**Course Description**

The first half of this course will survey chronologically the major eras of modern China's political change and development, from the Late Qing to the present day. The second half will focus on different aspects of Chinese political practice and development, including exploring the relationships between nationalism, Marxism and Confucianism; elite politics and Leninism; threats to Party rule; democratic development; constitutional developments and rule of law; the "China Model;" and "decentralized authoritarianism." Many questions will be raised in class discussion, such as: "Who and what have been and are the central political forces in China during the modern period and how might we understand them?", "What were the central political conflicts between the Kuomintang and the CPC?", "What are the fundamental similarities and differences between the Maoist and post-Maoist eras?", "What are China's prospects for democracy and the development of the rule of law?", and "What is the "China Model" and what is "decentralized authoritarianism," and how are these concepts if not practices shaping China and the world today?"

**Learning Objectives**

By completing this course, students will:

- Investigate politics in China from the Late Qing to the present day.
- Analyze and produce ideas about different aspects of Chinese political practice and development.
- Use historical frameworks and theories to develop research questions, make and defend arguments about the course topic.
- Apply knowledge of Chinese political history to current and emerging issues in China.

**Course Prerequisites**

None

**Methods of Instruction**

The course will rely primarily on lecture, discussion, and assigned readings, and will include a midterm exam and final exam. Lectures will be complemented with PowerPoint and other contemporary instructional aides. **Students are not expected to complete all of the readings—this would be unreasonable if not impossible—but instead, they are encouraged to sample each and focus on those that enrich the historical narratives they deem most compelling and interesting.** The purpose of lecture and discussion is to bring these various narratives together in a sensible, student-driven, instructor-guided way.

**Assessment and Final Grade**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fieldtrip Report</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Current Affairs Report</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midterm</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class Participation</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
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**Course Requirements**
Fieldtrip Report

Worth 20 points, i.e., 20% of the final grade, the Fieldtrip Report is based on two site visits conducted in Shanghai, one to the First Party Congress Museum, the other the Propaganda Poster Art Center. The report will follow standard academic formatting and consist of between 2000 and 3000 words. It should have three clearly marked parts with subheadings: 1) an introduction and overview of the two museums; 2) discuss their points in common and their differences; and 3) offer a critical discussion/reflection on the museums, their subjects and their points of view. The student should be prepared if asked to present the report in class. The report is due within two weeks sessions of the scheduled museum visits.

Current Affairs Report

Worth 10 points, i.e., 10% of the final grade, the Current Affairs Report ongoing/developing political events in China. The student chooses a current topic (e.g., political reforms, the anti-corruption drive, developments in the South China Sea, trade relations with the United States, the Chinese Dream campaign, etc.), and prepares a report following standard academic formatting and consisting of between 1000 and 1500 words. It should have two clearly marked parts with subheadings: 1) an introduction and overview of topic; 2) a discussion of how this topic relates to other developments, both contemporary and historical, and when relevant, within a global context. The student should be prepared if asked to present the report in class. On the first day of class, each student will be assigned an individual due date to facilitate potential presentation and discussion throughout the term.

Midterm

Worth 20 points, i.e., 20% of the final grade, the midterm will consist of one question designed to cover material discussed in class.

Final Exam

Worth 30 points, i.e., 30% of the final grade, the final exam will consist of two questions, each worth 15 points. Questions will be sufficiently complex as to offer students the chance to illustrate at least eight aspects in each answer, and therefore potentially qualify for full credit. Partial credit is possible.

Class Participation

Students are expected to arrive prepared for each class, including the fieldtrip, to have completed the assigned readings in advance, and to remain for the entire duration of each class. Since class preparation and active participation in class are very important to an effective learning community, this will represent 20% of the final grade. Any student who due to unexcused absences misses more than four classes may receive a grade of F and lose credit for the course. Late submissions are not permitted. Active participation includes asking questions, participating in discussion, and helping to drive the course forward in a meaningful way. Each unexcused absence reduces the final course grade by 3 points.

Attendance

Regular class attendance is required throughout the program, and all absences will result in a lower participation grade for any affected CIEE course. Due to the intensive schedules for Open Campus and Short Term programs, absences that constitute more than 10% of the total course will result in a written warning.

Students who transfer from one CIEE class to another during the add/drop period will not be considered absent from the first session(s) of their new class, provided they were marked present for the first session(s) of their original class. Otherwise, the absence(s) from the original class carry over to the new class and count against the grade in that class.

For CIEE classes, excessively tardy (over 15 minutes late) students must be marked absent.

Attendance policies also apply to any required co-curricular class excursion or event, as well as to any required field placement. Students may not miss placement/work hours at an internship or service learning site unless approved in advance by the Academic Director and placement supervisor. All students must complete all of the requisite 100 minimum work hours on site at the internship or service learning placement to be eligible for academic credit.

Students who miss class for personal travel, including unforeseen delays that arise as a result of personal travel, will be marked as absent. No make-up or re-sit opportunity will be provided.
Attendance policies also apply to any required class excursion, with the exception that some class excursions cannot accommodate any tardiness, and students risk being marked as absent if they fail to be present at the appointed time.

Absences for classes will lead to the following penalties:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage of Total Course Hours Missed</th>
<th>Minimum Penalty</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Up to 10%</td>
<td>Participation graded as per class requirements</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 – 20%</td>
<td>Participation graded as per class requirements; 3% grade penalty &amp; <strong>written warning</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More than 20%</td>
<td>Automatic <strong>course failure</strong>, and possible expulsion</td>
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*N.B. Course schedule is subject to change due to study tours, excursions, or local holidays. Final schedules will be included in the final syllabus provided to students on site.*

**Weekly Schedule**

**Week 1**

Class: Introduction to Contemporary Chinese Politics

Description: Provide an overview of the contemporary Chinese political system

**Week 2**

Class: Before the Republic

Description: First half—Introduce course and provide a historical overview of key developments in Chinese history as a whole, with a focus on 19th century events leading up to the modern period.

Readings:

Dardess, Governing China, 52-102.

Fairbank and Goldman, China: A New History, 143-234.

**Field trip to Propaganda Museum and the Site of the First CPC Congress.**

**Week 3**

Class: The 1911 Republic, the Kuomintang and the Rise of the CPC

Description: Review the history of the overthrow of the Qing Dynasty, the founding of the Republic of China, the rise of the Warlord Era, the May Fourth Era, Japanese Invasion, the successes and failures of the Kuomintang, and the rise of the Communist Party of China. Provide an overview of the political developments of the CPC during the War with Japan, the Chinese Civil War, and the founding of the People’s Republic of China.

Readings:

Lu, “Preface to Call to Arms” and “Diary of a Madman,” pp. 33-51.

Fieldtrip Report

**Week 4**

**Class:**

The Mao Era Before and After Liberation

Description: Focus on the Mao Era of Chinese political development.

Readings:


“Resolution on Certain Questions in the History of Our Party...,” 1-86.

MacFarquhar, ed. The Politics of China, 5-247

**Week 5**

**Class:** The Deng and Jiang Eras

Description: Focus on the Deng and Jiang Eras of Chinese political development.

Readings:


From Deng Xiaoping:


“Emancipate the Mind, Seek Truth From Facts and United as One Looking to the Future,” 150-163.


“We Should Make Use of Foreign Funds...,” 166-167.

“Excerpts from Talks Given in Wuchang, Shenzhen, Zhuhai and Shanghai,” 358-370.

“Address to the Officers at the Rank of General and Above...,” 294-299.

From Jiang Zemin:

“Speech at the Rally in Celebration of the 80th Anniversary of the Founding of the Communist Party of China.”

“Eulogy at Comrade Deng Xiaoping’s Memorial Ceremony,” 611-624.

“Order for the Hong Kong Garrison” and “The Handover of Hong Kong,” 633-635.

**Week 6**

**Class:** The Hu and Xi Eras; Midterm

Description: Focus on the Hu and Xi Eras of Chinese political development.

Readings:

Introduction to the Scientific Outlook on Development, Beijing, CCTP, 2006.

Hu Jintao, “Hold High the Great Banner of Socialism...,” 1-73.
Week 7
Class: The Roles of Nationalism, Marxism and Confucianism in Political Development

Description: Focus on major schools of thought, issues and trends that influence political development in the PRC.

Readings:

Week 8
Class: Elite Politics and Legitimacy

Description: Explain and discuss how elite politics and transfers of power work in China, from one generation to another.

Readings:
Bo, China’s Elite Politics: Governance and Democratization, 17-174.
Miller, “The Case of Xi Jinping and the Mysterious Succession.”

Week 9
Class: Threats to Party Rule and National Integrity

Description: Focus on various challenges to CPC-rule and PRC national integrity.

Readings:
“On the Question of Stalin,” 1-23.
Scobell, China’s Use of Military Force, 144-167.
Ownby, Falun Gong and the Future of China, 229-235.
Wan, Inequality and Growth in Modern China.
Shirk, China: Fragile Superpower.

Week 10
Class: Democracy Development

Description: Focus on attempts to foster democracy in modern China.

Readings:
Kerry Brown, Ballot Box China, 5-29.
Week 11
Class:  The “China Model,” “The Chinese Dream,” “De/Recentralized Authoritarianism”

Description: Provide a conclusion for the course with reference to theories and policies associated with recent political developments, followed by a brief exam review

Readings:
Mahoney, “What Should We Learn from China.”
Landry, Decentralized Authoritarianism in China, 257-268.
Mertha, “Fragmented Authoritarianism 2.0,” 995-1012.

Week 12
Class:  Final Exam

Course Materials
Readings

Restricted digital access will be provided for all readings.


---, “We Should Make Use of Foreign Funds and Let Former Capitalist Industrialists and Businessmen Play their Role in Developing the Economy” (1979), Selected Works of Deng Xiaoping, Vol. II, pp. 166-167. Digital.


