

Boston University
China: From Revolution to Reform

Fall – 2012
CAS IR 370/ PO 369
Monday, Wednesday, Friday: 10:00-10:50
PSY B55

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COURSE CONTENT

This course is intended as an introduction to the political and economic development of contemporary China, with particular attention to the dynamics of the Chinese Communist Party (CCP). The course will look first at the breakdown of the imperial system, the reasons China embarked on a path of revolution, the origins and development of the CCP and then concentrate on the economic and political development of the People's Republic of China (PRC), including the early years, the Great Leap Forward, the Cultural Revolution, and the reform era.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

Attendance and participation (20%): 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 between 5-10 minutes. Describe what happened and why this is important.
- Readings presentation: even though everyone is required to do the readings, when necessary, one person each class will be assigned to potentially present readings of that specific day during the semester: 1. Summarize the main arguments or narrative 2. Analyze and share your thoughts to initiate the discussions
- Attend two China related events during the semester and email me three things you've learned for each event. (Recommended websites: <http://fairbank.fas.harvard.edu/calendar>, <http://www.bu.edu/asian/upcoming-events/>)
- You are expected to attend all classes. 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.

Paper Assignment (25%): The paper will be about 10 pages long (double-space) and will be due in class on Nov.16, Friday. This assignment is intended to give you an opportunity to think critically about an important topic covered in the course and to practice your analytical writing. The paper ought to be written independently.

NOTE: The paper must be submitted on time. Late papers will be downgraded one third of a letter grade each day after the due date.

Small group discussions and group project (25%): We will break down into small groups (3-5 students each) to have structured discussions for 6-8 weeks for about 30 minutes (We will use the method based on a process formulated by the Interactivity Foundation. A more detailed guide can be found online.¹ 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. The scribe will have to email the notes to the entire class before the next Monday after the discussion.) Each group will develop a comprehensive report about a specific theme (Environment, Public Health, Population, etc.) containing conceptual, contrasting policy possibilities. They will be presented in class in the fourteenth week of the semester. (I encourage you to attend at least one of the IF discussions I will be organizing outside of this class to get familiarize with the process.)

Exams (30%): There will be three equally weighted exams in this course. The first midterm will be held on Friday, Oct.5th, the second on Friday, Nov.2nd, and the final exam will be on Tuesday, Dec.18.

COURSE READINGS:

The text for this course is as follows:

William A. Joseph, *Politics in China: An Introduction*

This book is available at the Barnes and Noble Bookstore. In addition, there are several assigned articles posted on the Blackboard website.

Recommended book: Roderick MacFarquhar, *The Politics of China* (third edition)

POLICY ON "INCOMPLETES"

No incomplete grades will be reported unless the instructor and the student have conferred, the student has presented a sufficient reason why the work of the course cannot be completed on schedule, and the instructor has assigned a date within the succeeding twelve months by which time all course requirements must be completed. This must be in written form. No degree credit for incomplete courses will be granted unless the work is completed by the date assigned, which must be no later than one calendar year from the date on which the incomplete grade was reported. In the event that coursework remains incomplete on the assigned date or twelve months after the

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

"I" grade has been awarded, whichever comes first, the "I" grade will be changed automatically and permanently to an "F" grade.

POLICY ON PLAGIARISM

Plagiarism is the passing off of the ideas or words of another as your own. It is taken very seriously at Boston University as at all institutions of higher learning. Those believed to have committed plagiarism must appear before a university disciplinary board, a procedure that can result in a student's suspension or expulsion. Your papers should contain appropriate citations. It is better to use too many citations than too few. If you have any doubt about what constitutes plagiarism, please talk with me.

GRADING

Grades will be determined on the following basis:

Attendance and Participation	20%
Paper	25%
Small Group Discussions and Group Projects	25%
First Midterm Exam	10%
Second Midterm Exam	10%
Final Exam	10%

Course outline

Week One: Introduction

Sep. 5: Introduction

Sep. 7: China: A History

Reading:

Joseph, *Chinese Politics*, pp. 3-24.

Small group discussions and group projects

Week Two: Beginning of the Revolution

Sep. 10: China: The Traditional Order

Reading:

Joseph, *Chinese Politics*, pp. 37-49.

Sep.12: Before the Revolution

Reading:

Lu Xun, "Dairy of a Madman" (Blackboard)

Sep.14: Cultural Upheaval

Reading:

Lu Xun, "Ah Q – The real story" (Blackboard)

Small group discussions and group project

Week Three: China in Revolution

Sep. 17: Political Upheaval

"*China: A Century of Revolution: China in Revolution*" I

Sep. 19: Taiwan: alongside China's Revolution to Reform

Guest Lecture: Chien-Kai Chen

Readings: TBD

Sep.21:
Small group discussions and group project

Week Four: Before the PRC

Sep. 24: The New Culture Movement

Reading:

Mao Zedong, "Report on the Peasant Situation" (Blackboard)

Sep. 26: Ideology and Politics

Reading:

Joseph, "Ideology and Chinese Politics," in Joseph, *Chinese Politics*, pp. 129-164.

Sep. 28: On Contradiction

Reading:

Mao Zedong: "On Contradiction" (Blackboard)

Small Group Discussion and project planning

Week Five: Founding a New State

Oct.1: Mao Zedong in Power

Reading:

Frederick Teiwes, "Mao Zedong in Power," in Joseph. *Politics in China*, pp. 63-102.

Oct.3: From Yan'an to the Sino-Japanese War

Reading:

Mao Zedong, "Talks at the Yenan forum on Literature and Art" (Blackboard)

Oct.5: ***First Mid-term exam***

Week Six: The Movements Continues

Oct.9: The First Decade

Reading:

Mao Zedong, "On the Correct Handling of Contradictions Among the People" (Blackboard).

(Optional) "Introduction" in MacFarquhar, pp. 1-6

Oct.10: The First Decade (cont.)

Reading:

Mao Zedong, "On Practice" (Blackboard)

Oct.12:

"*China: A Century of Revolution: China in Revolution*" II

Week Seven: Pre-Reform China

Oct.15: GLF and the Cultural Revolution

Reading:

(Optional) Kenneth Lieberthal, "The Great Leap Forward and the split in the Yan'an leadership" in MacFarquhar, pp.87-147

Oct.17: Political Structure

Reading:

Cheng Li, "China's Communist Party-State: The Structure of Power," in Joseph, *Politics in China*, pp. 165-192.

Oct.19: Pre-Reform China

Small Group Discussion

Week Eight: The Reform Era

Oct.22: Elite Politics

Gilley, "Deng Xiaoping and His Successors (1976 to the present)," in Joseph, *Politics in China*, pp. 103-129.

Oct.24: Tiananmen and China's Future

(Optional) Joseph Fewsmith, "Reaction, resurgence, and succession: Chinese politics since Tiananmen" in MacFarquhar, pp.468-527

Oct.26: The Reform Era

"China: A Century of Revolution: China in Revolution" III

Week Nine: Rural Reform

Oct.29: Rural Reform

Katherine Morton, "Policy Case Study: The Environment," in Joseph, *Politics in China*, pp. 278-287.

Oct.31: Group project preparation

Small Group Discussion

Nov.2: ***Second Mid-term exam***

Week Ten: Urban Change

Nov.5: Urban Change

Reading:

William Hurst, "Urban China: Change and Contention" in Joseph, *Politics in China*, pp. 250-268.

Nov.7: Group project preparation

Small Group Discussion

Nov.9:

"China: A Century of Revolution: China in Revolution" IV

Week Eleven: Politics and Policy in Action

Nov.12: The Environment

Reading:

Katherine Morton, "Policy Case Study: The Environment," in Joseph, *Politics in China*, pp. 278-287.

Nov.14: Population

Reading:

White: "Policy Case Study: Population," in Joseph, *Politics in China*, pp. 298-314.

Nov.16: Public Health

Guest Lecture: Lingling Zhang

Reading:

Kaufman, "Policy Case Study: Public Health," in Joseph, *Politics in China*, pp. 288-297.

Research paper due in class

Week Twelve: China: A Century of Revolution

Nov.19:

"*China: A Century of Revolution: China in Revolution*" V

Reading:

(Optional) Alice Miller, "Dilemmas of globalization and governance" in MacFarquhar, pp. 528-600

Week Thirteen: The Periphery

Nov.26: Tibet and Xinjiang

Reading:

Barnet, "Tibet," and Bovington, "Xinjiang," in Joseph, *Politics in China*, pp. 315-354.

Nov.28: Water frontiers

Reading:

Quansheng Zhao, "China's Northeast Water Frontiers, East China Sea Disputes and the Co-Management Approach"

Nov.30: Hong Kong and Taiwan

Reading:

Lo, "Hong Kong" and Rigger, "Taiwan," in Joseph, *Politics in China*, pp. 355-382.

Week Fourteen: Current Issues and Presentations

Dec. 3: Presentations and test discussions

Dec.5: Presentations and test discussions

Dec.7: Presentations and test discussions

Week Fifteen: Review and Wrap up

Dec. 10: "*China: A Century of Revolution: China in Revolution*" VI

Dec. 12: Review and Wrap up

Group projects report due

Final Exam: Dec.18 (9-11am)