SOCIETY AND CULTURE IN TAIWAN  Syllabus 2008-2009

Wednesdays: 3-5.00

Russell Square Campus: Room 266

Course Convenor: Dr Dafydd Fell

Office Hours: Wednesday 2-3 Office Room: 204 Email: df2@soas.ac.uk

Taught by Dafydd Fell (DF), Chang Bi-yu (CBY) and Isabelle Cheng (IC)

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Isabelle Cheng: Email: isabelle.nt.cheng@googlemail.com (Office hours by appointment)

Course Scope:
This course aims to provide students a broad knowledge base concerning Taiwanese history, society and culture. An understanding of Taiwanese history and society will also facilitate a better comprehension of overall East Asian society and the interaction between the countries therein. After introducing Taiwan’s historical background, there are series of in-depth units on class, ethnicity, migration, family & gender, culture, mass media, language and education in contemporary Taiwan.

Course Schedule:
1. October 1: Introduction to Society and Culture in Taiwan (DF, CBY, IC)
2. October 8: Early History 1600-1895 and the Japanese Colonial era 1895-1945 (DF)
3. October 15: Taiwan’s modern history: political and economic dimensions (DF)
4. October 22: Taiwan’s modern history: Ethnic and social dimensions. (DF)
5. October 29: Population and Migration Patterns (IC)
6. November 5: Reading Week
7. November 12: Family and Gender in Taiwan  (IC and DF)
8. November 19: Taiwanese Culture and Identity (CBY)
9. November 26: Culture and Arts (CBY)
10. December 3: Language and Education (CBY)
11. December 10: Mass Media (CBY)
Coursework: 1 essay (c.3,500 words) to be submitted; to count toward final assessment. Essay due by Monday 12 January 2009

Examination: Students will be required to sit a two-hour written examination in the third term.

Class Participation: Class participation is not formally assessed, but students are expected to contribute to the class regularly and meaningfully. In each class one or two students will make a short presentation on the readings.

Reading Requirement:
Students should expect to read the equivalent of a book a week, and more when assigned presentations.

Class Format:
This will vary according to the lecturer. Usually there will be about 60-70 minutes of lecture, followed by student presentations and class discussion for the rest of the session.

Seminars, conferences and public lectures:
In addition, to the Taiwan Society and Cultures classes we will also arrange a series of seminars and public lectures, which students are strongly encouraged to attend. For details see Centre of Taiwan website: www.soas.ac.uk/taiwanstudies
Reading List for Society and Culture in Taiwan

**Week 1 Introduction to Taiwan’s Society and Culture**

**For an introduction to Taiwan**

**Week 2 Taiwan’s Early History 1600-1895 and the Japanese Colonial Era 1895-1945**

**Week 3: Taiwan’s Modern History: Political and Economic Dimensions**


**Week 4 Taiwan’s Modern History: Social and Ethnic Dimensions**

**Basic Readings**


**Gold, T. P.** 1996 "Taiwan society at the Fin de Siecle." *China Quarterly* (Dec.): 1091-1114. [PER24]

**Chen, D.S.** 2001 “Taiwan's social changes in the patterns of social solidarity in the 20th century”, *China quarterly*, March, No.165, pp.61-82


**Extended Readings**

**Hsieh, S-C** 1994 "From Shanbao to Yuanzhumin: Taiwanese aborigines in transition” in *The Other Taiwan, 1945 to the present* Ed. M.A. Rubinstein, Armonk, NY: ME Sharpe, pps.404-419 CCX951.24 x3 TC]

**Chu, J.J.** 2000 “The new working class in Taiwan: its social values, political attitudes and class position”, *Asian profile*, October, Vol.28, No.5, pp.371-384

**Chu, J.J.** 2000 “From incorporation to exclusion: the employment experience of Taiwanese urban aborigines”, *China quarterly*, Dec, No.164, pp.1025-1043


**Huang, C.-C.** 1994 “Transformation of farmers' social consciousness in postwar Taiwan.” *Cultural Change in Postwar Taiwan*. Stevan Harrell & Huang Chun-chieh. Boulder, Colo., Westview Press, 111-134. [CCX951.24 x2 TC]

**Shaw, T.A.** 1994 "'We like to have fun': leisure and the discovery of the self in
Taiwan's 'new' middle class",  *Modern China*  20 (4): 416-445  [PER24]

**Speare, A.,Jr**  1992 “Taiwan's rural populace - brought in or left out of the economic miracle?” In D. Simon (ed.) Taiwan - beyond the economic miracle, M.E. Sharpe, Armonk, NY., pp.211-236


**Cheng, R-L**.  1994 "Language unification in Taiwan: present and future" in *The Other Taiwan, 1945 to the present*  Ed. M.A. Rubinstein,  Armonk, NY: ME Sharpe, pps.357-391  [CCX951.24  x3  TC]

**Week 5: Population and Migration**

**Basic Reading**


**Further Reading**

Hsia, Hsiao-Chuan, 1997, *Selfing and Othering in the ‘Foreign Bride’ Phenomenon: A Study of Class, Gender and Ethnicity in the Transnational Marriages between*


Week 6 Reading Week

Week 7 Family and Gender in Taiwan

Basic Reading


Weng, Hui-Chen, Fell, Dafydd, 2006, the Rootless Movement: Taiwan’s Women’s Movement in the KMT and DPP Eras, in Fell, Dafydd et al (eds.), What Has Changed? Taiwan Before and After the Change in Ruling Parties, Wiesbaden: Harrassowitz. (CCX951.05/977502)


Further Reading
Clark, Cal, Clark, Janet, 2002, *The Social and Political Bases for Women's Growing Political Power in Taiwan*, Baltimore, Md.: School of Law, University of Maryland. (CCX305.4/855354)


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Taipei Shi : Wu nan tu shu chu ban gong si, Min guo 89 [2000] 五南

Employment of women in Chinese cultures : half the sky / edited by Cherlyn Skromme Granrose.

© Employment of women in Chinese cultures : half the sky / edited by Cherlyn Skromme Granrose.

包括 Women in *Taiwan*
Week 8  Culture & Identity

Essential reading
◎  *What has changed? Taiwan before and after the change in ruling parties.* (eds.) Dafydd Fell, Henning Clöter, and Bi-yu Chang. Harrassowitz Verlag, 2006.

Extended reading
◎  *Taiwan : national identity and democratization* / Alan M. Wachman. Armonk, NY ; London : M. E. Sharpe, 1994
Taipei shi : Mai tian chu ban gu fen you xian gong si, 1999

Internet sources:
http://www.cca.gov.tw (Chinese site for the Council for Cultural Affairs, CCA)
http://www.gio.gov.tw/taiwan-website/5-gp/culture/  (can be linked to both English and Chinese sites)
http://www.gio.gov.tw/lp.asp?ctNode=2599&CtUnit=558&BaseDSD=5&mp=807  (an official website set up by the Government Information Office, an official stand on how to present Taiwan culturally)

QUESTIONS
In what ways had the Sino-centric policy of the post-war KMT government impacted the development of Taiwanese culture? 你認為, 戰後國民政府在台灣發展的大中國走向，對於台灣文化發展有什麼樣的衝擊？

What kind of influence had the Sino-centric policy had on the formation of post-war Taiwanese identity? 這種大中國政策，對戰後台灣認同的形塑有什麼樣的影響？

The most important cultural policy at this period was the Cultural Renaissance Movement. Was it a success story, in your opinion? Why do you think so? The movement was designed to counterattack the Cultural Revolution. What was the impact of this movement on Taiwan's culture? 這段時期的文化復興運動，算是成功嗎？文化復興運動是針對文革而來的，這波文化運動對台灣民間文化產生了什麼樣的影響？

Week 9  Culture, Arts & Nation Building 文化, 藝術 & 國族建構 (after 1987)

Essential reading

Cultural analysis on cultural development
**Extended reading**

**DANCE**

Several relevant papers can be found in *Global and local dance in performance* / editors: Mohd Anis Md Nor, Revathi Murugappan. Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia : Cultural Centre, University of Malaya ; Ministry of Culture, Arts and Heritage Malaysia, 2005. (for Asia Pacific International Dance Conference at the Kuala Lumpur Performing Arts Centre on Jul. 8-10, 2005. (2005 ; Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia). They include:

- “Dance as the local resistance: on the development of contemporary dance in Taiwan in the early 20th century” / Chao Chi-fang
- “Looking into labanotation in Taiwan” / Yunyu Wang ;
- “Dance perspectives within new school curriculum in Taiwan” / Chung-shiuan Chang ;
- “K-12 dance programs in Taiwan” / Su-ling Chou

**THEATRE**

*Taiwan xiao ju chang yun dong shi -- Xun zhao ling lei mei xue yu zheng zhi* (台灣小劇場運動史 – 尋找另類美學與政治; The little theatre movement of Taiwan (1980-89) -- in search of alternative aesthetics and politics / Mingde Zhong zhu, Taibei Shi : Yang zhi wen hua, 1999.

**MUSIC**

Many books can be found in SOAS library but mostly in Chinese. If you type in: Taiwan music, you will find many books on or recordings of aboriginal music, hakka music, folk music, Nanguan, religious music, etc. Among them, there is one rare booklet on Taiwan’s folk music in English: *Colourful ethnic music of Taiwan* / by Hsu Tsang-houei, translated by Lin Shiu-keh. Taipei : CCA, 1989. It can give a general picture of Taiwan’s folk music.
FINE ARTS


FILM

*Island on the Edge: Taiwan New Cinema and After* / (eds.) Berry, Chris and Lu, Feii,. Hong Kong University Press, 2005.


LITERATURE


QUESTIONS

→ Can arts revolutionise society? 藝術能否發動革命？

→ In Taiwan’s case, the theatre played a crucial role in the political reform in the late 1980s. However, the theatre in Taiwan has become weak and subjective. Whether it is because revolution has been accomplished? Or, theatre activists have been incorporated into the system? 劇場在 1980 年代末期的政治改革運動中，有鼓動風潮
的作用，今日看來的藝術形式不再有力，無法挑釁當局，為什麼？是革命已成功？還是被收編了？

→ In recent years, there has been a tendency of nation building. In your opinion, what kind of role that culture can play? Take example.

→ In the process of nation building, what place do the aborigines have? Have they achieved (or got nearer to) their goal of autonomy and ethnic rights? Or, have they been utilised by the Han Chinese to play along the nation-building myth?

→ Community construction movement is the most influential cultural movement since the 1970s. What has been its influence?
Essential reading


Extended reading

◎ History education and national identity in East Asia / (ed.) Edward Vickers and Alisa Jones. New York : Routledge, 2005. Two chapters relevant include: “Identity issues in Taiwan's history curriculum” / by Mei-hui Liu, Hung Li-Ching, and Edward Vickers, and “Historiography, national identity politics, and ethnic introspection in Taiwan” / by Stephane Corcuff

QUESTIONS

→ What is the true function of education?
→ What can education achieve for the dominant class? 教育在台灣文化中的地位如何？在大中國與大台灣的文化政策下，教育發揮了什麼功能？
→ What were the main reasons for Taiwan’s education reform in the late 1990s and early 2000s?
→ Please evaluate Taiwan’s education reform in the last decade
What are the consequences of inequality in languages? Take Taiwan as the example.

What measures have been put into practice to rectify the inequality? What was the result?

語言是最貼近生活文化環節之一，語言上的不平等，在戰後台灣造成了那些衝擊？
母語政策的實施是 Token gesture，還是 進退兩難？應該怎麼做才會是在實際推行上可行，且政治正確？

Week 11  Taiwanese Mass Media 大眾媒體

Essential reading

Introduction to Taiwan’s media scene
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Media_of_Taiwan (英文版)
http://zh.wikipedia.org/wiki/%E5%8F%B0%E7%81%A3%E5%AA%92%E9%AB%94 (中文版)
http://www.gio.gov.tw/info/ipi/index.htm (官方網站)

一般網站 http://www.taiwandc.org/
◎ “The media in Taiwan: Chang and Continuity” / Gary and Ming-yeh Rawnsley, in What has changed? Taiwan before and after the change in ruling parties. (eds.) Dafydd Fell, Henning Clöter, and Bi-yu Chang. Pp. 225-242. can be found on webpage: http://ics.leeds.ac.uk/papers/gdr/exhibits/5/The_media_in_Taiwan-China_Perspectives.pdf (by Rawnsleys)
◎ De-Westernizing media studies / edited by James Curran and Myung-Jin Park. London ; New York : Routledge, 2000. The relevant chapter is: Chapter 9—“State, capital, and media: The case of Taiwan” / Chin-Chuan Lee

Extended reading


Research on mass communication in Taiwan and Hong Kong: selected abstracts / edited by Godwin C. Chu, in cooperation with Gin-yao Chi, Chia-shih Hsu, Timothy Yu.Honolulu: East-West Center, East-West Communication Institute, 1977.

QUESTIONS

→ What were the limitations and barriers for the development of Taiwan’s media during the martial law period? 在政治戒嚴時代的局限在哪裡？
→ What have been the difficulties since then? 開放後，又有什麼樣的限制與困難？
→ Is Taiwan’s media neutral and objective after the lift of martial law? 台灣的媒體中立嗎？
→ In comparison with the political involvement, what do you think of commercial involvement? Do you think that TV or Radio should be managed as a public service, or a commercial operation? 政黨介入媒體，人人喊打。如果，商業進入媒體，又有誰來監督？現今煽色腥充斥的媒體環境裡，應該如何管理呢？