The University of Oklahoma
School of International and Area Studies

Fall 2009 IAS 3143-001:
Chinese Politics
Prof. Peter Hays Gries
www.ou.edu/uschina/gries
gries@ou.edu

Class meets Tuesday, Thursday 1:30-2:45 pm in Hester Hall Rm. 181
Office Hours: Tues., Thurs. 3-4pm in 120 Hester Hall & 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 2008 nominal GDP of 4.4 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 do research and writing on Chinese politics. You will administer an online survey about China, as well as 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. One book is available for purchase at the OU bookstore and online, and will be held on reserve at Bizzell Library:


Reading is required; purchasing the book is not. Additional readings will be available on the course website, and from the OU library webpage. Search the 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, pop quizzes, and data collection
25% Paper I (10/6)
25% Paper II (11/24)
30% Final exam (12/18)

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, and a data collection assignment.
2. A hardcopy of your first paper will be due at the beginning of class on October 6. No late papers. A hardcopy of your second paper will be due in class on November 24. No late papers.
3. The final exam will be held on Friday, December 18th from 1:30-3:30pm. It will be comprehensive. Anyone with a scheduling conflict should inform me no later than November 18.

Papers

Two five page analytic papers will be due on October 6 and November 24. Late papers will not be accepted. The first paper should address the question, “What best explains the intensity of Red Guard factionalism during the Cultural Revolution?” The second paper will address the question, “What are the primary domestic challenges confronting the Chinese Communist Party over the next decade, and why?” 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 positively 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 of 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
8/25. Course Introduction
• “Olympic Nightmare,” South Park (2008)
• HBO’s “Strip Search” (2004)
8/27. The Eagle Eyes the Dragon
• Jeffrey Wasserstrom, Preface, Intro, & Ch. 1 in China: Beyond the Headlines.
• “Chasing The Dragon,” Rob Riggle on the Daily Show (2008)

THE REVOLUTIONARY HERITAGE

WEEK 2. IMPERIAL AND REPUBLICAN CHINA
9/1. Confucianism, Taoism and the “Mandate of Heaven”
• Wing-Tsit Chan, “The Humanism of Confucius.” Source Book in Chinese Philosophy, Ch. 2.
• Donald Munro, “Afterword” to Zhuangzi Speaks by cartoonist Tsai Chih Chung.
9/3. 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.”

WEEK 3. MARXISM and MAOISM
9/8. Marx and Marxism
• Karl Marx and Frederick Engels, Manifesto of the Communist Party.
9/10. Mao and Maoism
• Mao on Mao from Edgar Snow, Red Star over China (skim)
• “Classes and Class Struggle” From Quotations from Chairman Mao (The Little Red Book)
• “Report on an Investigation of the Peasant Movement in Hunan” (1927; skim).

WEEK 4. 1950s: THE GREAT LEAP FORWARD
9/15. 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
9/17. Late 50s: The Great Leap Forward and Famine
• Mao’s China and After Part III: Utopianism (pp. 155-244)
• Phillip Pan, Out of Mao’s Shadow, Chapter 3

WEEK 5. 1960s: THE CULTURAL REVOLUTION
9/22. Early 1960s: Return to the Plan
• Mao’s China and After Part IV, pp. 245-290
9/24. 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
WEEK 6. FROM REVOLUTION TO REFORM
9/29. Late 60s: The Cultural Revolution II; visiting speaker TBA
- *Mao’s China and After* Part V, pp. 352-412
- Watch Hu Jie documentary “Though I am Gone” (我虽死去) on Youtube

10/1. 1980s: Deng Xiaoping & “Reform and Opening”
- *Mao’s China and After*, Chs. 21-23, pp. 413-482
- [Ang Lee film festival at OKC Art Museum, Oct. 1-3]

WEEK 7. TIANANMEN
10/6. Beijing Spring [PAPER #1 DUE]
- *Mao’s China and After*, Ch. 24, pp. 483-513
- Phillip Pan, *Out of Mao’s Shadow*, Chapter 1

10/8. Tiananmen
- Watch “Tank Man,” PBS Frontline

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

WEEK 8. STATE, MARKET, & SOCIETY IN CHINA TODAY
10/13. Conceptual Frameworks

10/15. Normative Issues
- *Mao’s China and After* Part VI, Ch. 25, pp. 514-548.

WEEK 9. THE PARTY AND THE PROLETARIAT
10/20. The CCP faces the future
- Bruce Dickson, “Dilemmas of Party Adaptation,” *forthcoming*, 2010

10/22. Visiting lecture on Chinese foreign policy: Zhang Qingmin, Beijing University

WEEK 10. RURAL AND URBAN UNREST
10/27. Rural Protest, Taxation, and Resistance
- Phillip Pan, *Out of Mao’s Shadow*, Chapter 7
10/29. Urban Unrest and Social Welfare
- Phillip Pan, Out of Mao’s Shadow, Chapter 5

WEEK 11. WOMEN AND THE LEGAL SYSTEM
11/3. Women in China today
- Leslie Chang, Factory Girls, Chapter 1
- Phillip Pan, Out of Mao’s Shadow, Chapter 6
11/5. Legal Rights and the Rule of Law
- Phillip Pan, Out of Mao’s Shadow, Chapters 10 & 11

WEEK 12. CHINESE NATIONALISM
11/10. China’s New Nationalism
- Gries, China’s New Nationalism (2004), Intro & Ch. 1
11/12. Anti-Japanese Sentiment in China today
- Gries, “China’s ‘New Thinking’ on Japan,” China Quarterly 2005

WEEK 13. THE MEDIA AND THE INTERNET
11/17. China’s Media in the 21st century
- Phillip Pan, Out of Mao’s Shadow, Chapter 9
11/19. Chinese Cyberspace
- Tia Thornton, “Censorship and Surveillance in Chinese Cyberspace: Beyond the Great Firewall,” forthcoming 2010

WEEK 14. CHINA’S MINORITIES
11/24 Tibet and Xinjiang [PAPER #2 DUE]
- Orville Schell, Virtual Tibet, Chs. 2 & 3.
11/26. No Class Thanksgiving

WEEK 15. ENVIRONMENT AND HEALTH
12/1. Environmental Challenges
12/3. HIV and SARS
- SARS: Phillip Pan, Out of Mao’s Shadow, Chapter 8

WEEK 16. (12/8 & 12/10) No class exam prep

FINAL EXAM: Friday, 12/18, 1:30-3:30pm