Lecture Notes and Focus Questions #2.2 (Handout)

Activity 2 Film: "Decent Factory"

- 1. What is the film about?
- 2. Which aspects of the factory did you find interesting?
- 3. Where do you think the impetus for the homogenization of labor standards came from?
- 4. What do you think about the working conditions for factory workers?
- 5. What would you suggest to the management to improve the labor conditions of factory workers?
- 6. Who has the power to change the working conditions for factory workers?

Activity 4 Reading: "China and Global Labor Standards" by Bartley and Zhang

- 1. In the article, what kind of research questions do Bartley and Zhang address?
- 2. Provide a few examples of global and Chinese labor standards (factory certifications).
- 3. According to the authors, why is labor unrest on the rise in China?
- 4. Why do some Chinese factories seek to obtain a certification?
- 5. How did researchers measure working conditions in order to compare certified and uncertified firms?
- 6. What were their findings in their comparison between certified and uncertified firms?