The University of Oklahoma  
Department of International and Area Studies  

Spring 2014 IAS 3143-001:  

Chinese Politics  

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Class meets Monday, Wednesday, Friday at 1:30-2:20 in Bizzell 102  
Office Hours: Monday, Wednesday 2:30-4 pm & by appointment in Cate 4, 401.  

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 a mini-seminar on Internet politics in China today. It then returns to China’s revolutionary heritage, exploring the political history of 20th century China, with emphasis on the half century since “Liberation” in 1949. How should we understand Maoism and 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-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’s EBSCO database. 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 (2/3)
- 25% Paper II (4/23)
- 30% Final exam (May 6, 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 February 3. No late papers. A hardcopy of your second paper will be due in class on April 23.
3. The final exam will be held on Tuesday, May 6 from 8-10 am. It will be comprehensive. Anyone with a scheduling conflict should inform me no later than April 6.

Papers

Two five page analytic papers (numbered, double spaced, 12 pt Times New Roman font, 1” margins) will be due on February 3 and April 23. Late papers will not be accepted. The first paper should address the question, “How is state legitimacy contested on China’s Internet today, and who is winning?” The second paper will address the question, “Is China ripe for revolution?” 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
1/13. Course Introduction, China through American Eyes I
   • “Olympic Nightmare,” South Park (2008)
1/15. Internet Politics I
   • Perry Link and Xiao QIANG, “From ‘Fart People’ to Citizens,” Journal of Democracy, 2013
1/17. Internet Politics II
   • YANG Guobin, The Power of the Internet in China: Citizen Activism Online, Ch. 1.

WEEK 2
1/20. No class MLK Day
   • “Chasing The Dragon,” Rob Riggle on the Daily Show (2008)
1/22. China through American Eyes II
   • Jeffrey Wasserstrom, “Big Bad China and the Good Chinese.” In China: Beyond the Headlines.
1/24. No class
   • Maurice Meisner, Mao’s China and After Part I: The Revolutionary Heritage (pp. 3-54).

WEEK 3
1/27. Internet Politics III
1/29. Internet Politics IV
1/31. Internet Politics V
   • James Fallows, “The Connection has been Reset,” The Atlantic, March 2008.

WEEK 4
2/3. Internet Politics VI; PAPER I DUE IN CLASS
   • Stone, “A Call to Cyber Arms”
2/5. Imperial China: The “Mandate of Heaven”
   • Donald Munro, “Afterword” to Zhuangzi Speaks by cartoonist Tsai Chih Chung.
2/7. Republican China and the “May Fourth Movement”
   • Lu Xun, “Preface to A Call to Arms” and “A Diary of a Madman.”

WEEK 5
2/10. Marx and Marxism
   • Karl Marx and Frederick Engels, Manifesto of the Communist Party.
2/12. Mao and Maoism
   • Maurice Meisner, Mao’s China and After, Part II: The New Order (pp. 55-128).
2/14. No class
   • Maurice Meisner, Mao’s China and After, pp. 129-190.

WEEK 6
2/17. Early 50s: Liberation and State Building
   • Maurice Meisner, Mao’s China and After, 191-290.
2/19. Late 50s: The Great Leap Forward
• Phillip Pan, *Out of Mao’s Shadow*, Chapters 2-3.

2/21. Early 60s: Famine

WEEK 7
2/24. Cultural Revolution I
• Phillip Pan, *Out of Mao’s Shadow*, Chapter 4.

2/26. Cultural Revolution II

• Maurice Meisner, *Mao’s China and After*, Chs. 21-23, pp. 413-482.

WEEK 8
3/3. Beijing Spring
• Phillip Pan, *Out of Mao’s Shadow*, Chapter 1.

3/5. The Tiananmen Square Massacre
• Watch “Tank Man,” *PBS Frontline*.

3/7. China through American Eyes III: Liberals and Conservatives
• Peter Gries, *The Politics of American Foreign Policy How Ideology Divides Liberals and Conservatives over Foreign Affairs* (2014), Ch. 9 “East Asia: Red China, Free Asia, and the Yellow Peril.”

WEEK 9
3/10. Conceptualizing State and Society in China Today

3/12. Regime Legitimacy

3/14. No class

WEEK 10 NO CLASS SPRING BREAK!

WEEK 11
3/24. Corruption
• David Barbosa, “Billions amassed in the shadows by the family of China’s premier,” *NYT* October 26, 2012 (wins 2013 Pulitzer Prize for International Reporting)

3/26. Rule of Law vs. Rule by Law
• Phillip Pan, *Out of Mao’s Shadow*, Chapters 10 & 11.
• Joe Kahn, “Deep Flaws, and Little Justice, in China’s Court System,” *NYT* September 21, 2005 (wins 2006 Pulitzer Prize for International Reporting)

3/28. Women in China today
• Leslie Chang, *Factory Girls*, Chapter 1
• Phillip Pan, *Out of Mao’s Shadow*, Chapter 6
WEEK 12
3/31. Rural Protest

4/2. Urban Protest
  - Phillip Pan, *Out of Mao’s Shadow*, Chapter 5.

4/4. State Responses

WEEK 13
4/7. Chinese Nationalism Today

4/9. Han Supremacism

4/11. Anti-Japanese Sentiment in China today

WEEK 14
4/14. Health: HIV

4/16. Health: SARS
  - Phillip Pan, *Out of Mao’s Shadow*, Chapter 8

4/18. Pollution and the Environment

WEEK 15
  - Phillip Pan, *Out of Mao’s Shadow*, Chapter 9

4/23. Chinese Cyberspace Revisited
  - Tia Thornton, “Censorship and Surveillance in Chinese Cyberspace: Beyond the Great Firewall,” *Chinese Politics*, Gries and Rosen, eds. 2010

4/25. Tibet and Xinjiang
  - Colin MacKerras, “Tibetans, Uyghurs, and multinational ‘China’,” *Chinese Politics*, Gries and Rosen, eds. 2010

WEEK 16
4/28. Normative Issues
  - Maurice Meisner, *Mao’s China and After* Part VI, Ch. 25, pp. 514-548.

4/30. A Chinese Looking Glass?

5/2. Exam review session

FINAL EXAM: Tuesday, May 6, 8-10 am