Instructor: Dr. Frederick Gao
Email: swangfredgao@gmail.com
Tel:

**Texts**

*Understanding Contemporary China*, fourth edition
edited by Robert E. Gamer
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**Course Description**

This course is designated to expose students to the knowledge of China, its society and culture of the fundamental aspects in sociological studies, to help students to understand its society and culture by in-depth study of China’s geography, history, cultural tradition and heritage, economy, and its international relations with many different regions and countries. This course is organized into three sections. In Section I, we will discuss on the geography of the vast land and its geographic location and landscape, its history from which China has became what it is today. In Section II, we will discuss China’s political systems and tradition, its economic development, and its international relations with other countries. Section III will focus on the current social issues like population growth, environment, resource re-distribution and social polarization.

This course is part of the Common Core (Global Diversity) and requires for students who choose Asian Studies as their minor. After taking this class, students are expected to obtain broad knowledge about Asia in various disciplines, including business, social sciences, and humanities.

Students will watch video talks at the beginning of sections and sub-sections. we’ll also watch movies, documentaries, and TV news excerpts in addition to weekly readings and lecture notes.