

Politics of Contemporary China

POSC 264 – Winter 2016
(M & W 9:50-11:00am)
(F 9:40-10:40am) Willis 203

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

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:

Class Participation and Attendance	10%
3 Short Response Papers (15% Each)	45%
Background Knowledge Quiz	5%
Research Paper	40%
Research Question and Hypothesis	5%
Research Proposal	5%
Optional Rough Draft	10%
Final Draft	20%
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Total	100%

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.

Class Preparation, Attendance and Participation - 10%

Attendance and participation is required. You are expected to have completed the readings for the day.

At the start of class, you will turn in a note card including a discussion question or comment based on the readings for the day. This can be a request for clarification on something that didn't make sense, a criticism, or some other thoughts that you think would be interesting to discuss. We will take a minute at the start of class to go over some of these comments as a class and discuss them.

Three Short Response Papers - 45% (15% 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). The second response paper will cover one of the three documentaries in the Feb. 5, Feb. 10 or Feb. 12 class sessions. Your response will be graded on the extent to which you exhibit understanding of the arguments contained in the course readings/documentary, 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. 20, Feb. 15 and Mar. 9 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. 13. 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. 25. 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. 22. 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—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. 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: The Economic Model

January 4: China's Economy Under Mao

- We will review the syllabus and answer any questions you may have.
- Barry Naughton. *The Chinese Economy: Transitions and Growth*. The MIT Press, 2007. Chapter 3, pages 55-84.

January 6: Reform in the 1980s

- Barry Naughton. *The Chinese Economy: Transitions and Growth*. The MIT Press, 2007. Chapter 4, pages 85-100.
- Gerard Roland. The political economy of transition. *The Journal of Economic Perspectives*, 16(1):29–50, 2002

January 8: Reform since the 1990s

- Barry Naughton. *The Chinese Economy: Transitions and Growth*. The MIT Press, 2007. Chapter 4, pages 100-112.
- Barry Naughton. Is there a Xi model of economic reform? Acceleration of economic reform since fall 2014. *China Leadership Monitor*, 46, 2015

January 11: The Nature of Chinese Capitalism

- Geography and Factual Knowledge Quiz at the start of class!
- Yasheng Huang. *Capitalism with Chinese Characteristics: Entrepreneurship and the State*. Cambridge University Press, 2008. Chapter 1: “Just how Capitalist is China?”, pages 1–49.

January 13: Explaining China's Economic Growth

- Dani Rodrik. Growth strategies. *Handbook of Economic Growth*, 1:967–1014, 2005

January 15: Environmental Challenges

- Elizabeth Economy. *The River Runs Black: The Environmental Challenge to China's Future*. Cornell University Press, 2010. Chapter 3: The Economic Explosion and its Environmental Cost.

January 18: Uneven Development

- Yasheng Huang. *Capitalism with Chinese Characteristics: Entrepreneurship and the State*. Cambridge University Press, 2008. Chapter 4: “What is Wrong with Shanghai?”, pages 175–232.

Part II: The Political Model

January 20: Political Institutions

- David M Lampton. *Following the Leader: Ruling China, from Deng Xiaoping to Xi Jinping*. University of California Press, 2014. Chapters 2 and 3.

January 22: Political Meritocracy

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

January 25: Problems with Political Meritocracy

- Daniel A. Bell. *The China Model: Political Meritocracy and the Limits of Democracy*. Princeton University Press, 2015. Chapter 3.

January 27: A Confucian Alternative?

- Qing Jiang. *A Confucian Constitutional Order*. Princeton University Press, 2013. Introduction and Chapter 1 (pgs. 1-43).

January 29: Realizing the Chinese Model

- Daniel A. Bell. *The China Model: Political Meritocracy and the Limits of Democracy*. Princeton University Press, 2015. Chapter 4 and Concluding Thoughts.

Part III: Battles for Voice

February 1: Civic Culture in China

- Tianjian Shi. Cultural values and democracy in the People’s Republic of China. *The China Quarterly*, 162:540–559, 2000
- Jie Lu and Tianjian Shi. The Shadow of Confucianism. *Journal of Democracy*, 21(4):123–130, 2010

February 3: 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

February 5: Wukan Protests

- Shenjing He and Desheng Xue. Identity building and communal resistance against landgrabs in Wukan Village, China. *Current Anthropology*, 55(S9):S126–S137, 2014
- Four episode (25min each) Al-Jazeera Documentary on the Protests (Available electronically).

February 10: The Petition System

- Watch the documentary “Petition” by Zhao Liang. (Available electronically as well as library reserve).

February 12: Tiananmen

- Watch the documentary “Gate of Heavenly Peace”. (Available electronically as well as library reserve).

February 15: People’s Republic of Amnesia

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

February 17: People’s Republic of Amnesia

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

February 19: Prospects for Democracy?

- David Shambaugh, “The Coming Chinese Crack-up” WSJ article.
- Minxin Pei. *China’s Trapped Transition: The Limits of Developmental Autocracy*. Harvard University Press, 2006. “Chapter 2: Democratizing China?”: pages 45–95.

Section IV: Holding it Together

February 22: Ethnic Relations

- Preeti Bhattacharji. Uighurs and China's Xinjiang region. *Council on Foreign Relations*, 2009
- Enze Han and Christopher Paik. Dynamics of political resistance in Tibet: Religious repression and controversies of demographic change. *The China Quarterly*, pages 1–30, 2013

February 24: Anti-Corruption Campaign

- Alice Miller. The Bo Xilai affair in central leadership politics. *China Leadership Monitor*, 38, 2012
- Joseph Fewsmith. China's political ecology and the fight against corruption. *China Leadership Monitor*, 46, 2015

February 26: Media and Free Speech

- Gary King, Jennifer Pan, and Margaret Roberts. How censorship in China allows government criticism but silences collective expression. *American Political Science Review*, pages 1–18, 2013
- <http://www.nytimes.com/2013/10/20/world/asia/authors-accept-censors-rules-to-sell-in-china.html>

February 29: Cities and Stability

- Wallace, Chapters 1-3, pgs. 1-70. Feel free to skim analysis on pgs. 58-70.

March 2: Hukou Policy

- Wallace, Chapter 4, pgs. 71-121

March 4: Migration and Redistribution

- Wallace, Chapters 5 and 6, pgs. 122-186

March 7: Future of China's Urban-Rural Divide

- Wallace, Chapter 7 and Conclusion, pgs. 187-219