

## **The Rise of China**

Boston University

Fall – 2016  
IR 365/PO352  
Tuesdays & Thursdays: 9:30 – 11:00 am  
Location: KCB Room 107  
(Version: 9/4)

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### **Course Description**

This course provides undergraduates with a broad introduction to China's political, economic, and strategic development during the modern era (with some introduction of China's past). The discussion begins with the lowest point in Chinese history when the country was rendered as a semi-colony of Western powers and ends with China's contemporary rise and implications for the world. The questions asked include: In what ways is China rising? How did it happen? How does China's rise impact the U.S and the global system? The course will examine the historical background first, and then look at the economic development, societal development, state development, and foreign policy to address the above questions.

### **Course Requirements**

#### *Attendance and participation (25%):*

Required, unless you are sick or have an official BU conflict. You must notify me of your absence in advance. (Repeatedly being late might also accumulate to an absence.) Participation is crucial, and this requires that you keep up with the course readings.

- News presentation: you will be assigned to present news or current events *once* during the semester. You will need to send out the web link of the news article to the entire class by noon before the day you present. Your presentation should be about 5 minutes and should be related to the topic of the week. Describe what happened and why this is important. (5%)
- Quizzes: There will be pop-up quizzes on some days. Questions will be generally quite easy if you have been “present” during classes and have done the assigned readings (10%)
- You are expected to attend all classes and actively contribute to the discussions. Absences may be excused for medical, religious, official and personal reasons. Absences for illness for more than two days require a medical certificate. Absences for religious observances and for family or personal reasons require documentation. Absence for purposes of representing the University in authorized athletic events or officially sponsored activities are excused by notification from your sponsoring department or activity. The stated University policy reads: “Any student who has been excessively absent from a course may be required to withdraw from that course without credit.” I define “excessively absent” for this course to be six absences, excused or not. (10%)

*Small group discussions and group project (35%):*

- We will break down into small groups (3-5 students each) to have structured discussions every class for about 15 minutes (We will use the method based on a process formulated by the Interactivity Foundation. A more detailed guide can be found online.<sup>1</sup> A brief description of the process will be handed out. Each student will rotate to be the scribe and the facilitator during the semester. The scribe will write down the participants of the group with detailed discussion notes. Each group will develop a comprehensive report about a specific theme containing conceptual, contrasting policy possibilities. They will be presented in class at the end of the semester.
  - Research on the issue topic your group has decided. The use of scientific methods will be preferred. (reflected in the report)
  - Then, use the IF method to ask questions and raise concerns, generate policy possibilities, explore potential implementations and consequences, revise the policy possibilities. The outcome is a report. (15%)
  - Group presentation on the possibilities (10%)
  - Scribe notes (5%)
    - What was discussed
    - Why you made certain decisions
    - Did the rules work or not
  - Creativity, effectiveness, and management of the project (5%)
    - Decision making process
    - Necessary functions and institutions
    - Awareness and adjustments
    - Effective resource mobilization
    - Meeting attendance
    - Meeting schedule (discussions on individual countries, theme selection, comparison and material gathering, etc.)
    - Communication with the instructor (apply for time needed at the end of the class, default 30 min; representative; written document, etc.)

*Exams (40%):*

There will be two equally weighted exams in this course. The first midterm will be held on Thursday, 10/13, the second on Tuesday, 11/22.

**Grading**

Your grade for the course will be based on your performance on the above assignments, as well as your preparedness for and participation in class:

Attendance and Participation	25%
Small Group Projects	35%
First Midterm Exam	20%
Second Midterm Exam	20%

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<sup>1</sup> Please visit < <http://studentguide.interactivityfoundationwiki.wikispaces.net/>>

For written work, the A range will comprise only work which features strikingly original thinking and/or argumentation, expressed in clear, cogent, error-free writing. Only students that go well beyond class materials and discussions (in thought, not extra research) will be considered for an A grade. Papers and examinations in the B range exhibit mastery of the course materials and discussions, expressed in clear, cogent, error-free writing. Papers and examinations in the C range exhibit inadequate understanding of the course materials and discussions and/or deficient, error-plagued writing. Papers and examinations in the D range exhibit wholly inadequate understanding of the course materials combined with deficient, error-plagued writing. Hopefully the D range and worse will not be an issue. Pluses, minuses, or flat grades within any of these ranges reflect the instructors' judgment of the merits of the paper or examination relative to other papers in the same range. All late assignments will be reduced 1/3 of a grade for every day they are late. Students may appeal grades they feel they received in error but I reserve the right to increase or decrease their grade upon reconsideration. To appeal you must explain, in writing, why you believe your grade is incorrect before coming to talk to me. I am willing to give "A"s when deserved but I am also willing to use the other parts of the grading spectrum to make sure that those whose work is truly outstanding truly stand out. Your work does not start at "A" level with subtraction for things wrong with it. I frequently give "B"s to work that is very good and without obvious shortcoming, and which only has the flaw of not being A quality work.

## **Academic Integrity**

Students are expected to do their own work and to accurately and honestly give credit for information, ideas, and words obtained elsewhere. Plagiarism will be dealt with strictly according to the Academic Conduct Code (<http://www.bu.edu/cas/students/undergrad-resources/code/>); please review the website for examples of what counts as plagiarism so you know how to avoid it. If you have questions or concerns about how to properly cite outside sources, feel free to contact me and I will be happy to assist you.

## **Course Outline (readings with \* are optional)**

9/6: Introduction

9/8: Methods

Gundersen, Adolf. 2007. "A Brief Description of Interactivity Foundation's Sanctuary and Public Discussions", Interactivity Foundation

Gerber, Alan S. and Donald P. Green. 2012. *Field Experiments: Design, Analysis, and Interpretation*. Chapter one. P1-17

9/13: Historic Overview

Saich, Tony. 2004. *Governance and Politics of China*, 2<sup>nd</sup> Ed. Chapter 1. P1-24

9/15: Economic Reform

Saich, Tony. 2004. *Governance and Politics of China*, 2<sup>nd</sup> Ed. Chapter 2. P25-56

\*Naughton, Barry. 1995. *Growing out of the Plan: Chinese Economic Reform 1978-1993*. Chapter 2. P57-96

9/20: Economic Development I: background

Saich, Tony. 2004. *Governance and Politics of China*, 2<sup>nd</sup> Ed. Chapter 3. P57-90

9/22: Economic Development II: consequences

Dickson, Bruce. 2008. *Wealth into Power: The Chinese Communist Party's Embrace of China's Private Sector*. Cambridge University Press. Introduction. P1-31 and Chapter 3: Co-opting the Capitalists. P66-100

9/27: Changing Political Landscape

Nathan, Andrew J. 2008. 'China's Political Trajectory: What Are the Chinese Saying?', *China's Changing Political Landscape: Prospects for Democracy*. Cheng Li, Editor. P25-43

9/29: Political Structure and Institutions

Susan Lawrence. 2013. "China's Political Institutions and Leaders in Chart." *Congressional Research Service*, P1-26.

\*Lawrence, Susan and Michael Martin. 2013. "Understanding China's Political System." *Congressional Research Service*, P1-41

10/4: Political Reform I: Local Politics

Lisheng Dong. 2006. "Direct Township Elections in China: latest developments and prospects." *Journal of Contemporary China*, 15(48), pp.503-515.

\*Yu, Keping. 2000. "Toward an Incremental Democracy and Governance: Chinese Theories and Assessment Criteria"

10/6: Political Reform II: Elite Politics

Huang, Jing. 2008. "Institutionalization of Political Succession in China: Progress and Implications", *China's Changing Political Landscape: Prospects for Democracy*. Cheng Li, Editor. P80-97

\*Zhao, Yuezhi. 2012. "The Struggle for Socialism in China: The Bo Xilai Saga and Beyond", *Monthly Review*

10/11: no class (Monday Schedule)

10/13: **First mid-term**

10/18: Changing Society I: Civil Society

Zheng, Yongnian and Joseph Fewsmith. 2008. "Chambers of Commerce in Wenzhou: Toward Civil Society?" in *China's Opening Society: The Non-State Sector and Governance*. Edited by Zheng Yongnian and Joseph Fewsmith. Introduction. P1-14

10/20: Changing Society II: a case study of state-society relations

Fewsmith, Joseph. 2008. "Chambers of Commerce in Wenzhou: Toward Civil Society?" in *China's Opening Society: The Non-State Sector and Governance*. Edited by Zheng Yongnian and Joseph Fewsmith. Chapter 10. P174-184

10/25: Policy making in China

Mertha, Andrew. 2009. "Fragmented Authoritarianism 2.0: Political Pluralization in the Chinese Policy Process", *The China Quarterly*, 2009

10/27: Policy Experimentation

Heilmann, Sebastian. 2007. "Policy Experimentation in China's Economic Rise", *Springer Science and Business Media*, 2007

11/1: Authoritarian Resilience I

Nathan, Andrew J. 2003. "Authoritarian Resilience" *Journal of Democracy* 14(1): 6-17

\*De Lisle, Jacques. 2008. "Legalization without Democratization in China under Hu Jintao", *China's Changing Political Landscape: Prospects for Democracy*. Cheng Li, Editor. P185-211

11/3: Authoritarian Resilience II

Perry, Elizabeth J. 2012. "The Illiberal Challenge of Authoritarian China" *Taiwan Journal of Democracy*, Volume 8, No.2: 3-15

11/8: Corruption and Legitimacy I

Dickson, Bruce. 2008. *Wealth into Power: The Chinese Communist Party's Embrace of China's Private Sector*. Cambridge University Press. Chapter 7: The Ripple Effects of Privatization: Corruption, Inequality, and Charity. P199-236

11/10: Corruption and Legitimacy II

Guo, Yong and Songfeng Li. 2015. "Anti-corruption measures in China: Suggestions for reforms", *Asian Education and Development Studies*, Vol.4 No.1, P7-23

ChinaFile. 2016. "Visualizing China's Anti-Corruption Campaign" <

<https://www.chinafile.com/infographics/visualizing-chinas-anti-corruption-campaign> >

11/15: China's Rise I

Zheng Bijian. 2005. "China's 'Peaceful Rise' to Great-Power Status". *Foreign Affairs*. Vol 84, no. 5.

\*Evan Medeiros. 2009. *China's International Behavior: Activism, Opportunism, and Diversification*, Santa Monica, CA: RAND, pp. 7-60

11/17: China's Rise II

Fravel, Taylor. 2008. "China's Search for Military Power," *The Washington Quarterly*, pp. 125-141

Nair, Arun. 2015. "AIIB: Will China's Use of Financial Muscle Reshape World Order for the Better?" *Diplomatic Courier*, Vol.9(4) P52-54

\*Van Noort, Carolijn. 2016. "Constructing a New World Order through a Narrative of Infrastructural Development: The Case of the BRICS" *International Journal of Social, Behavioral, Educational, Economic, Business and Industrial Engineering* Vol: 10, No: 2

11/22: **Second mid-term**

11/24: no class (Thanksgiving break)

11/29: Foreign Policy I

Suisheng Zhao.2005. "China's Pragmatic Nationalism: Is it Manageable?" *The Washington Quarterly*, P131-144

\*Brautigam, Deborah. 2009. "Prologue: The Changing Face of Chinese Engagement in Africa", *The Dragon's Gift*. Oxford University Press. P1-21

12/1: Foreign Policy II

SuishengZhao. 2013. "Foreign Policy Implications of Chinese Nationalism Revisited: the strident turn." *Journal of Contemporary China*22 (82): 535-553

12/6: The Future I

Hu, Angang. 2011. "China, An Emerging Superpower", *China in 2020: A New Type of Superpower*, The Thornton Center Chinese Thinkers Series. P1-22

**Group Project Presentation**

12/8: The Future II

Fewsmith, Joseph. 2008. "Stay in Power: What Does the Chinese Communist Party Have to Do?" *China's Changing Political Landscape: Prospects for Democracy*. Cheng Li, Editor. P212-228

**Group Project Presentation**