Debating Globalization
Fudan University–University of California
Joint Program in International Studies Fall 2013

Professor Mei Zhan
Department of Anthropology, UC Irvine
Tuesdays 1:30-4:10 pm, Location TBA
email: mzhan@uci.edu
phone: 949 824 8167

Course Description
This course is organized around 3 interrelated themes. First, even though our world has long been connected, emergent and distinctive features mark the “era” of globalization that we now inhabit. This course examines the historicity of global encounters and connections, and introduces the central topics and concerns that both frame and challenge the current discussions of globalization. Second, this course explores globalization as a set of multifaceted and multi-directional economic, cultural, and sociohistorical processes characterized by new kinds of transnational movements, frictions, displacements and contestations. It focuses as much on how globalization creates new differences and diversities as it does on the construction of universals. Third, this course takes advantage of the unique location of Shanghai (and China) in popular and academic discussions and imaginations of globalization. It treats Shanghai/China not only as a locale where globalization takes effect, but also as a site for the production of new visions, understandings and practices of what makes up the world and our places in it.

This course is interdisciplinary in nature, utilizing materials in anthropology, political science, history, sociology, science and technology studies, comparative literature, film, and news reports. It is divided into three modules: “framing globalization”, “nodes and processes”, and “emergent interventions”. Materials concerning China are integrated into each week’s readings.

The course will also include occasional guest lectures by scholars and professionals who have engaged in global connections through work, family, and/or leisure activities. Class topics may be rescheduled due to the availability of guest speakers and field trips.

Course grades
--Attendance 10%
Your attendance in class is MANDATORY. You will sign in at the beginning of each session. If you do not arrive within the first 5 minutes of class, you will receive an “Absence” and no point for the day, unless a medical or other University-approved excuse for absence is provided in writing to the instructor.

--Reading assignments and pop quizzes 10%
Students are required to complete all reading assignments before coming to the lecture on the day for which readings are assigned. There will also be simple, closed-note quizzes periodically during lecture. Quizzes will be based on the readings assigned for the day of lecture. There will be no make-up quizzes. If you miss a lecture during which a quiz was
given, and do not have a medical or other University-approved excuse to explain your absence, you will not receive points for that quiz.

--midterm essay 25%
Due at the beginning of class on October 15. More information will be handed out when the deadline approaches. The essay must be 4-5 pages long, typed, double-spaced, standard margins (no more than one inch on any side), medium font (10-12 point). This assignment may not be turned in late unless a medical or other University-approved excuse for absence is provided in writing to the Professor.

--final examination 25%
Your comprehensive final exam is scheduled for Tuesday, December 10, 1:30-3:30. There will be no early, make-up, or late exams for the final. Plan your travel arrangements accordingly.

--final assignment: a mini ethnography 30%
The student will be required to complete a mini ethnography on the subject of “Shanghai and globalization.” Throughout the course the instructor will introduce students to basic ethnographic research techniques such as participant observation, interview, and mini survey. The student is expected to use at least one of these techniques in developing their own ethnographic project, which will also engage a key concept or debate discussed in this class (for example, cosmopolitanism, cultural translation, gender, etc).

The mini ethnography is due at the beginning of class on December 3, 2013. More information will be handed out when the deadline approaches. The mini ethnography must be 6-7 pages long, typed, double-spaced, standard margins (no more than one inch on any side), medium font (10-12 point). This assignment may not be turned in late unless a medical or other University-approved excuse for absence is provided in writing to the Professor.

Course readings
This course requires one book:

All other readings are available for viewing and downloading and are hyperlinked in this syllabus.
   To access the readings, you will need to enter the following:
Username: UCEAPStudent
Password: CourseMaterials
Course Schedule (subject to modification)

Module 1: Framing Globalization

Week 1 (September 10): histories and geographies

Week 2 (September 17): global capitalism

Week 3 (September 24): how to study the global?
http://www.matsutakeworlds.org

Week 4 (October 1): Chinese national holiday, no class

Week 5 (October 8): China in theory and practice
Module 2: Nodes and Processes

Week 6 (October 15): global cities
Midterm essay due at the beginning of class


Week 7 (October 22): production, market, and consumption

Sylvia Yanagisako. 2012. Video "Manufacturing 'Made in Italy' in China." http://www.world-lecture-project.org/lecture/?id=514259f09a04e


Week 8 (October 29): family, gender and labor


Week 9 (November 5): nationalisms and cosmopolitanisms


Lisa Rofel. 2007. “From Sacrifice to Desire: cosmopolitanism with Chinese characteristics”. In Desiring China.


Module 3: Emergent Interventions

Week 10 (November 12): food and medicine


Week 11 (November 19): alternative cosmologies

Film: Jia Zhangke. 2006. Shijie (the World). (Chinese with English subtitles)

Week 12 (November 26): minor transnationalism


Week 13 (December 3): environmentalisms
Mini ethnography due


Week 14: (December 10): final exam