

Politics of Contemporary China

POSC 264 – Fall 2019
(M & W 9:50-11:00am)
(F 9:40-10:40am) Willis 204

Instructor: Kent Freeze

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Office Hours: Mon. 2-4pm & Thurs. 2-4pm and by appointment.

Course Description

The last thirty years have brought dramatic economic, social and political changes to China. Within the space of a single generation, China has gone from an impoverished, agrarian country to a rapidly modernizing urban one. This course examines the reforms in China over the past thirty years, as well as the prominent issues and challenges faced by the country today. Throughout the course, we will be considering important theoretical questions of contemporary political science. How has the Chinese Communist Party maintained power? How have recent changes under Xi Jinping affected the balance of political and economic stability? Is the current system sustainable into the future?

Course Requirements and Expectations

Classroom discussion and participation will be a critical component of our classes. To facilitate insightful and interesting discussions, you are required to complete the assigned readings *before* each class and contribute to class discussions. In addition to the two required books, readings will be made available electronically on Moodle. I also encourage you to pay attention to current events related to China in the news, which we will discuss in class.

Grading

Your grade will be based on the following:

Class Participation and Attendance	15%
Background Knowledge Quiz	5%
Research project	35%
In-class assignments	20%
Final Exam	25%
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Total	100%

Class Preparation, Attendance and Participation - 15%

Attendance and participation is required. You are expected to have completed the readings for the day, and to engage with your peers in various in-class activities.

Geography and Factual Knowledge Quiz - 5%

On the second Monday in the term, you will complete a short geography/factual knowledge quiz. This quiz is to help you learn various individuals/policies/locations that will be useful as background knowledge for the course.

Research Project - 35%

Please refer to the handout for a full description of this assignment. You have two options for your research project: A research project on one of the prompts I propose, OR a research paper on a topic of your choice.

In-class Assignments - 20%

Prior to each class, you will have a short student work sheet to fill out (by hand is fine) and return at the start of each class. These work sheets will often be related to the readings for the day, but may also require you to examine/find outside material to answer the questions. If you have to miss class for whatever reason, please take a photo of that day's assignment and email it to me. We will often use these sheets to build class discussion/projects for the day.

Final Exam - 25%

This will be a short final exam held on the final day of classes.

Course Policies

Grading Policies

I will assign grades using the following scale : A (93.33), A- (90), B+ (86.67), B (83.33), B- (80), C+ (76.67), C (73.33), C- (70), D+ (66.67), D(63.33) D- (60) F (Below 60). I do not round your final grade up or down (so if you receive a 93.327, you will receive an A- for a final grade).

Here are several important details regarding my policy on course grades

1. I will not receive grade complaints if more than two weeks have passed after the assignment has been returned. Before I review your grade you must first:
 - Wait 24 hours.
 - Schedule a time to meet with me to discuss your grade.
 - Submit a formal appeal in writing (email is sufficient—but be clear that it is the appeal in the subject heading) that clearly identifies content in the assignment and the reasons why you think your grade should be changed. These appeals should refer to specific things in the assignment, and not to vague reasons like “I worked really hard.”

The second grade, whether higher or lower, will become your grade on the assignment.

2. Late assignments are not tolerated. Your grade will be lowered 5 points for each day it is late (the exception is for the reading questions/comments, which will not be accepted if late). That is if the assignment is due on Wednesday and you complete it on Thursday, the highest grade you can make is 95. If you complete it on Friday, the highest grade possible will be a 90. And so forth.
3. The **ONLY** acceptable (not penalized) excuses for not completing an assignment on time are family emergencies or illnesses. However, in these cases, I will arrange to give you extra time **ONLY** if you communicate with me **BEFORE** the assignment is due and you provide **DOCUMENTATION** of the circumstance.

Electronics in Class Policy

You are welcome to bring digital equipment (laptop, ebook reader, etc.) to class. However, I expect you to be responsible in your use of electronic equipment: please avoid visiting social networking sites, or otherwise browsing the internet on sites unrelated to the course. Individuals who abuse this privilege will be asked to turn off their computer. Please turn off all cell phones during class.

Academic Honesty

You are expected to abide by fundamental standards of academic honesty. A discussion of plagiarism can be found at: <https://apps.carleton.edu/campus/doc/integrity/>. All work is expected to be your own. Cheating, plagiarism (using someone else's words or ideas without properly citing them), and all forms of academic misconduct will not be tolerated and will be strictly handled according to university policy. If you are uncertain, cite your sources!

Disability-Related Accommodations

It is the policy of Carleton College to provide reasonable accommodations to students with documented disabilities. Students, however, are responsible for registering with Disabilities Services, in addition to making requests known to me in a timely manner. If you require accommodations in this class, please make an appointment with me as soon as possible (during the 1st week of the semester), so that appropriate arrangements can be made. The procedures for registering with Disabilities Services can be found at <http://apps.carleton.edu/disabilityservices/>.

Course Schedule

Readings should be completed prior to class. I reserve the right to make changes to the course schedule. I will alert you to any changes made in class, via email, and I will post the updated syllabus on Moodle.

Part I: Political History – Mao to Now

Sept. 16: Introduction

- We will review the syllabus and answer any questions you may have.

Sept. 18: The Dictator's Dilemma

- Ronald Wintrobe. *The political economy of dictatorship*. Cambridge University Press, 1998, Chapter 2, pgs. 20-39.

Sept. 20: Mao Era

- Jonathan D Spence. *The search for modern China*. WW Norton & Company, 1990, pgs. 563-617.

Sept. 23: Deng

- Ezra F Vogel. *Deng Xiaoping and the transformation of China*. Belknap Press of Harvard University Press, 2011, Chapters 13 and 19, pages 377-393 & 553-591.
- Barry Naughton. *The Chinese Economy: Transitions and Growth*. The MIT Press, 2007, Chapter 4, pgs. 85-100.

Sept 25: Tiananmen

- Watch the documentary "Gate of Heavenly Peace". (Available electronically).

Sept. 27: People's Republic of Amnesia

- Louisa Lim. *The People's Republic of Amnesia: Tiananmen Revisited*. Oxford Univer, 2014, Intro-Chapter 4. Pgs. 1-104.

Sept. 30: People's Republic of Amnesia

- Louisa Lim. *The People's Republic of Amnesia: Tiananmen Revisited*. Oxford Univer, 2014, Chapter 5-Afterword. Pgs. 105-211.

Oct. 2: Jiang/Hu

- Bruce J Dickson. *Wealth into power: The Communist Party's embrace of China's private sector*. Cambridge University Press, 2008, Chapter 3, pgs. 66-100.
- Kerry Brown. *Hu Jintao: China's Silent Ruler*. World Scientific, 2012, Chapter 2, pgs. 27-76.
- Barry Naughton. *The Chinese Economy: Transitions and Growth*. The MIT Press, 2007, Chapter 4, pgs. 100-111.

Part II: State-Society Relations

Oct. 4: Political Institutions

- Susan Lawrence and Michael Martin. Understanding China's political system. *CRS Report for Congress*, 2013
- Kenneth Lieberthal. *Governing China: From revolution through reform*. WW Norton, 1995, pgs. 169-170 (On Tiao/kuai relations).

Oct. 7: The National People's Congress

- Rory Truex. *Making Autocracy Work: Representation and Responsiveness in Modern China*. Cambridge University Press, 2016, Chapters 1, 7 and 8.

Oct. 9: Political Meritocracy

- Daniel A. Bell. *The China Model: Political Meritocracy and the Limits of Democracy*. Princeton University Press, 2015. Intro. and Chapters 1-2.

Oct. 11: Government Responsiveness and Cadre Evaluation Systems

- Susan Whiting. The cadre evaluation system at the grass roots: The paradox of party rule. In Barry Naughton and Dali Yang, editors, *Holding China together: diversity and national integration in the post-Deng era*, pages 101–119. Cambridge University Press, 2004
- Jidong Chen, Jennifer Pan, and Yiqing Xu. Sources of authoritarian responsiveness: A field experiment in China. *American Journal of Political Science*, 60(2):383–400, 2016

Oct. 14: Village Elections

- Kevin O'Brien and Lianjiang Li. Accommodating democracy in a one-party state: Introducing village elections in China. *The China Quarterly*, 162:465–489, 2000
- Pierre F. Landry, Deborah Davis, and Shiru Wang. Elections in Rural China: Competition without parties. *Comparative Political Studies*, 43(6):763–790, 2010

Oct. 16: Ethnic Relations in Xinjiang and Tibet

- Baogang He. *Governing Taiwan and Tibet*. Edinburgh University Press, 2015, Chapter 8, pgs. 145-171.
- Adrian Zenz and James Leibold. Securitizing Xinjiang: Police recruitment, informal policing and ethnic minority co-optation. *The China Quarterly*, pages 1–25, 2019

Oct. 18: Migration and Hukou Policy

- Jeremy Wallace. *Cities and stability: urbanization, redistribution, and regime survival in China*. Oxford University Press, 2014, Chapter 4, pgs. 71-121.

Oct. 23: Conceptions of Democracy

- Bruce Dickson. *The dictator's dilemma: The Chinese Communist Party's strategy for survival*. Oxford University Press, 2016, Chapter 6, pgs. 262-300.

Oct. 25: Attitudes Towards Political Reform

- Wenfang Tang. *Populist Authoritarianism: Chinese Political Culture and Regime Sustainability*. Oxford University Press, 2016, Chapters 2 and 3, pages 20-57.

Oct. 28: Wukan Protests

- Six episode (25min each) Al-Jazeera Documentary on the Protests (Available electronically).

Oct. 30: Local Government

- Watch the documentary “The Chinese Mayor”. (Available electronically through the library. Also on Amazon Prime if you happen to have it.).

Part III: Xi Jinping's China

Nov. 1: Hong Kong

- Alvin Y So. One country, two systems and Hong Kong-China national integration: A crisis-transformation perspective. *Journal of Contemporary Asia*, 41(1):99–116, 2011
- Yew Chiew Ping and Kin-Ming. Hong Kong identity on the rise. *Asian Survey*, 54(6):1088–1112, 2014

Nov. 4: Xi Jinping

- Elizabeth Economy. *The Third Revolution: Xi Jinping and the New Chinese State*. Oxford University Press, 2018, Chapters 1 and 2.

Nov. 6: China and the Internet

- Elizabeth Economy. *The Third Revolution: Xi Jinping and the New Chinese State*. Oxford University Press, 2018, Chapter 3.

Nov. 8: The Chinese Economy under Xi Jinping

- Elizabeth Economy. *The Third Revolution: Xi Jinping and the New Chinese State*. Oxford University Press, 2018, Chapters 4 and 5.

Nov. 11: The Environment

- Elizabeth Economy. *The Third Revolution: Xi Jinping and the New Chinese State*. Oxford University Press, 2018, Chapter 6.

Nov. 13: Foreign Policy

- Elizabeth Economy. *The Third Revolution: Xi Jinping and the New Chinese State*. Oxford University Press, 2018, Chapters 7 and 8.

Nov. 15: Anti-Corruption Campaign

- Kerry Brown. The anti-corruption struggle in Xi Jinping's China: An alternative political narrative. *Asian Affairs*, 49(1):1–10, 2018
- Peter L Lorentzen and Xi Lu. Personal ties, meritocracy, and China's anti-corruption campaign. *Meritocracy, and China's Anti-Corruption Campaign (November 21, 2018)*, 2018

Nov. 18: Political Reform?

- David Shambaugh. *China's Future*. Polity Press, Chapter 4, pages 98-136.

Nov. 20: Final Exam

- Study hard and do great!