

## Social Networks and Chinese Society

### Global Program on Economics and Finance (2021 Fall)

<b>Course Title</b>	Social Networks and Chinese Society		
<b>Credit</b>	3	<b>Credit Hours</b>	48 credit hours (one credit hour is 45 minutes)
<b>Course Objectives</b>	<p>By the end of the course, students will be able to:</p> <p>[1] distinguish the unique features of social networks in Chinese society;</p> <p>[2] know the cultural, institutional, and structural roots of networks;</p> <p>[3] understand the relevance of the social networks in contemporary Chinese society;</p> <p>[4] demonstrate a basic ability to conduct independent research on topics in social networks and to effectively communicate the results via oral presentation.</p>		
<b>Course Description</b>	<p>This course provides an overview of the application of social networks in Chinese society. Topics covered in this class include the meaning of social networks in Chinese, its cultural, institutional, and structural roots, its everyday practice, as well as its application for contemporary economic and social life. Through the course, students will obtain a richer understanding of Chinese social networks and its relevance to contemporary Chinese society.</p>		
<b>Course Requirements:</b>			
Class attendance, group discussion, essay writing.			
<b>Teaching Methods:</b>			
Lecture (online live) and discussion.			
<b>Course Schedule</b>			
This outline may change as the session proceeds.			
<b>**PART 1: Social Networks Basics**</b>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>#1: Course introduction</li> <li>#2: social networks and social capital (reading: Granovetter 1973)</li> <li>#3: social network measurement (reading Scott 2017, chapter 5)</li> <li>#4: Case 1 discussion * Students pick only one case (out of cases 1-3) to present.</li> </ul>			
<b>**PART 2: Social Networks in Chinese society</b>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>#5: the structure of the tie (reading: Freedman 1966, chapters 1 &amp; 2)</li> <li>#6: the activation of the tie (reading: Hwang 1987)</li> </ul>			

#7: The everyday practice networking  
(reading: Yang 1994, chapter 3)

#8: Case 2 discussion

\* Students pick only one case (out of cases 1-3) to present.

**\*\*PART 3: The Consequence of Social Networks\*\***

#9: social networks and status attainment  
(reading: Bian 2018)

#10: social networks and doing business  
(reading: Boist and Child 1994)

#11: social networks and trust  
(reading: Barbalet 2014)

#12: Case 3 discussion

\* Students pick only one case (out of cases 1-3) to present.

**The design of class discussion or exercise, practice, experience and so on:**

Students need to actively participate in in-class group discussions.

Students pick only one case (out of cases 1-3) to present.

**Grading & Evaluation:**

1. Class participation (20%)
2. Class presentation (40%)
3. Final essay (40%)

**Teaching Materials & References:**

There is no required textbook for the course. However, readings will be research papers or excerpts from books (detailed assignments see above).

Barbalet, Jack 2014. "The Structure of *Guanxi*: Resolving problems of Network Assurance." *Theory and Society* 43(4):51-69.

Bian, Yanjie. 2018. "The Prevalence and the Increasing Significance of Guanxi." *The China Quarterly*.

Boisot, Max, and John Child. 1996. "From Fiefs to Clans and Network Capitalism: Explaining China's Emerging Economic Order." *Administrative Science Quarterly* 41(4):600-28.

Freedman, Maurice. 1966. *Chinese Lineage and Society: Fukien and Kwangtung*. New York, NY:: Humanities Press Inc.

Granovetter, Mark 1973, "The Strength of Weak Ties." *American Journal of Sociology*, Vol.78, No.6.

Hwang, Kwang-Kuo 1987. "Face and Favor: The Chinese Power Game." *American Journal of Sociology* 92(4):944-74.

Scott, John. 2017. *Social Networks Analysis*. New York: Sage.

Yang, Mayfair Mei-hui. 1994. *Gift, Favors, and Banquets: The Art of Social Relationships in China*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press.

