

POSCI 247: Introduction to Chinese Politics

Spring 2013

Office: Reeves 102

Office Ph.: 610-861-1418

Office Hours: M, W 11:45 am-12:45 pm, Fri. 10:15-11:15 am; and other times by appointment.

Professor Lisa Fischler

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Class: M,W 5b (1:10-2:20 pm)

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.

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.

Required Texts: Available at the college bookstore-

- ❖ Joseph, William. Ed. *Politics in China*. NY: Oxford University Press, 2010.
- ❖ Perry, Elizabeth and Mark Selden. Eds. *Chinese Society*. Third Edition. NY: Routledge, 2010.
- ❖ Shah, Angilee and Jeffrey Wasserstrom. Eds. *Chinese Characters: Profiles of Fast-Changing Lives in a Fast-Changing Land*. CA: University of California Press, 2012.

Course Grades, Policies, and Responsibilities

1. Participation-will include aspects of the course such as attendance, promptness, in-class participation, preparation, effort, and involvement in and contributions to the class. For assigned readings, you will be expected to read carefully, take notes, list questions, and come prepared to discuss (both verbally and in writing) in the session they are due. You can plan to spend two-three hours outside of class preparing for every hour spent in class. For class, participation includes active involvement in interactive lectures, substantive contributions to discussions, and engagement with in-class activities. Effort counts heavily. Attempting to answer a question, asking a question, or voicing an opinion and supporting it are all part of participation. I will evaluate your participation highly if you: a) attend class regularly and are there for the full class period; b) critically discuss the videos, materials, and readings I make available; c) raise relevant questions and offer thoughtful comments; d) demonstrate you understand the material by your full involvement during in-class activities; e) engage effectively in peer-review sessions in class. Every class session is counted toward your final participation grade. If you do not participate actively in each class, or are not there, your final participation grade will decrease because I cannot grade you when you do not participate.

-You are expected to attend all classes. **Please be aware that absences are not divided into excused and unexcused. Regardless of the reason, an absence from class will be counted as an absence.**

Extended or excessive absences (three or more) are required to be reported to the Dean's Office and each

absence after the third will lower your participation grade by 3 points per time.

-Arriving late or leaving early will lower your participation grade by 3 points per time. After the second instance of late arrival or leaving early, the disruptive classroom policy may be applied.

2. Exams-There will be four in-class exams in this course. These essay exams will strongly emphasize both basic knowledge of and critical reflection on course readings and discussions. The exams are closed book exams. **Rules governing academic honesty apply.** I expect that you will study with other students for the exam, and I encourage such study groups. However, making sure not to write answers that resemble those of the classmates with whom you have studied will help you succeed in keeping your work your own and not borrowing someone else's. Check the syllabus for exact exam dates.

-No make-up exams will be given except in cases that qualify as extenuating, documentable and compelling circumstances. In such cases, criteria for accommodation are the same as detailed under "Accommodations" below.

3. Semester Project: will be a five-six page, double-spaced, typed (written) assignment in which you will be asked to expand on the knowledge you have gained from two chapters in the Shah and Wasserstrom book. The two chapters must be in the same subsection (for example, "Rebels and Reformers"). The assignment asks you to research one theme (drawn from the two chapters chosen) over the course of the semester; to compare the theme in the two chapters; to analyze its political role, connections, implications and ramifications as implied in the two chapters; and to evaluate that theme's political future in China. You will need to critically evaluate, analyze, and do some research outside of class and the required books to complete this assignment.

-All assignments are due at the time, date, and place noted on the syllabus. Late assignments will be accepted with a five (5) point deduction for each full day late beginning just after the due time and date (e.g. from 4:00 pm on the due date to 4:00 pm the next day is a 5 point deduction), up to 7 full days late at which time late papers and other assignments will no longer be accepted and students will receive a 0 grade on the assignment. No exceptions will be made for technical difficulties. I will only accept written work turned in by email if you have arranged with me beforehand to do so for that specific assignment. In the case of an assignment turned in via email, be aware that I must be able to open the attachment and email without a problem in order for the assignment to be accepted for credit.

4. Accommodations, Expectations, and Responsibilities

-Requests for accommodation on these policies will only be made in extenuating, documentable, and compelling circumstances; will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis; require immediate notification be given to the instructor; and can be referred to Learning Services. 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

-Cell phones-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 will lower your participation grade by a full grade for each time over the course of the semester. If you have a crisis, please notify me BEFORE class begins. I will allow you to leave the room to take the call upon prior notification.

-Food, drinks, breaks-drinks are allowed in class, other food is not. Unless there is an underlying and documented medical issue, students are asked not to leave the class for "bathroom" breaks. If you do have such a medical condition that requires you to leave class for such breaks, I will need to get an official notice from Learning Services. If no documentation exists, then leaving class for such breaks will be counted as an absence and will lower your attendance grade (see above).

-Email and other expectations- disruptive behavior during class will result in your dismissal from the class the first time, after that, disciplinary action will be taken. For email, students can expect email to be answered within 24 hours on weekdays and 48 hours on weekends, provided that email is correctly addressed (to Dr. Fischler or Professor Fischler), signed by the student, and civil in content. For assignments handback, I will insist on a 24 hour waiting period after each assignment is passed back before I will discuss it with you. After that, I am happy to engage in a reasonable, rational discussion about your assignment or exam with you. 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.

-Learning Disability accommodations: Students who wish to request accommodations in this class for a disability should contact Elaine Mara, assistant director of learning services for academic and disability support at 1307 Main Street, or by calling 610-861-1510. Accommodations cannot be provided until authorization is received from the Academic Support Center

-The Writing Center is located in a building that is not accessible to persons with mobility impairments. If you need the services of the Writing Center, please call 610-861-1392.

-Academic Honesty-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.

B. Grade Components

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

Exam I	150 points
Exam II	150 points
Exam III	150 points
Exam IV	150 points
Semester Research Project	150 points
Participation	<u>150 points</u>
	900 points

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

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.

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

**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.

*Be sure to bring assigned readings to class each day. On days when chapters in the Becker 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 M 1/14/13	Introduction: Chinese Politics and Society	Selden and Perry, pp. 1-4
1 W 1/16/13	Chinese Politics	Joseph, pp. 6-17
2 M 1/21/13	Martin Luther King Day	No classes
January 22, 2013	Last day to add-drop	
2 W 1/23/13	From Empire to People’s Republic	Joseph, Ch. 2 & pp. 134-142
3 M 1/28/13	The Mao Era	Joseph, pp. 63-83 & 147-150

Class Session Date	Topic	Assigned Readings and Assignment(s) Due
3 W 1/30/13	The Mao Era (II)	Joseph, pp. 83-101
4 M 2/4/13	Summing Up	Exam I
4 W 2/6/13	The Post-Mao Era	Joseph, Ch. 4 & pp. 150-159
5 M 2/11/13	Rural China	Joseph, Ch. 8
5 W 2/13/13	Contesting Rural Spaces	Perry and Selden, Ch. 4
6 M 2/18/13 (Shah, Ch. 4)	Urban China	Joseph, Ch. 9
6 W 2/20/13 (Shah, Ch. 7)	Migrants	Perry and Selden, Ch. 3
7 M 2/25/13	Summing Up	Exam II
7 W 2/27/13 (Shah, Ch. 2)	China's Party State	Joseph, pp. 177-189
March 2-10, 2013	Spring Break	No classes
8 M 3/11/13 (Shah, Ch. 11)	The Environment	Joseph, Ch. 11
8 W 3/13/13	Environmental Activism	Perry and Selden, Ch. 8
9 M 3/18/13	Population	Joseph, Ch. 13
9 W 3/20/13 (Shah, Ch. 15)	Population Control and Resistance	Perry and Selden, Ch. 7
10 M 3/25/13	Summing Up	Exam III
10 W 3/27/13 (Shah, Ch. 6)	Religion	Perry and Selden, Ch. 10
March 29-April 1, 2013	Easter Break	No classes
11 W 4/3/13	Labor Activism	Perry and Selden, Ch. 2
12 M 4/8/13 (Shah, Ch. 3)	Ethnic Tensions	Joseph, Ch. 15
12 W 4/10/13 (Shah, Ch. 10)	Ethnic Groups	Perry and Selden, Ch. 11
13 M 4/15/13	Summing Up	Exam IV
13 W 4/17/13 (Shah, Ch. 14)	Women	Perry and Selden, Ch. 6
14 M 4/22/13 (Shah, Ch. 9)	The Arts and Cyberspace	Joseph, Ch. 10; Perry and Selden, Ch. 11
April 23, 2013 (Tuesday)	Written assignment	Semester Project due by 4 pm in Reeves 102
14 W 4/24/13 (Shah, Ch. 12)	Rights and Resistance	Perry and Selden, Ch. 1
April 29-May 3, 2013	Final Exams	