

Politics of Contemporary China

POSC 264 – Fall 2019

Asynchronous

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Office Hours: Wed. 8:15am-10am & Thurs. 1-3pm 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

This class is online and asynchronous. As a result, your engagement and activity with the course will largely be assessed through online forums, videos, and regular quizzes. There are no required books for purchase – all course materials will be made available electronically.

Grading

Your grade will be based on the following:

Slack Participation	20%
Weekly Flipgrid Videos	20%
Quizzes	10%
Research project	50%
Total	100%

Class Preparation, and Slack Participation - 20%

You are expected to prepare for each class session, and engage with the material via the slack forum. I will sometimes provide prompts for discussion, but not always. Provide a comment on the topic for the day – this can come from the reading/videos for the day, or something generally related to the topic that you may have been thinking about. You may also respond to someone else’s comment or thread. You are expected to provide at least one comment for every class session.

Weekly Flipgrid Videos - 20%

Over the course of the term, you will complete four flipgrid videos. The first flipgrid video will be an introduction to yourself, and why you are interested in the course. I will also randomly assign you to complete at least three additional flipgrid videos where you answer/give an argument in response to a prompt for that week related to the topics we have covered. You are also expected to view your classmates videos, and provide regular feedback on their videos.

Weekly Quizzes - 10%

For each week, there is a quiz to be completed via Moodle. These are low stakes quizzes which you can complete as many times as you wish until you get a score you are satisfied with. The last quiz of the term will be a mega-quiz which will cover material from the entire term.

Research Project - 50%

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.

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.

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 Accomodations

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

Mar. 29: Introduction

- Please review the syllabus, sign in to the slack page, make an introductory Flipgrid video, and take the first quiz.

Mar. 31: The Dictator's Dilemma

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

Apr. 2: Mao Era

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

Apr. 5: 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.

Apr. 7: Tiananmen

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

Apr. 9: People's Republic of Amnesia

- Louisa Lim. *The People's Republic of Amnesia: Tiananmen Revisited*. Oxford Univer, 2014, Timeline, maps, intro, solidier, student, mother (pgs. 1-30; 83-104; 105-132).
- RESEARCH PREFERENCES DUE!

Apr. 12: Jiang

- 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.

- Barry Naughton. *The Chinese Economy: Transitions and Growth*. The MIT Press, 2007, Chapter 4, pgs. 100-111.

Apr. 14: Hu

- Kerry Brown. *Hu Jintao: China's Silent Ruler*. World Scientific, 2012, Chapter 2, pgs. 27-76.

Apr. 16: Xi

- Elizabeth Economy. *The Third Revolution: Xi Jinping and the New Chinese State*. Oxford University Press, 2018, Chapter 2, pgs. 20-54.

Part II: Topics in Contemporary Chinese Politics

Apr. 18: Political Institutions

- Susan Lawrence and Michael Martin. Understanding China's political system. *CRS Report for Congress*, 2013

Apr. 19: 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.

Apr. 21: Political Meritocracy

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

Apr. 23: 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

Apr. 26: 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

Apr. 28: Ethnic Relations

- Colin Mackerras. Ethnic minorities in China. pages 15–47. RoutledgeCurzon: London, UK, 2003
- Adrian Zenz. Thoroughly reforming them towards a healthy heart attitude: Chinas political re-education campaign in Xinjiang. *Central Asian Survey*, 38(1):102–128, 2019

Apr. 30: 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.

May 5: 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.

May 7: 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.

May 10: Wukan Protests

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

May 12: Local Government

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

May 14: Hong Kong

- Watch the documentary “China’s Rebel City: The Hong Kong Protests”
- Andrew J Nathan. How China sees the Hong Kong crisis. *Foreign Affairs*, 30:9–19, 2019
- Not required, but you can also watch the Academy Award nominated documentary “Do Not Split” if interested.
- OPTIONAL ROUGH DRAFT DUE!

May 17: Rural/Urban Divide

- Scott Rozelle and Natalie Hell. *Invisible China: How the Urban-Rural Divide Threatens Chinas Rise*. University of Chicago Press, 2020, Chapters 3 and 4, pgs. 46-84.

May 19: China and the Internet

- Margaret E Roberts. *Censored: distraction and diversion inside China's Great Firewall*. Princeton University Press, 2018, Chapters 2 and 3.

May 21: The Environment

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

May 24: Repression

- Lynette H Ong. Thugs-for-hire: Subcontracting of state coercion and state capacity in China. *Perspectives on Politics*, 16(3):680–695, 2018
- Kai Strittmatter. *We have been harmonized: Life in China's Surveillance State*. HarperCollins, 2020, pgs. 167-234.

May 26: Social Welfare

- Jennifer Pan. *Welfare for autocrats: how social assistance in China cares for its rulers*. Oxford University Press, 2020, Chapter 2, pgs. 30-56.

May 28: China's Future?

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

May 31: End of term paper prep day

June 1: FINAL PAPER DUE!

June 2: End of term presentations due and online discussion by June 6