

Political Science 247: Introduction to Chinese Politics Fall 2015

TR, 8:55am-10:05am
Comenius 114

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Office hours: Mondays 2:30-3:30pm, Tuesdays 10:30-11:30am, and by appointment

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Course Goals:

As China rises, the country draws attention from all over the world and its growing influence is perceived in our daily lives. While we are surrounded by “Made in China” products, news from China constantly make headlines on major newspapers. How much of China, however, do we understand? Do we correctly understand the country including its ideological foundation, its political culture, and the process that it has reached today? This course is designed to make sense of the political system of the People’s Republic of China and its on-going changes. Starting with an overview of China’s modern history and the Mao rule, we explore China’s political institutions, economic transition, changing state-society relations, foreign relations and recent rise to global power. The central focus of the course is on the post-Mao era since 1978.

Along the way we will address such questions as: How has China reconciled socialism with capitalism and accomplished such spectacular economic growth? What is “socialism with Chinese characteristics”? What changes have occurred in Chinese society as a result of market reforms? What is “democracy with Chinese characteristics”? How has the Chinese Communist Party maintained its legitimacy? Is China moving toward a more democratic form of governance? What are the global implications of China’s rise? How should the United States deal with it?

We explore these questions examining various academic materials and sources having different points of view. This course also introduces primary source publications (translated), newspaper/magazine articles, documentary films, and books intended for popular audiences. These supplemental materials are helpful for us to understand current situations in China and to apply academic theories and approaches we learned in class to real world problems.

Course Requirements:

You are required to take midterm and final exams that consist of the identification of terms and concepts, as well as short essay questions. You are also required to submit a research topic statement (1-2 pages) for term paper and write a 7-9 page (double-spaced) term paper due at the end of the semester. Class participation grade includes attendance,

positive contribution to class discussions, and performance in short quizzes occasionally held. The details of news report assignments and homework will be discussed in class.

Final course grade is calculated as follows:

Class attendance/participation	15%
News report/homework	5%
Research topic statement	5%
Midterm exam	25%
Term paper	25%
Final exam	25%

Required Texts:

- Sujian Guo, *Chinese Politics and Government: Power, Ideology, and Organization*, Routledge, 2012. ISBN: 978-0415551397
- Richard McGregor, *The Party: The Secret World of China's Communist Rulers*, Harper, 2010. ISBN: 978-0061708763
- Peter Hays Gries and Stanley Rosen eds., *Chinese Politics: State, Society and the Market*, Routledge, Taylor & Francis Group, 2010. ISBN: 978-0415564038
- David Shambaugh, *China Goes Global: The Partial Power*, Oxford University Press, 2014. ISBN: 978-0199361038
- Perry Link, Richard P. Madsen, and Paul G. Pickowicz eds., *Restless China*, Rowman & Littlefield, 2013. ISBN: 978-1442215115

The above books are available at the Moravian College Bookstore. Additional readings are posted in Blackboard or available on line.

Academic Honesty:

All Students should be aware of their obligations under the Academic Honesty Policy published in the Moravian College Student Handbook. Please see:

<http://www.moravian.edu/studentlife/handbook/academic/academic2.html>.

Students with Disabilities:

Students who wish to request academic accommodations based on a disability is required to contact Ms. Elaine Mara, Academic & Disability Support. The office is located at the lower level of Monocacy Hall. The phone number for the office is 610-861-1401.

Accommodations cannot be provided until authorization is received from the Academic Support Center.

CLASS SCHEDULE AND ASSIGNED READINGS

*Subject to revision and update during the semester.

Part I Historical Overview and Political Institutions

9/1 -- Introduction

9/3 – Historical background: Republican China and Communist Revolution

*Reading: Guo, Chs. 3-5.

9/8 – Mao Zedong and his rule (1949-1976)

*Guo, Chs. 6, 7 and 15.

9/10 – Political institutions: Community Party

*McGregor, Chs. 1, 3 and 4.

9/15 -- Political institutions: Government apparatus

*Guo, Chs. 9-11.

Part II Post-Mao Market Reforms

9/17, 9/22 – Post Mao economic reforms: “Socialism with Chinese characteristics”

*Guo, Chs. 8 and 16.

*Selected Works of Deng Xiaoping, vol. III (1982-92). Read the following short essays.

1. “Hold High the Banner of Mao Zedong Thought and Adhere to the Principle of Seeking Truth from Facts” (1978).

<http://english.peopledaily.com.cn/dengxp/vol2/text/b1220.html>

2. “Building Socialism with a Specifically Chinese Character” (1984).

<http://english.peopledaily.com.cn/dengxp/vol3/text/c1220.html>

9/24 Convocation, no class

9/29 – Building socialist market economy: Rise of capitalists

*Kelle Tsai, “Unofficial and Official Revival of Chinese Private Sector,” in *Capitalism without Democracy: The Private Sector in Contemporary China*, 2007 (in Blackboard).

*“Three Represents” by the Communist Party of China.

<http://english.cpc.people.com.cn/66739/4521344.html>

10/1 – Building socialist market economy: Rise of state capitalism

*McGregor, Ch. 2 and 7.

10/6 – Review for midterm exam

Midterm exam: Thursday, October 8 (in class, closed book)

10/13 Fall recess, no class

Part III Consequences of Market Reforms: Changing State-Society Relations

10/15—Does democracy work in China?

Film showing, “*Please Vote for Me*” and discussion

10/20 – Dynamics of state-society relations

*Guo, Chs. 13-14.

*Gries and Rosen, Ch. 1.

10/22 – Pluralization?: Policy entrepreneurs

*Gries and Rosen, Ch. 3.

10/27 – Social unrests and protests

*Restless China, Chs.1, 2 and 10.

*”Standing Their Ground: Violent Evictions in China,” China Digital Times website:
<http://chinadigitaltimes.net/2012/10/standing-their-ground-violent-evictions-in-china/>

10/29 – Why no revolution?: Maintaining state legitimacy

*Gries and Rosen, 4-7.

****Research topic statement assigned****

11/3 – Xi Jinping’s populism: “China Dream”

*Joseph Fewsmith, “Xi Jinping’s Fast Start,” *China Leadership Monitor*, Spring 2013: Issue 41 (in Blackboard).

11/5 – Media commercialization and emerging “public space”

*Restless China, Chs. 5-6.

*****Research topic statement due in class****

11/10 – Media’s potential

*McGregor, Ch. 8.

*”Unrest in China: A Dangerous Year,” *The Economist*, Jan. 28, 2012.
<http://www.economist.com/node/21543477>

11/12 – Media censorship and surveillance

*Restless China, Ch. 4.

Part IV China and the World

11/17 – China’s foreign policy and foreign relations

*Guo, Ch. 17.

*Shambaugh, Chs. 1-3.

11/19 – U.S.-China relations

*Guo, Ch. 18.

11/24, 11/26 Thanksgiving recess, no class

12/1, 12/3 – China’s rise: “*China Goes Global*”

*Shambaugh, Chs. 4-8.

12/8 – Discussions/presentations of term papers

****Term paper due in class****

12/10 – Review for final exam

Final Exam Tuesday, December 15, 8:30AM

Academic Resources on China/Chinese Politics

(Academic journals)

Asian Survey
The China Journal
China Information
The China Quarterly
Comparative Politics
Foreign Affairs
Journal of Asian Studies
Journal of Contemporary China
Pacific Affairs
Pacific Review
Problems of Communism

(News)

People's Daily English edition: <http://english.peopledaily.com.cn>
Global Times <http://www.globaltimes.cn/>
Beijing Review: <http://www.bjreview.com.cn/>
The China Daily: <http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/en/home/>
Financial Times: www.ft.com/rss/world/asiapacific/china
South China Morning Post (Hong Kong): <http://www.scmp.com>
Inside China: <http://www.insidechina.com/>
Asian Wall Street Journal <http://asia.wsj.com/home-page>

(Government)

Chinese Embassy to the US: <http://www.china-embassy.org/eng/>
Ministry of Foreign Affairs (PRC): <http://www.fmprc.gov.cn>
China: A Country Study, U.S. Library of Congress
<http://lcweb2.loc.gov/frd/cs/cntoc.html>
The World Fact Book, CIA <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/>
Chinese Communist Party: <http://english.cpc.people.com.cn/>

(Other)

USC US-China Institute: <http://www.china.usc.edu/>
Asian Studies World Wide Web Virtual Library, Australian National University:
<http://coombs.anu.edu.au/WWWVL-AsianStudies.html>
Human Rights in China: <http://www.hrichina.org>