Chang, Iris: Chapter 1 through 6 – Chinese Americans in the 19<sup>th</sup> century (2)

PBS video: American Experience: The Chinese Exclusion I (2017: 90 minutes)

### **WEEK November 10**

Chang, Iris: Chapter 8 and 9 – Racial discrimination against Chinese

Chang, Iris: Chapter 8 and 9 – Chinese Exclusionary Act

PBS video: American Experience: The Chinese Exclusion I (2017: 90 minutes)

### **WEEK November 17**

Chang, Iris: Chapter 13 – 18 History and the future for Chinese Americans

Weekly topic: The future of US-China relations: PBS video: How a US-China War Could Happen (2021: 30 minutes)

### **WEEK November 24**

**Review of class on Monday Nov 24, no class on November 26 – 28 for Thanksgiving Holiday**

### **WEEK December 1**

Netflix documentary: American Factory (2019) 115 minutes

**Lecture ends on December 4 (Thursday)**

### **WEEK December 8**

**Final Exam TBD**