

[SAMPLE SYLLABUS]

Introduction to Chinese Politics

Contact Information:

Susan Haynes
(865) 414-4959
hayness@bethelu.edu



Course Description:

China's rise as a predominant power on the world stage, while once a matter of speculation, has now become an objective reality. With China, the world has witnessed one of the most remarkable economic and social transformations in history – and all in less than a century. This course takes an in-depth look at the narrative of China's transformation from a state under dynastic rule to one that has shaped its own form of capitalism and taken the world by storm. Students will leave with a deeper understanding of the history, structure, and ideology of the Chinese party-state as well as a thorough knowledge of the transformations that have occurred in the economic, political, and military sectors.

Course Structure:

The first half of the course (weeks 1-7) help set the stage and provide students with a fundamental understanding of the establishment and ascendance of the current Chinese state. The second half of the course (weeks 8-17) dives more deeply into reform in specific areas, such as economic reform, political reform, legal reform, and military reform.

Course Texts:

- William A. Joseph, *Politics in China: An Introduction*, 2nd ed. New York, NY: Oxford University Press (2014).
- Richard McGregor, *The Party: The Secret World of China's Communist Rulers*, New York, NY: Harper Collins Publishers (2010).
- Barry Naughton, *The Chinese Economy: Transitions and Growth*, Cambridge, MA: Massachusetts Institute of Technology (2007).
- Merle Goldman, *From Comrade to Citizen: The Struggle for Political Rights in China*, Boston, MA: Harvard University Press (2007).

Open Inquiry & Civility:

In order to create an ideal learning environment, it is critical that the classroom be a place where open intellectual inquiry is encouraged and the diversity of opinions is respected and appreciated. Discriminatory or hateful language will not be tolerated. Please be respectful of the beliefs and views of others.

Academic Integrity:

Plagiarism of any kind is prohibited. All submitted work should be the original work of the student. Failure to comply with this policy can result a failing grade on an assignment or failure of the course (depending upon the severity of the infraction). In cases of repeated plagiarism, a student may be expelled from the program. For a helpful reference on what constitutes plagiarism and how to avoid it, I suggest reading the following article:

Trip Gabriel. "Generation Plagiarism?" *New York Times Upfront* (October 25, 2010).

http://library.standrews-de.org/lists/IdPWebPage/PlagiarismResources_files/generation-plagiarism.pdf

Technology:

Please turn your cell phones off or to silent upon entering the classroom out of respect for your instructor and peers. Please also please refrain from using your cell phone during class. Talking or texting in class is disruptive and hinders the learning of others. If it is an emergency, you may politely dismiss yourself from the room prior to engaging in conversation. The use of your phone during class time, if not an emergency, will result in a five point reduction in participation points. The same penalty applies if you are caught using your laptop or tablet for non-academic purposes (ie. Facebook, Amazon, etc.).

Requirements:

Prepare & Participate in Class. Students are expected to make every effort to attend class, and to actively engage in class discussion when present. Completing the readings prior to class will help you to have something to say. In fact, I highly encourage you to take notes while you are reading and to write down your insights and questions. Remember the Chinese Proverb: "*He who asks a question is a fool for five minutes; he who does not ask a question remains a fool forever.*" Don't be a forever fool, go ahead and ask questions if you have them. Your peers will likely be happy that you did!

Know your geography. It's important to understand the places we discuss in class. To this end, we will have a quiz in week two on Chinese provinces and territories as well as surrounding states. Study the map at the front of your Joseph text.

Test your Knowledge. Students will be expected to take two tests throughout the course of the semester. The exams will be a mix of multiple choice and fill-in-the-blank. We will have one midterm and one final. Each exam will cover the material presented in the previous weeks. There will not be a comprehensive exam for this course.

Facilitate Discussion. In the second week of the course, I will pass around a sign-up sheet asking you and a peer to lead a specific class discussion. You will sign up for two dates. You will be expected on these dates to facilitate class discussion. This means that you will provide a brief summary of the class reading (5 minutes) and then you will have four thoughtful questions to ask your peers. Both your summary and your questions must be written down and submitted to the instructor.

Write a Final Paper. In addition to your short papers, you will be required to write a 10-15 page research paper on the future of China. Your paper will need to discuss China's economic, political, and military future, and your argument in each case will need to be supported with a minimum of 10 scholarly sources. The paper will be due the final day of class, but I encourage you to submit paper outlines and drafts for review prior to that date.

Late Work:

Late work will be accepted under a 10-point per day penalty, and this allowance will expire one week from the assigned due date. Make-up work will be allowed only under extraordinary circumstances and at the instructor's discretion. Any late work must be emailed to hayness@bethelu.edu. Please ensure your email includes your class number and your name in the subject line. Failure to include relevant information may result in additional point deductions.

Extra Credit: Throughout the semester, there will be several opportunities for you to earn extra credit. These will require you to physically attend an on-campus or community event or participate in a conference call or online webinar. These opportunities will be announced during class. In addition to your attendance, you will be required to write a brief paper (2-3 pages) providing a synopsis of the event and what you learned.

Grading Policy:

Your active participation in each class is worth 10 points per class for a total of 250 points. (Exam dates excluded). Your geography quiz is worth 25 points. Your analysis papers are worth 25 points each for a total of 50 points. Your final research paper is worth 100 points. Exams are worth 100 points each. The total possible point value for this course is 625 points. The final grade breakdown is as follows:

- A = 560 – 625 points
- B = 500 -559 points
- C = 435 – 499 points
- D = 372 – 434 points
- F = below 372 points

Course Schedule:

Week One: Introduction & Historical Overview

1. Joseph Ch. 1, "Studying Chinese Politics,"
2. R. Keith Schoppa, "From Empire to People's Republic," in Joseph pp. 41-72

Week Two: Taiwan, Tibet, & Xinjiang

5. Thomas J. Christensen, "China, the U.S.-Japan Alliance, and the Security Dilemma in East Asia," *International Security*, Vol. 23, No. 4. (Spring, 1999), pp. 49-80.
http://isites.harvard.edu/fs/docs/icb.topic199080.files/Readings_for_October_16_Christensen.IS.99.pdf; Shelley Rigger, "Taiwan," in Joseph, pp. 468-485.
 6. Michael Clarke, "Ethnic Separatism in the People's Republic of China: History, Causes, and Contemporary Challenges," *European Journal of East Asian Studies*, Vol. 12 (2013), pp. 109-133.
https://www.academia.edu/6729830/Ethnic_Separatism_in_the_Peoples_Republic_of_China_History_Causes_and_Contemporary_Challenges
- Robert Barnett, "Tibet," in Joseph, pp. 401-428; Garnder Bovington, "Xinjiang," in Joseph, pp. 428-452.

****Geography Quiz**

Week Three: The Mao Era

7. Naughton, Ch 3 pp. 55-84
8. Frederick C. Teiwes "Ch. 3: Mao Zedong in Power (1949-1976) in Joseph, pp. 72-119.

Week Five: The Reform Era

9. Bruce Gilley, "Ch. 4 Deng Xiaoping and His Successors (1976 to the Present)" in Joseph, pp. 119-149; Naughton, Ch. 4 pp. 85-111; ; Goldman, Introduction, pp. 1-25.
10. McGregor: Chapter 1 & 2, pp. 1-70.

Week Six: The Chinese Party-State

11. Susan V. Lawrence and Michael F. Martin, "Understanding China's Political System," *Congressional Research Service Brief* (May 10, 2012), pp. 1-31. <Uploaded to course website.>
- Cheng Li, "China's Communist Party-State: The Structure and Dynamics of Power," in Joseph, pp. 192-224.
12. McGregor: Chapter 3 & 4, pp. 70-134.

Week Seven: Socialism with Chinese Characteristics

13. William A. Joseph, "Ideology and China's Political Development," in Joseph, pp. 149-192; Goldman, Ch. 4, pp. 95-128.
14. ****Midterm Exam**

Week Nine: China's Economic Reform

15. Naughton Ch 4. , pp. 88-110
16. McGregor, Ch. 7, pp. 194-229.

Week Ten: China's Rural & Urban Economy

17. Naughton Ch 10, 11, & 12 pp. 232-294; John James Kennedy, "Rural China: Reform & Resistance," in Joseph, pp. 293-320.
18. Naughton Ch. 13, pp. 295-328; William Hurst, "Urban China: Change & Contention" in Joseph, pp. 320-342.

Week Eleven: The Social & Environmental Impact of Economic Reform

19. Naughton Ch 8 & 9 pp. 179-228; Tyrene White, "Population Policy," in Joseph, pp. 380-400. Therese Hesketh, Li Lu, M.D., and Zhu Wei Xing, "The Effect of China's One-Child Family Policy after 25 Years," *New England Journal of Medicine*, Vol. 353, (September 15, 2005), pp.1-6.
20. Naughton Ch 20 pp. 487-504; Katherine Morton, "Policy Case Study: The Environment," in Joseph, pp. 352-365.

Week Twelve: Chinese Legal Reform & RD Challenges

21. Jacques deLisle, "China's Legal System," in Joseph, pp. 224-254
22. Kevin J. O'Brien, *Reform without Liberalization: China's National People's Congress and the Politics of Institutional Change*, 2008: 1-22 & 157-179 <Available on Course website.>

Week Thirteen: Chinese Military Reform

23. Tai Ming Cheung, "Dragon on the Horizon: China's Defense Industrial Renaissance," *The Journal of Strategic Studies*, Vol. 32, No. 1 (February 2009), pp. 29-66.
24. Monika Chansoria, "Rising Dragon: Military Modernization of China's PLA in the 21st Century," *The Journal of East Asian Affairs*, Vol. 25, No. 1 (Spring/Summer 2011), pp. 15-58. Stable JSTOR URL: <http://www.istor.org/stable/23258224> Lincoln Hines, "Colloquium Brief: The Chinese Liberation Army in 2025," U.S. Army War College, The National Bureau of Asian Research, and The U.S. Pacific Command (August 27, 2014). <http://www.strategicstudiesinstitute.army.mil/index.cfm/articles/the-PLA-in-2025/2014/08/27>

Week Fourteen: Chinese Political Reform

25. Goldman, Ch. 2 & 3, pp. 51-94
26. Goldman, Ch. 5 & 6, pp. 128-161.

Week Fifteen: China's Future

26. Goldman, Ch. 6, pp. 183-201; Ian Bremmer "Democracy in Cyberspace: What Information Technology Can and Cannot Do," *Foreign Affairs*, Vol. 89, No. 6 (November/December 2010), pp. 86-92. <Available on course website.>; Cheng Li, "Rule of the Princelings," *The Cairo Review of Global Affairs*, (February 2013). <http://www.brookings.edu/research/articles/2013/02/china-xi-jinping-li>
27. Goldman, Epilogue, pp. 224-236. **** Final Paper Due**
28. ****Final Exam**

Have a question or need help? Please feel free to contact me by phone or email. You can also stop by my office located at 1801 West End Ave, Suite 450 during my posted office hours or upon appointment. I also make it a point to arrive to each class at least thirty minutes early to answer any questions and provide.