Course Description

This course provides a comprehensive introduction to Chinese politics. With over a fifth of the world’s population (over 1.3 billion people), an enormous economy (a 2011 nominal GDP of close to 7 trillion), and the world’s largest standing army, China is intrinsically important. Anyone who wishes to understand 21st century world politics needs to engage the China question.

The course begins with China’s revolutionary heritage, exploring the political history of 20th century China, with emphasis on the half century since “Liberation” in 1949. How, for example, can we understand the chaos of the Cultural Revolution of the late 1960s? What are the legacies of the Tiananmen Massacre of 1989? It then turns to state-market-society relations in China today. Who have been the winners and losers in the last three decades of “reform and opening”?

One of the primary goals of this course is to develop critical thinking skills. Therefore, you will not just passively learn about Chinese politics, but will also actively conduct research on Chinese politics. Most fundamentally, in this class you will be asked to make arguments, which will be judged on their persuasiveness.

Readings

Students are expected to attend class having completed the readings assigned for that day. Random pop quizzes will test whether you have read them. Lectures will not cover the same ground as the readings, and are no substitute for them. Three paperback books are available for optional purchase at the OU bookstore and online, and will be held on one day reserve at Bizzell Library:

- Phillip Pan, Out of Mao’s Shadow: The Struggle for the Soul of a New China (Simon and Schuster, 2008).
- Peter Gries and Stanley Rosen, eds., Chinese Politics: State, Society and the Market (Routledge, 2010).

Reading is required; purchasing the books is recommended but not required. Additional readings will be available on the course website, and from the OU library webpage. Search the EBSCO database for articles. There is a significant amount of reading for this course, and you are expected to read critically. What are the author’s arguments? Are they persuasive? Why do you think that the authors take the positions that they do? Do you agree or not?
Grading

Your final grade will be based upon class participation, two five page papers, and a final exam:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tr>
<td>Class participation</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pop quizzes</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Paper I (10/10)</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Paper II (11/12)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Exam (12/5)</td>
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1. The class participation grade will be based upon the quality, not quantity, of your contributions to group discussions. It will also include pass/fail pop quizzes on the readings given at the beginning of class on random days throughout the semester.
2. A hardcopy of your first paper will be due at the beginning of class on 10/10. A hardcopy of your second paper will be due in class on 11/12. No late papers please.
3. The exam will be held on Thursday, December 5. It will be comprehensive. Anyone with a scheduling conflict should inform me no later than November 5.

Papers

Two five page analytic papers will be due on 10/10 and 11/12. Late papers will not be accepted. The first paper should address the question, “Why were the Red Guards so violent?” The second paper will address the question, “How is state legitimacy contested on China’s Internet today, and who is winning?” These papers will be judged based upon the persuasiveness of their arguments.

Classroom Policies

Respect is required. While the discreet consumption of coffee and other beverages is permitted, eating, which might disrupt your classmates, is not. Please turn off all cell phones and other devices that might disrupt class. Disparaging comments or behaviors towards your classmates will not be permitted. Anyone disrupting the educational atmosphere of the classroom will be asked to leave.

Sexual harassment will not be tolerated. Anyone experiencing harassment in the classroom should contact the instructor immediately. Harassment anywhere on the OU campus should be reported to the OU Office of Equal Opportunity.

Plagiarism & Cheating

Academic honesty is presumed and required of all students at OU. Use of the work of others is encouraged and is central to scholarship, but it must always be properly credited. When it is not credited, and when the thoughts/words/ideas of others are passed off as your own, that is PLAGIARISM. Plagiarism is serious academic misconduct and will be reported to the appropriate university office; penalties are severe. Visit www.ou.edu/provost/integrity-rights/ for details about the university’s academic honesty code. If you are in doubt about how to handle quotations or citations, please consult the instructor.

Disabilities

Any student in this course who has a disability that may prevent him/her from fully demonstrating his/her abilities should contact me personally within the first two weeks of class.
Lecture and Reading Schedule
(TENTATIVE: Always consult online version for updates)

WEEK 1. CHINA THROUGH AMERICAN EYES
8/20. Course Introduction
• “Olympic Nightmare,” South Park (2008)

8/22. Liberals, Conservatives, and China
• Jeffrey Wasserstrom, “Big Bad China and the Good Chinese.” In China: Beyond the Headlines.
  OPTIONAL:
  • Peter Gries, “How Ideology Divides American Liberals and Conservatives over East Asia.”

I. THE REVOLUTIONARY HERITAGE

WEEK 2. THE IMPERIAL AND REPUBLICAN LEGACIES
8/27. The ‘Mandate of Heaven,’ the Republican Revolution, & May Fourth Movement
• Maurice Meisner, Mao’s China and After Part I: The Revolutionary Heritage (pp. 3-54).
• LU Xun, “Preface to A Call to Arms.”

8/29. The Politics of China’s Internet I: Activism [Jonathan Benney]]
• YANG Guobin, The Power of the Internet in China: Citizen Activism Online, Ch. 1: “Online Activism in an Age of Contention.”

WEEK 3. COMMUNISM
9/3. Marx and Marxism
• Karl Marx and Frederick Engels, Manifesto of the Communist Party.

9/5. Mao and Maoism
• Maurice Meisner, Mao’s China and After Part II: The New Order (pp. 55-128).
  OPTIONAL:
  • “Classes and Class Struggle” From Quotations from Chairman Mao (The Little Red Book).
  • Mao’s autobiography, as told to Edgar Snow, Red Star over China (skim).
  • “Report on an Investigation of the Peasant Movement in Hunan” (1927; skim).

WEEK 4. THE 1950s: LIBERATION AND THE GREAT LEAP
9/10. Early 50s: Liberation and State Building
• Maurice Meisner, Mao’s China and After Part II: The New Order (pp. 129-190).
• Phillip Pan, Out of Mao’s Shadow, Chapter 2.

9/12. Late 50s: The Great Leap Forward
• Maurice Meisner, Mao’s China and After Parts II and III: Utopianism (pp. 191-244).
• Phillip Pan, Out of Mao’s Shadow, Chapter 3.

WEEK 5. THE 1960s: FAMINE, RECOVERY, AND REVOLUTION
9/17. Early 1960s: From Famine to Recovery
• Maurice Meisner, Mao’s China and After Part IV, pp. 245-290.

[9/19. The Politics of China’s Internet II: Blogs and Microblogs [Jonathan Benney]]
WEEK 6. THE LOST DECADE: THE CULTURAL REVOLUTION
9/24. Cultural Revolution I

WEEK 7. FROM REVOLUTION TO REFORM
10/1. Cultural Revolution II
- Watch Hu Jie documentary “Though I am Gone” (我虽死去) on Youtube
10/3. 1980s: Deng Xiaoping and ‘Reform and Opening’
OPTIONAL:

WEEK 8. BEIJING SPRING AND TIANANMEN
10/8. Beijing Spring
- Phillip Pan, *Out of Mao’s Shadow*, Chapter 1.
10/10. The Tiananmen Square Massacre [PAPER #1 DUE]
- Watch “Tank Man,” *PBS Frontline*.

II. STATE, MARKET, AND SOCIETY IN CHINA TODAY:
WHITHER THE REVOLUTION?

WEEK 9. STATE, MARKET, & SOCIETY IN CHINA TODAY
10/15. Conceptual Frameworks
[10/17. The Politics of China’s Internet IV: Cyber-security in US-China relations* (Benney)]

WEEK 10. THE PARTY-STATE, CORRUPTION, AND THE RULE OF LAW
10/22. Corruption and the Chinese Communist Party
- David Barbosa, “Billions amassed in the shadows by the family of China’s premier,” *New York Times*, October 26, 2012 (wins 2013 Pultizer Prize for International Reporting)
OPTIONAL:

10/24. Rule of Law vs. Rule by Law
• Phillip Pan, Out of Mao’s Shadow, Chapters 10 & 11.

WEEK 11. RURAL AND URBAN UNREST
10/29. Rural Protest, Taxation, and Resistance
• Phillip Pan, Out of Mao’s Shadow, Chapter 7.
OPTIONAL:

10/31. Urban Unrest and Social Welfare
• Phillip Pan, Out of Mao’s Shadow, Chapter 5.

WEEK 12. CHINESE NATIONALISM
11/5. China’s New Nationalism
• Peter Gries, China’s New Nationalism: Pride, Politics, and Diplomacy (2004), Introduction & Ch. 1.

11/7. Anti-Japanese Sentiment in China today

WEEK 13. HEALTH AND THE ENVIRONMENT
11/12. Health: HIV and SARS
• Phillip Pan, Out of Mao’s Shadow, Chapter 8 (SARS).

11/14. Pollution and the Environment

WEEK 14. WOMEN AND MINORITIES
11/19. Women in China today
• Leslie Chang, Factory Girls, Chapter 1.
• Phillip Pan, Out of Mao’s Shadow, Chapter 6.

OPTIONAL:
- Orville Schell, Virtual Tibet, Chs. 2 & 3.

WEEK 15. THE MEDIA AND THE STATE
- Phillip Pan, Out of Mao’s Shadow, Chapter 9
11/28. NO CLASS THANKSGIVING

WEEK 16. CONCLUSIONS: A CHINESE LOOKING-GLASS
12/3. Normative Issues
- Maurice Meisner, Mao’s China and After Part VI, Ch. 25, pp. 514-548.
12/5. In class EXAM