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. For the first part of the course, we will discuss economic reforms in China, and the challenges inherent in its rapid economic transition. We will then examine political behavior, institutional reforms, and the prospects for democratization since the 1980s.

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. Generally the reading load will be around 150 to 200 pages per week. There is no required text for the course – all readings will be made available electronically on Moodle. I also encourage you to pay attention to current Chinese events in the news, which we will discuss in class.
Grading

Your grade will be based on the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Class Participation and Attendance</td>
<td>18%</td>
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<tr>
<td>3 Short Response Papers (14% Each)</td>
<td>42%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Research Paper</td>
<td>40%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Research Question and Hypothesis</td>
<td>5%</td>
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<td>Research Proposal</td>
<td>5%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Optional Rough Draft</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Draft</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
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Class Preparation, Attendance and Participation - 18%

Attendance and active participation is required. Participation grades will be determined by the *quality* not quantity of comments/questions in class discussion.

In addition to participation within class, we will have a class Facebook group (Request to join the group page at: [https://www.facebook.com/groups/1422568901313693/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/1422568901313693/)) which you will be required to participate in. If you have concerns about privacy or do not use Facebook, feel free to create a fake account using a pseudonym (and let me know so I can incorporate participation grades). Prior to the start of each class, you will submit at least one comment/thought/question on the readings for the day. As a discussion board for the class, feel free to post interesting news articles or commentaries, and comment on the posts of your classmates. We will usually start class looking through and covering these comments to make sure that we cover any questions or points that you may have had for the readings. In class participation and participation on the Facebook group will each contribute 9% toward your final grade.

Three Short Response Papers - 42% (14% each)

In these short response papers, you will be asked to respond to one of three or four potential essay topics with a short paper of around 4-5 double spaced pages. These are not research papers, and the use of citations of academic articles outside of the readings found in the syllabus is not required (although you are certainly welcome to include outside citations if appropriate). Your response will be graded on the extent to which you exhibit understanding of the arguments contained in the course readings, have a clear argument/thesis, have clean grammar/spelling and an appropriate writing style that effectively communicates your thesis. These three short response essays will be due on Jan. 27, Feb. 24 and Mar. 10 by 11:59pm.
Research Paper - 40%

Over the course of the semester, you will be working on a research paper project that will culminate in a 12-15 page paper. In order to encourage you to begin work on your paper early, the assignment is broken into several parts spread across the semester. Complete details of the assignment will be posted on Moodle. These particular assignments, and the relative weight of each are below.

Research Question and Hypothesis - 5%

Due by 11:59pm on Jan. 10. Prepare a research question that is of interest to you, and formulate a hypothesis that can potentially answer the question.

Research Proposal - 5%

Due by 11:59pm on Jan. 20. The proposal should be approximately two or three double spaced pages, and outline your research question and hypothesis, planned methods to gather data for the paper, as well as academic sources that will help you to be able to answer your question.

Optional Rough Draft - 10%

Due by 11:59pm on Feb. 17. This will be an optional rough draft, which I will grade as if I am grading your final paper. As an incentive to turn in a rough draft, I will add 30 points to the final score after I have completed grading it (so if you earn at least a 70 on the rough draft, you will receive 100 points for this portion of the grade). If you are satisfied with the grade you receive on the rough draft (prior to the 30 point bonus), you do not need to turn in a final paper draft (and your rough draft score will count for the final draft as well).

Final Draft - 20%

Due by 11:59pm on Mar. 7. The final paper should be a polished, finished project - perhaps something that you would feel comfortable submitting to an undergraduate research journal such as Columbia East Asia Review or the Stanford Journal of East Asian Affairs. If you did not turn in a rough draft (or you receive a higher final grade on the final draft than you do on the adjusted rough draft grade), the rough draft grade will be dropped and the final draft will count for 30% of your final grade.
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—just 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. I would also recommend you read through the discussion (including comments), Computers in the Classroom, to think about the possible pros and cons of using computers in a classroom setting. 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 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: Background and Institutions

Week 1: Course Introduction and the Start of the PRC

January 6: The Communist Victory and the Great Leap Forward

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

January 8: The Cultural Revolution


January 10: The Gang of Four and the Rise of Deng

- Research Question and Hypothesis Due!

Part II: Economic Reforms

Week 2: Economic Reforms

January 13: Reforms of the 1980s

January 15: Reforms of the 1990s


January 17: The Nature of Chinese Capitalism


Week 3: The Chinese Model?

January 20: Economic Growth

- Research Proposal Due today!

January 22: The Environment

- DVD Film: Up the Yangtze – Showing on Tuesday, Jan. 21 at 8pm.

January 24: Uneven Development

Part III: Attitudes, Institutions and Democracy

Week 4: Movements Towards Democracy

January 27: Current Political Institutions

• Susan Lawrence and Michael Martin. Understanding China’s political system. CRS Report for Congress, 2013


• First Short Response Paper Due Today!

January 29: Tiananmen 1989

• Marsha Wagner. Tiananmen: China’s Struggle for Democracy. University of Maryland School of Law, 1990: Chapters 4 and 5.


January 31: Village Elections


Week 5: Democratic Attitudes and Participation

February 3: Civic Culture in China


February 5: Attitudes toward Inequality

February 7: Protests and Resistance

- DVD Showing of “Petition”, Thurs., Feb. 6, 8 pm.

Week 6: Political Change

February 12: Dissidents and Human Rights


February 14: Prospects for Democracy


Week 7: Prospects for Political Reform

February 17: Prospects for Democratization Continued

- Option Rough Draft Due Today!

February 19: Wukan

- As background for the videos read the Wikipedia entry on the protests at: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wukan_protests
- Watch the following four episode series produced by Al-Jazeera online. These videos are not available in the United States, so you will need to use the service www.proxfree.com and set your server location to the Netherlands.
  http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CPnpoWKkuXg
  http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t8tFsFULkpo0
  http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XhPprwKKoDc
  http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JyIuB607b10
February 21: Alternatives to Democracy?

  Introduction and Chapter 1 (pgs. 1-43).

Part IV: Holding it All Together

Week 8: Government and Business Relations

February 24: Representation

- Short Response Paper Two Due Today!

February 26: Bo Xilai


February 28: Media and Free Speech


Week 9: Diversity and its Discontents

March 3: Migration

- Documentary showing “We are the ... of Communism” Mar. 2, 8pm.
March 5: Ethnic Relations and Politics


March 7: Demographics

- Final Paper Draft Due Today!

Week 10: The Way Forward

March 10: Xi Jinping’s China

- Readings TBD
- Short Response Paper Three Due Today!