The University of Oklahoma  
Department of International and Area Studies  

Spring 2012 IAS 3143-001:  
Chinese Politics  
Prof. Peter Hays Gries  
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Class meets Monday, Wednesday 1:30-2:45 pm in Hester Hall Rm. 183  
Office Hours: Monday, Wednesday 3-4 pm in Hester Hall 120 & by appointment.

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 and writing on Chinese politics. You will write two essays about 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 books are available for purchase at the OU bookstore and online, and will be held on reserve at Bizzell Library:

- Phillip Pan, Out of Mao’s Shadow: The Struggle for the Soul of a New China (Simon and Schuster, 2008).

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:

- 20% Class participation and pop quizzes
- 25% Paper I (3/5)
- 25% Paper II (4/23)
- 30% Final exam (May 9, 8-10am)

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 March 5. No late papers. A hardcopy of your second paper will be due in class on April 23. No late papers.
3. The final exam will be held on Wednesday, May 9 from 8-10 am. It will be comprehensive. Anyone with a scheduling conflict should inform me no later than April 9.

Papers

Two five page analytic papers will be due on March 5 and April 23. Late papers will not be accepted. The first paper should address the question, “What best explains Red Guard violence during the Cultural Revolution?” The second paper will address the question, “How does the Chinese Communist Party maintain its power in China today?” 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**

**WEEK 1. CHINA THROUGH AMERICAN EYES**
1/18. **Course Introduction**
- “Chasing The Dragon,” Rob Riggle on the *Daily Show* (2008)

**I THE REVOLUTIONARY HERITAGE**

**WEEK 2. TAIWAN; IMPERIAL CHINA**
1/23. **The 2012 Taiwan Presidential Election: Implications for Cross-Strait Relations**
- Jeffrey Wasserstrom, Preface, Intro, & Ch. 1 in *China: Beyond the Headlines* (for previous week).
1/25. **Confucianism, Taoism and the “Mandate of Heaven”**
- Donald Munro, “Afterword” to *Zhuangzi Speaks* by cartoonist Tsai Chih Chung.

**WEEK 3. MAY FOURTH AND MARXISM**
1/30. **The Republican Revolution and the May Fourth Movement**
- Maurice Meisner, *Mao’s China and After* Part I: The Rev. Heritage (pp. 3-54)
- Lu Xun, “Preface to *A Call to Arms*” and “A Diary of a Madman.”
2/1. **Marx and Marxism**
- Karl Marx and Frederick Engels, *Manifesto of the Communist Party*.

**WEEK 4. 1950s: MAOISM AND LIBERATION**
2/6. **Mao and Maoism**
- “Classes and Class Struggle” From *Quotations from Chairman Mao (The Little Red Book)*
- Mao on Mao from Edgar Snow, *Red Star over China* (skim)
- “Report on an Investigation of the Peasant Movement in Hunan” (1927; skim).
2/8. **Early 50s: Liberation and Nation Building**
- *Mao’s China and After* Part II: The New Order (pp. 55-154)
- Phillip Pan, *Out of Mao’s Shadow*, Chapter 2

**WEEK 5. THE GREAT LEAP FORWARD AND FAMINE**
2/13. **Late 50s: The Great Leap Forward**
- *Mao’s China and After* Part III: Utopianism (pp. 155-244)
- Phillip Pan, *Out of Mao’s Shadow*, Chapter 3
2/15. **Early 1960s: Return to the Plan**
- *Mao’s China and After* Part IV, pp. 245-290

**WEEK 6. 1960s: THE CULTURAL REVOLUTION**
2/20. **Late 60s: The Cultural Revolution I**
- *Mao’s China and After* Part V, pp. 291-412
- Phillip Pan, *Out of Mao’s Shadow*, Chapter 4
2/22. **Late 60s: The Cultural Revolution II**
- *Mao’s China and After* Part V, pp. 352-412
- Watch Hu Jie documentary “Though I am Gone” (我虽死去) on Youtube
WEEK 7. FROM REVOLUTION TO REFORM
2/27. 1980s: Deng Xiaoping & “Reform and Opening”
- Mao’s China and After, Chs. 21-23, pp. 413-482
2/29. Beijing Spring
- Mao’s China and After, Ch. 24, pp. 483-513
- Phillip Pan, Out of Mao’s Shadow, Chapter 1

WEEK 8. TIANANMEN AND THE FATE OF THE CCP
3/5. Tiananmen [PAPER #1 DUE]
- Watch “Tank Man,” PBS Frontline
3/7. The CCP faces the future
- Bruce Dickson, “Dilemmas of Party Adaptation,” Chinese Politics, Gries and Rosen eds. 2010

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

WEEK 9. STATE, MARKET, & SOCIETY IN CHINA TODAY
3/12. Conceptual Frameworks
- Mao’s China and After Part VI, Ch. 25, pp. 514-548.

WEEK 10. NO CLASS SPRING BREAK

WEEK 11. RURAL AND URBAN UNREST
3/26. Rural Protest, Taxation, and Resistance
- Phillip Pan, Out of Mao’s Shadow, Chapter 7
- Phillip Pan, Out of Mao’s Shadow, Chapter 5
WEEK 12. WOMEN AND THE LEGAL SYSTEM
4/2. Women in China today
- Leslie Chang, Factory Girls, Chapter 1
- Phillip Pan, Out of Mao’s Shadow, Chapter 6
4/4. Legal Rights and the Rule of Law
- Phillip Pan, Out of Mao’s Shadow, Chapters 10 & 11

WEEK 13. CHINESE NATIONALISM
4/9. China’s New Nationalism
- Gries, China’s New Nationalism (2004), Intro & Ch. 1
4/11. Anti-Japanese Sentiment in China today

WEEK 14. THE MEDIA AND THE INTERNET
4/16. China’s Media in the 21st century
- Phillip Pan, Out of Mao’s Shadow, Chapter 9
4/18. Chinese Cyberspace
- Tia Thornton, “Censorship and Surveillance in Chinese Cyberspace: Beyond the Great Firewall,” forthcoming 2010

WEEK 15. CHINA’S MINORITIES AND THE ENVIRONMENT
4/23. Tibet and Xinjiang [PAPER #2 DUE]
- Orville Schell, Virtual Tibet, Chs. 2 & 3.
4/25. Environmental Challenges

WEEK 16. HEALTH
4/30. HIV and SARS
- SARS: Phillip Pan, Out of Mao’s Shadow, Chapter 8

5/2. Exam Review

FINAL EXAM: Wednesday, 5/9, 8-10 am