This seminar explores the process of family transformations in contemporary East Asia from an anthropological perspective. We will examine ethnographic case studies from China, Japan, Korea, Hong Kong, and Taiwan. Topics covered in this course include traditional mainstream East Asian family systems, childbearing, youth culture and coming of age, romance and courtship, marriage and family relations, aging and old-age support, divorce, singlehood, same-sex partnerships, family separation and reunion, cross-border marriages, and transnational adoption.
COURSE REQUIREMENTS & GRADING POLICY

❖ Attendance and Participation (worth 20% of overall grade)

Regular class attendance is mandatory. Your grade will be based on your preparation for and contribution to class discussion. To that end, all students are required to complete the assigned readings (50-150 pages per week) before the scheduled sessions. Active participation is a crucial part of the seminar experience, and I expect each student to contribute substantively to our discussions every week. If you are already used to lively debate and argumentation, you will find yourselves getting the most out of the semester by drawing your quieter peers out in discussion.

As part of the participation grade, each student will serve as the discussant for one class session. The discussant is responsible for leading the discussion on the scheduled day with a short presentation that critically reviews the readings, identifies major themes, and poses key questions for the class to address.

As part of the participation grade, each student will also serve as the class rapporteur for one class session. This will involve taking careful notes during the session, revising them in narrative form, and then posting the final synthesis in the "Discussion Board" section of the course website (https://bb.wustl.edu) within one week. These rapporteurs' notes will serve as a cumulative record of the course to help enhance the continuity of our discussions.

❖ Online Response Posts (worth 20% of overall grade)

As part of our inquiry into family change in East Asia, each class participant is required to write online response posts in no fewer than 10 different weeks of the semester. Your comments should address the week's readings and must be posted in the "Discussion Board" section of the course website (https://bb.wustl.edu) no later than 8 pm on the day before class to receive credit. Each post should be a short paragraph (~200 words) that follows one of these formats:

Close Reading (title your post "Close reading: [name of author(s)]"): Identify a passage from one of the readings that excites or puzzles you; briefly explain how or why it does so; and pose an open-ended discussion question that might help your fellow classmates follow your inspiration or address your concern.

Crosstalk (title your post "Crosstalk: [topic or theme]"): Situate the week's readings within the context of the course as a whole. What new elements do they bring to our exploration of family change in East Asia? Which previous readings do they build upon, which do they omit? How do they speak to course themes?

Response posts will be graded as check (2 points for a satisfactory response), check-plus (3 points for outstanding posts that go beyond the basic requirements), check-minus (1 point for unsatisfactory or late responses), or zero for non-submission. Posting the
required 10 responses over the course of the semester and receiving 2 points on each post will earn you a baseline grade of B+ for this portion of your course grade. You are encouraged to respond to your classmates' postings as well as post links to relevant news articles, images, websites, etc. Doing so on a regular basis will boost your overall response grade.

**Kinship Assignment (worth 10% of overall grade)**

This two-part assignment will ask you first to draw your personal kinship chart over four generations using anthropological kinship symbols and terminology you will learn in class. You will then write a one-page analysis of your kinship chart that identifies its key characteristics and situates these in the context of course themes. Your kinship assignment is due at the beginning of class on **February 12**.

**Life History Narrative (worth 20% of overall grade)**

This short paper (4–6 pages) is an opportunity for you to explore transformations in the life course of a particular individual. You will conduct an interview with someone who is willing and able to discuss his or her experience of growing up in an Asian context. You will then write a narrative account and interpret this experience using analytic concepts from the course. Guidelines will be available on Ares, including suggestions on conducting interviews, tips on narrative analysis, and a grading rubric. The paper is due at the beginning of class on **March 11**.

**Research Paper (worth 30% of overall grade)**

This paper (10–12 pages) will address some aspect of family change in East Asia. This is an opportunity for you to engage in independent research that utilizes, develops, and/or critiques ideas, concepts and themes from the course. You must submit a preliminary proposal (2–3 pages) by **April 1** that explains your proposed topic and lists the potential sources you plan to use. If you do not submit a proposal by this date, your paper will be ineligible for a grade above a B. You will also prepare a 10-minute oral presentation about your topic to be given during the **Class Conference on April 29** (worth 10% of the paper grade). Your final paper is due **Monday, May 9 by 4:00 pm** in the instructor's mailbox in McMillan 112.

**Late Policy:** For the Kinship Assignment, Life History Narrative, and Research Paper, each day late without a pre-approved extension will result in the reduction of your grade by 1/3 of a letter.

**Academic Integrity:** Each student in this course is expected to abide by the Undergraduate Student Academic Integrity Policy. The university's policy is available on the internet at [http://www.wustl.edu/policies/undergraduate-academic-integrity.html](http://www.wustl.edu/policies/undergraduate-academic-integrity.html). This includes explicit guidelines on avoiding plagiarism. Plagiarism is the use of someone else's work, words, or ideas without attribution. In all of your assignments, including your response posts and paper drafts, you must always make clear where you have borrowed from others by identifying the original source and extent of your use of another's work. This obligation holds whether the sources are
published or unpublished and whether they are in print or on the internet. Plagiarism or other breaches of academic integrity will be reported to the academic integrity officer of the College of Arts and Sciences and can result in a failing grade for the course.

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**SCHEDULE OF DISCUSSION TOPICS AND READINGS**

Session 1 (Jan 22): Introduction to the Course

Session 2 (Jan 29): Traditional Kinship Systems: The Politics of Patriliny in East Asia

- **Kinship Tutorial** [Computer Lab Session]


Session 3 (Feb 5): Gender and Self in the Context of Family


February 8: Happy Lunar New Year! 新年快乐 [xīn nián kuài lè]!

跛 KINSHIP ASSIGNMENT due at the beginning of class on February 12.

Session 4 (Feb 12): Marriage, Love, and Changing Family Dynamics

Session 5 (Feb 19): Childbearing, Birth Control, and Changing Fertility Culture


Session 6 (Feb 26): Optimizing the Perfect Child: Selective Reproductive Technologies


Session 7 (Mar 4): Alternative Sexualities in the Context of Kinship

**Family Change in East Asia**


**Life History Narrative** due at the beginning of class on March 11.

**Session 8 (Mar 11): Food and Family**

- **Asian Meal Field Trip**


**March 12-20: Spring Break – No Classes**

**Session 9 (Mar 25): Growing Up in East Asia: Examination Hell**


  - **FILM**: *Senior Year [高三]*. 2006. By Zhou Hao. 110 minutes.

**Session 10 (Apr 1): Demographic Change and Uncertain Futures**


Session 11 (Apr 8): Aging and Old-Age Support


- Song, Priscilla, Honglin Chen, and Yanyan Chen. "The Promises and Pitfalls of Eldercare Policy Implementation in Urban China: Evaluating a Trial Home-based Medical Care Scheme for the Oldest Old in Shanghai." [manuscript under review]

Session 12 (Apr 15): Suicide, Death, and Dying


Session 13 (Apr 22): Transnational Family Connections and Divisions


**FILM:** *Somewhere Between*. 2012. Directed by Linda Goldstein Knowlton. 88 minutes.

Session 14 (Apr 29): Class Conference / Student Presentations

Final Paper due on Monday, May 9 by 12:00 p.m. Turn in a hard copy to the instructor's mailbox in the anthropology department main office in McMillan Hall 112.
Family Change in East Asia

Kinship Assignment

Deadline: Friday, February 12, 2016

This assignment asks you to draw and analyze your personal kinship chart over four generations using anthropological kinship symbols and terminology we have learned in class.

**STEP 1**: Draw your own bilateral kindred chart (relatives on both your mother's and father's sides of the family) using standard kinship symbols. Label your relatives using anthropological kin types (FZ for father's sister, MBS for mother's brother's son, etc.) Make sure to include at least four generations of your family.

**STEP 2**: Transform your bilateral kindred into a patrilineage by coloring in all of and only your agnates (relatives in your patrilineage).

**STEP 3**: Label your agnates with either their Chinese, Japanese, or Korean kin terms.

**STEP 4**: Write a one-page reflection on what this assignment revealed to you about family and kinship. What did you learn about the nature of relatedness, personhood, efforts to graphically represent relationships, and your own family? How significant is patrilineal descent in your family? What would your place be in a patrilineal kinship system?