

POSCI 247: Introduction to Chinese Politics

Fall 2007
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Class: W, F 3 (10:10-11:20 am)

Office Hours: T, W, Th. 11:30 am-12:30 pm and other times by appointment.

Course Description

This course provides an introduction to contemporary Chinese politics. It begins with an overview of China in world history. Next, the course covers events and themes from twentieth-century China that demonstrate the current difficulties of being modern and Chinese. Finally, it explores issues, groups, and individuals that animate contemporary Chinese politics, including economic reforms, political transition, social and cultural problems, quality of life dilemmas, the new generation of leaders, foreign policy, and China's future. This class fulfills the **M5 LinC** requirement.

Goals and Objectives

- a) Learn basic information about Chinese politics, history, institutions, society, economy, and culture.
- b) Understand and take part in policy debates about and media analysis of Chinese politics.
- c) Broaden critical thinking and analytical skills to include politics in non-Western contexts.
- d) Develop comprehension of comparative politics research methods and questions, particularly as concerns the study of Chinese politics.

Course Guidelines

1. All work must be submitted on due date for full credit. **Late assignments are NOT accepted.**
2. All assignments must be typed, double-spaced, printed, clipped or stapled, use complete sentences, correct grammar, spelling, and punctuation. All assignments must be personally handed to the instructor. No handwritten assignments will be accepted. No emailed assignments will be accepted **except in case of emergencies and not without prior permission of the instructor.**
3. Undocumented absences after the first will be penalized at 5% per absence off your final grade. Two late arrivals to class will be counted as an absence. Appropriate documentation for absences will be accepted in the following cases: verifiable illness, family emergency, extended leave, and school-sponsored events.

4. In case of any crisis or emergency, or an extended absence from class, you must inform your professor through Learning Services or the Academic Dean's Office.

5. Learning disability accommodations: students who wish to request accommodations in this class for support of learning disabilities should contact Learning Services (x1510). Accommodations cannot be provided until authorization is received from the appropriate disability support provider on campus.

6. These guidelines are intended for the benefit of the students as far as clarification of the instructor's expectations for the course; however, in exceptional circumstances the instructor reserves the right to exercise discretion in the application of these guidelines to individual cases or to refer a particular case to the Academic Dean if necessary.

Classroom Expectations

- 1) Respect for others' answers and views.
- 2) Equal time for opposing opinions.
- 3) Disruptive behavior during class will result in your dismissal from the class the first time, after that, disciplinary action will be taken.
- 4) Cell phones need to be turned to OFF and put away in a purse or bookbag during class. Use of cell phones in any way during class will result in dismissal from class and be counted as an absence.
- 5) Non-alcoholic drinks are allowed in class, other food is not.
- 6) Attention to course related material only.
- 7) Necessary breaks at the discretion of the instructor.

Required Texts: Available at the college bookstore-

- June Teufel Dreyer, *China's Political System*. 6th edition. NY: Pearson Longman, 2008.
- Chen Guidi and Wu Chuntao. *Will the Boat Sink the Water?* NY: Public Affairs, 2006.
- Peter Hessler, *Oracle Bones*. NY: Harper, 2006.

Course Requirements

A. Graded Requirements

Class Participation-20% of your final grade. Class participation includes coming to class on a very consistent basis, keeping up with assigned readings by thoroughly reading and thinking about the readings before coming to class, active involvement in interactive lectures, substantive contributions to discussions, and engagement with in-class activities. For class participation, **effort counts heavily. Attempting to answer a question, asking a question, or voicing an opinion are all part of participation.** |

will evaluate your participation highly if you: a)attend class regularly; b)discuss the videos and readings I make available; c)raise relevant questions/offer thoughtful comments; d)demonstrate you understand the material by your full involvement during in-class activities. Every class session is counted toward your final participation grade. **If you do not participate actively in each class, you will reduce your participation grade by 50% for each given day.**

Exams-There will be two exams in this course. Each of the exams is 20% (total 40%) of your final grade. These essay exams will strongly emphasize critical reflection on course readings and discussions, rather than memorization of names, dates, and places. The exams are closed book exams. A list of possible exam questions will be passed out one week prior to each exam. The questions on the exam will be drawn from that list of questions. The list functions as a study guide. **Rules governing academic honesty apply.** I expect that you will study with other students for the exam, and I encourage such study groups. Discussing answers to questions with fellow students can help you to think through class topics. However, make sure not to write answers that resemble those of the classmates with whom you have studied and expect to get credit. Writing up answers to the questions independently will help you succeed in keeping your work your own and not borrowing someone else's. The exams will be in **weeks six and twelve** of the semester. Check the syllabus for exact dates. **Exam format:** each exam will consist of two long essay questions; you will have the entire class period (70 minutes) for the exam.

Homework-10%-there will be ten homework assignments for this class over the course of the semester. Homework will be due in class on 8/31; 9/7; 9/12; 10/3; 10/19; 10/26; 11/2; 11/16; 11/30; and 12/7. Each homework assignment will be explained in the class period during which it is assigned, and will be tailored to the paper and the exams. The main goal of the homework is to assist you in your efforts on these assignments. Notations on the syllabus schedule indicate when homework is due in class.

Critical Reasoning Paper-20% of your grade. The critical reasoning paper will be due in week fifteen. See the syllabus for the exact date. The paper will be based on material chosen from the novel assigned for this course, *Oracle Bones*. Notice that the course schedule below has chapters from the book, either assigned or recommended (**) as reading for each week. These readings are scheduled so that you can finish the required portion of the book well before the paper is due. The paper is to be 2-3 pages, typed, single-spaced, size 12 font. The paper must be at least two full pages and no more than three full pages, single-spaced type. The paper will consist of seven paragraphs and is designed to answer a set of critically analytical questions about the novel in relation to the topic of the course, Chinese politics, as it is covered in the other assigned readings. Critical reasoning papers will be graded according to the rubric for written assignments provided. Detailed instructions for the paper format and content will be passed out and discussed in class during the first several weeks of the term. On this paper, I encourage you to seek help from the Writing Center. Although short, the assignment asks you to think clearly and to write concisely about a given subject. Writing Center tutors can be very helpful in this process. You will also be expected to

proofread the paper and use correct citations according to either MLA or *Chicago Manual of Style* formats. Points will be deducted for grammar errors, spelling mistakes, incorrect citations, and failure to cite material. While the topic of plagiarism and examples of correct quotation and citation format, paraphrasing, and summarizing will be covered in some class sessions, seeking help from the Writing Center can only improve your work.

Pop quizzes-(10%)-There will be 6 unannounced (“pop”) quizzes throughout the semester. These quizzes will be worth 20 points each. Quizzes will consist of questions on content from the daily readings. You will be able to drop your lowest scored quiz, but **there will be no make-up quizzes.**

B. Grade Components

Your final grade in this course will be determined as follows:

Pop quizzes	10%
Class Participation	20%
Homework	10%
Exam I	20%
Exam II	20%
Critical reasoning paper	<u>20%</u>
	100%

Guidelines (Rubric) for Written Assignments (Written by Ben Slote and modified slightly by Ann Bomberger)

- 1) Written work in the A range is based on an original, logical and coherently organized set of ideas; it makes a clear and persuasive argument (even if the reader disagrees with its argument); it brings in specific, relevant examples to back up its assertions; its points, at each turn, are clearly articulated: the words carry precise meaning, they don't obscure it; its sentences use only the words their ideas require, not any more; its paragraphs have distinct though related roles in the essay's cohesion as a whole, each holding one thoroughly asserted idea (not two competing ideas, not one idea half-asserted); if appropriate it accurately and thoughtfully uses other sources; and its sentences are without the grammatical, spelling, or typographical mistakes that exacting proof-reading would catch. (All of this takes a lot of work. If it is all very nearly accomplished, the essay usually earns an A-.)
- 2) Written work in the B range: a very good paper, the writing of which is clearly, thoughtfully, and effectively executed. What sometimes prevents an "A" is a lack of originality, thorough thinking or careful proofreading. If two of these virtues are absent and the other areas of the paper are strong, the essay will usually earn a B-.
- 3) Written work in the C range: some conspicuous flaw usually earns an essay a C; its argument is really underdeveloped, it contains only minimal textual support, it has problems with organization and/or sentence clarity, it is in dire need of proofreading.
- 4) Written D work either contains more than one of the large problems cited in the "C" description or finds another way to convince its reader that the author has not spent nearly enough time on the thinking or writing in the essay.

5) Written work that earns an F misses on all criteria (originality, articulateness, persuasiveness, organization, the absence of mechanical mistakes).

Final Grade Scale (in percentage, not points)

93-100	A
90-92.9	A-
87-89.9	B+
83-86.9	B
80-82.9	B-
77-79.9	C+
73-76.9	C
70-72.9	C-
67-69.9	D+
63-66.9	D
60-62.9	D-
less than 60	F

Note: It is within the instructor’s purview to apply qualitative judgment in determining grades for any assignment and for the course final grade.

Academic Honesty Policy

All students are expected to follow the principles of academic honesty as set out in the policies of Moravian College. See the Student Handbook for details. Any and all written work must be done in your own words (with the exception of direct quotations which are clearly indicated as such), and written work must include proper citations indicating the sources for any ideas, concepts, facts, or other information derived from others, whether or not you have restated it in your own words. Any cases of suspected cheating or plagiarism will be referred to the Academic Affairs Office. Academic dishonesty may result in a failing grade in the course.

Schedule and Assignments (Schedule may be changed at the discretion of the instructor; advance notice will be given)

- 1) Readings marked with ** are assigned the date when I recommend you have them read. All other readings are due on the date assigned on the syllabus and will be discussed in class.
- 2) Readings marked with * are from the course packet.
- 3) You will be expected to spend 2 1/2-3 hours on work outside of class for every hour in class.
- 4) Be sure to bring assigned readings to class each day. On days when chapters in the Hessler book are recommended (**), but not assigned as readings, I will still cover some of the material in the chapters in class and take any questions you have.

Class Session Date	Topic	Assigned Readings and Assignment(s) Due
1: W 8/29	Introduction	None

Class Session Date	Topic	Assigned Readings and Assignment(s) Due
1: F 8/31	China in World History: Dynastic Cycles and Confucianism	Dreyer, Ch. 2 Homework due
2: W 9/5	Reform and Revolution	Dreyer, Ch. 3
2: F 9/7	Sources of Chinese Communism	Dreyer, Ch. 4 Homework due
3: W 9/12	China's Past and Present	Hessler, pp. 3-36 Homework due
3: F 9/14	Maoist China	Dreyer, Ch. 5; Hessler, pp. 37-56
4: W 9/19	Post-Mao Era	Dreyer, Ch. 6; Hessler, pp. 57-76
4: F 9/21	Political and Economic "Top-down" Change	Dreyer, Ch. 7; Hessler, pp. 77-98
5: W 9/26	Rural China	Chen and Wu, Ch. 1; **Hessler, pp. 101-133
5: F 9/28	The Legal System	Dreyer, Ch. 8; **Hessler, pp. 135-168
6: W 10/3	Local Rural Politics, Local Violence	Chen and Wu, Ch. 2; Hessler, pp. 169-187 Homework due
6: F 10/5	Summing Up	Exam I
10/6-10/8	Fall Break	No classes
7: W 10/10	The Military	Dreyer, Ch. 9; **Hessler, pp. 189-218
7: F 10/12	Quality of Life Issues	Dreyer, Ch. 11; Hessler, pp. 221-241
8: W 10/17	Crime and Corruption	Chen and Wu, Ch. 3; Hessler, pp. 243-274
8: F 10/19	Love & Money, Politics and the Market	*Farrer, Ch. 4 (packet) **Hessler, pp. 275-294 Homework due

Class Session Date	Topic	Assigned Readings and Assignment(s) Due
9: W 10/24	Conformity and Dissent	Dreyer, Ch. 12; Hessler, pp. 295-309
9: W 10/26	Rural Protests	Chen and Wu, Ch. 4; Hessler, pp. 310-324 Homework due
10: W 10/31	Reform Revisited	Chen and Wu, Ch. 5; Hessler, pp. 325-351
10: F 11/2	Women Politically and Economically	*Wasserstrom, Ch. 4(packet) *Farrer, Ch. 7 (packet) **Hessler, pp. 352-365 Homework due
11: W 11/7	Labor, Workers, & Migration	*Lee, Ch. 6 (packet) Chen and Wu, Ch. 6; **Hessler, pp. 369-382
11: F 11/9	Minorities and Religion	Dreyer, Ch. 13; *MacKerras, Ch. 2 (packet) **Hessler, pp. 383-392
12: W 11/14	Summing Up	Exam II
12: F 11/16	China's Environment and the International Community	*Perry & Selden, Ch. 7 (packet) Hessler, pp. 393-407 Homework due
11/21-11/25	Thanksgiving Break	No classes
14: W 11/28	Foreign Policy	Dreyer, Ch. 14
14: F 11/30	Globalizing China	*Greenhalgh & Winckler, Ch. 9 (packet) Homework due
15: W 12/5	China and the World	*Bergsten, et al., Ch 5 (packet) Critical Reasoning paper

Class Session Date	Topic	Assigned Readings and Assignment(s) Due
		due
15: F 12/7	China and the Future	*Nathan & Gilley, Ch. 8 (packet) Homework due
Dec. 12-15; 17-19	Finals Week	