

Politics of China
Spring 2016 - PSC 300.m202

TuTh, 2-3:20pm,
Hall of Languages 214

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This syllabus is subject to change. Check electronic version for updates ([here](#)).

Prerequisite(s): PSC 123 and sophomore standing recommended.

Course Description: China's rise is arguably the most important feature of the 21st Century. Its growth-driven model of single-party rule challenges democratic ideals nurtured since WWII and its expanding economic and political weight threatens the existing world order. At the same time, China's larger-than-life presence belies a fragile domestic environment, riddled with rampant corruption, extreme pollution, and bubbling social tensions. How did China get to this point and where is it going? In this class, we explore China's transition from an impoverished agriculture society to leading world power and assess how China's involvement in the global economy influences its domestic as well as its foreign policy aspirations. As such, this class should appeal to a broad audience, including those with personal or professional experience in China as well as those with no background in Chinese studies but with a curiosity and concern for the country and its future.

Course Reading: There is one required book for the class, but you are strongly recommended to also obtain the three recommended books listed below. All books listed below are available for purchase from the University Bookstore. For those of you who are unable to acquire the recommended books listed below, I will offer paper copy. In addition to the books listed below, we will also cover material from academic journals and the press. These materials will be provided to you electronically through Blackboard in the "Contents" section (not "Course Reserves"). You may want to bring the relevant readings to class each week in case you or someone else refers to a specific argument in one of the texts. All assigned readings should be completed before class meets.

Required

- Lieberthal, Kenneth. (2003). *Governing China*. W. W. Norton & Company; 2nd Edition.

Recommended

- McGregor, Richard. (2010). *The Party: The Secret World of China's Communist Rulers*
- Hayton, Bill. (2014). *The South China Sea: The Struggle for Power in Asia*
- Nathan & Scobell. 2012. *The Great Wall and the Empty Fortress: China's Search for Security*
- Osnos, Evan. (2014). *Age of Ambition: Chasing Fortune, Truth, and Faith in the New China*

Course Learning Outcomes: At the completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Apply comparative and IR political theory to the case of China.
- Formulate questions and conduct original research on China.
- Predict how Chinese state and society will influence China's future.

Assignments and Grading: Regular attendance and participation in class is important for understanding the course material, and required for completing the course with full credit. Lectures and readings will be complementary, but the lectures will cover material that is not in the readings. As a student you are responsible for content covered in both readings and lectures, as exams will draw on both. All assignments turned in by students will be submitted in both physical paper copy and digital to Blackboard's Turnitin.com submissions bin.

Grade Breakdown:

Quizzes	10%
Midterm	30%
Comparative Research Paper	30%
Final Exam	30%

Letter Grade Distribution:

>= 93	A	73 - 76	C
90 - 92	A-	70 - 72	C-
87 - 89	B+	67 - 69	D+
83 - 86	B	63 - 66	D
80 - 82	B-	60 - 62	D-
77 - 79.	C+	<= 59	F

Quizzes: There will be quizzes during each regularly scheduled course week. Quizzes will cover assigned readings, not lectures, from the time of the last quiz up to that day. Quizzes cannot be rescheduled, but I will drop your lowest score. No extensions or make-ups will be allowed except for extreme circumstances (medical or family emergency, religious holiday).

Comparative Research Paper: To complete the course you will be required to submit a comparative-research paper on a research question chosen in collaboration by you and the instructor (maximum of 10 pages, double spaced). In this paper, students will be required to (a) identify a political challenge facing China, (b) synthesize literature related to that political challenge, (c) choose a comparison regime/country and explain your motivation for comparison, (d) examine the strengths and weaknesses of the Chinese approach to the challenge vis-à-vis the comparison case. Each student will be required to come to office hours and receive approval for your topic and comparison case from the instructor or the TA. Written proposals must be approved by March 22nd. Tuesday May 3rd before the start of class.

Academic Integrity: Syracuse University's Academic Integrity Policy holds students accountable for the integrity of the work they submit. Students should be familiar with the policy and know that it is their responsibility to learn about course-specific expectations, as well as about University policy. The University policy governs appropriate citation and use of sources, the integrity of work submitted in exams and assignments, and the veracity of signatures on attendance sheets and other verification of participation in class activities. The policy also prohibits students from submitting the same written work in more than one class without receiving written authorization in advance from both instructors. The presumptive penalty for a first offense by an undergraduate student is course failure, accompanied by a transcript notation indicating that the failure resulted from a violation of Academic Integrity Policy. The standard sanction for a first offense by a graduate student is suspension or expulsion. For more information and the complete policy, see <http://academicintegrity.syr.edu>.

Technology: *NO technology will be allowed in the classroom.* Exemptions or special considerations regarding this policy will be evaluated on a case by case basis. Students who believe they have a legitimate case for an exemption, or who wish to request special consideration, should speak directly with the professor, outside of class.

Disability-Related Accommodations: If you believe that you need accommodations for a disability, please contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS), <http://disabilityservices.syr.edu>, located in Room 309 of 804 University Avenue, or call (315) 443-4498 for an appointment to discuss your needs and the process for requesting accommodations. ODS is responsible for coordinating disability-related accommodations and will issue students with documented disabilities Accommodation Authorization Letters, as appropriate. Since accommodations may require early planning and generally are not provided retroactively, please contact ODS as soon as possible.

Religious holidays: Syracuse University's religious observances policy recognizes the diversity of faiths represented among the campus community and protects the rights of students, faculty, and staff to observe religious holy days according to their tradition. Under the policy, students are provided an opportunity to make up any examination, study, or work requirements that may be missed due to a religious observance provided they notify their instructors before the end of the second week of classes. Students have access to an online notification form they can use to notify their instructors, available at: <https://myslice.syr.edu>.

Tentative Course Outline:

Coverage and content might change depending on class progress. Check for updates ([here](#)).

Important Dates To Remember

- Mar 22 - Comparative Research Proposal Due
- Mar 10 - Midterm Exam
- May 03 - Comparative Research Paper Due
- May 10 - Final Exam

Week 1 - Anatomy of a Superpower

- Jan 19
 - Course Introduction and Organization
- Jan 21
 - Map Quiz
 - Naughton. 2007. "The Geographical Setting" Chapter 1 in *The Chinese Economy*, pp.15-29

Week 2 - Vital Parts

- Jan 26
 - MacGregor. 2010. *The Party*. Chapters 1, 2, 3. pp. 1-103.
- Jan 28
 - Lawrence & Martin. 2013. "Understanding China's Political System." *Congressional Research Service*

Week 3 - Origin and Evolution

- Feb 02
 - Lieberthal Chapter 4
 - Kung & Chen. 2011. "The tragedy of the Nomenklatura: Career incentives and political radicalism during China's great leap famine." *American Political Science Review*: pp. 27-45.
- Feb 04
 - Deng. 1980. "On the Reform of the System of Party and State Leadership," in Selected Works of Deng Xiaoping (1975-1982), pp. 302-325.
 - Heilmann. 2013. "Policy-Making through Experimentation: The Formation of a Distinctive Policy Process" Chapter 3. in Heilmann and Perry eds. *Mao's Invisible Hand* pp. 62-101

Week 4 - Power to Prosper

- Feb 09
 - Naughton. 2007. "Market Transition" Chapter 4 in *The Chinese Economy*, pp.85-97
 - Shirk, 1993. "Playing to the Provinces" Part 3 in *The Political Logic of Economic Reform in China*, pp. 147-196.
- Feb 11
 - Montinola, Qian, & Weingast. 1995. "Federalism, Chinese Style: The Political Basis for Economic Success," *World Politics*, pp. 50-81
 - Cai & Triesman. 2006. "Did Government Decentralization Cause China's Economic Miracle?" *World Politics*, pp. 505-535.
 - Li & Zhou, "Political Turnover and Economic Performance: The Incentive Role of Personnel Control in China," *Journal of Public Economics*, 89 (2005), p. 1743-1762.

Week 5 - Managing Growth

- Feb 16
 - O'Brian & Li. 1999. "Selective Policy Implementation in Rural China," *Comparative Politics*, pp. 167-186
 - Hillman, 2014. Chapter 4 in *Patronage and Power: Local State Networks and Party-State Resilience in Rural China*, pp. 29-59.
- Feb 18
 - Tanner. 1999. "The National People's Congress," in Merle Goldman and Roderick MacFarquhar, eds., *The Paradox of China's Post-Mao Reforms*, pp. 100-128
 - Li and O'Brien. 1999. "The Struggle over Village Elections," in Merle Goldman and Roderick MacFarquhar, eds., *The Paradox of China's Post-Mao Reforms*, pp. 129-144

Week 6 - Turning Point

- Feb 23
 - Cheung, Tai Ming. Chapters 1 and 2 - *China's entrepreneurial army*. Oxford University Press, 2001, pp. 12-58.
 - Pei, M., 1995. "Creeping Democratization" in China. *Journal of Democracy*, 6(4), pp.65-79.
 - Documentary: The Tank Man

- Feb 25
- Tanner. 2004. "China Rethinks Unrest," *The Washington Quarterly*, 137-156
- Chen, 2002. "Capitalist development, entrepreneurial class, and democratization in China." *Political science Quarterly* 117.3: 401-422.
- Huang, Y., 1996. Central-local relations in China during the reform era: the economic and institutional dimensions. *World Development*, 24(4), pp.655-672.

Week 7 - Adaptation or Stagnation

- Mar 01
- Pei. 2006. *China's Trapped Transition: The Limits of Developmental Autocracy* Introduction and Chapter 1, pp. 1-44.
- Nathan. 2003. "Authoritarian Resilience" *Journal of Democracy*, pp. 6-17
- Mar 03
- Cai. 2004. "Managed Participation in China?", *Political Science Quarterly*. pp. 137-156
- Truex, R., 2014. Consultative Authoritarianism and Its Limits. *Comparative Political Studies*,

Week 8 - Current Challenges and Midterm Review

- Mar 08
- Alber and Xu - China's Environmental Crisis [CFR Backgrounds](#)
- Zhang, Yang, and Wang, China Has Reached the 'Lewis Turning Point'?, *China Economic Review*, 22 (2011), 542-554.
- Documentary: China's Economy
- Mar 10
- **Midterm**

Week 9 - **Spring Break**

Week 10 - Fragile Superpower

- Mar 22 (*proposals must be approved by today*)
 - Shirk. 2008. Chapters 1 in *China Fragile Superpower*. pp. 1-13.
 - Weiss. 2012, "Authoritarian signaling, mass audiences, and nationalist protest in China." *International Organization* 67(01): 1-35.
- Mar 24
 - Documentary: China Rising

Week 11 - The Home Front

- Mar 29
 - Sarmiento. 2014 - Can China Pacify Its Restive Minorities Peacefully? *Foreign Policy In Focus and TheNation.com*
 - Pan and Xu. "China's Ideological Spectrum." (2015). *Working Paper*
 - Wedeman. 2014. "Xi Jinping's Tiger Hunt and the Politics of Corruption" [China Currents](#)
 - SCMP - Tigers and Flies ([click here](#))
- Mar 31
 - Bernstein. 2016. Can This Woman Move Taiwan Away From China? *Foreign Policy*
 - Kaplan 2014. Chapter 2 - "China's Caribbean" in *Asia's Cauldron*
 - Hayton, Chapter 4 - "Rocks and Other Hard Places: South China Sea and International Law"
 - CFR - The China North Korea Relationship

Week 12 - Big Backyard

- Apr 05
 - Economy & Levi. 2013. Chapters 4 and 5 in - *By all Means Necessary*
- Apr 07
 - Economy & Levi. 2013. Chapters 8 and 9 in - *By all Means Necessary*

Week 13 - Making Friends and Enemies

- Apr 12
 - Kurlantzick, Chapters 1 & 3 in *Charm Offensive: How China's Soft Power is Transforming the World*. pp. 1-11 & 37-60.
 - Brautigam. 2009. Prologue in *The Dragon's Gift: The Real Story of China in Africa*. p. 1-19.

- Apr 14
- Nathan & Scobell. 2012. Part I “Interest and Identity In Chinese Foreign Policy” in *The Great Wall and the Empty Fortress: China’s Search for Security* pp. 3-37.
- Jakobson & Knox 2010. New foreign policy actors in China. *Stockholm International Peace Research Institute*, 1-47.

Week 14 - A Special Relationship

- Apr 19
- Qiang, Zhai, 2009. “1959: Preventing Peaceful Evolution,” *China Heritage Quarterly*.
- Beckley. 2011. China’s Century? Why America’s Edge Will Endure, *International Security*, volume 36, issue 3, pages 41-78.
- Apr 21
- Shirk. 2008. Chapters 9 in *China Fragile Superpower*. pp. 255-270.
- Christensen. 2009. “Shaping the Choices of a Rising China: Recent Lessons for the Obama Administration,” *The Washington Quarterly*, pp. 89-104.
- Steinberg and Hanlon. 2014. Introduction Chapter in *Strategic Reassurance and Resolve US-China Relations in the Twenty First Century*. pp. 1-16.

Week 15 - The Life Blood

- Apr 26
- Osnos. 2014. Part I in *Age of Ambition*. p. 14-119.
- Whyte 2010. Part 1 - *Myth of the social volcano: Perceptions of inequality and distributive injustice in contemporary China*. Stanford University Press, 11-68.
- Apr 28
- G. King, J. Pan, and M. E. Roberts, ‘How Censorship in China Allows Government Criticism but Silences Collective Expression’, *American Political Science Review*, 107 (2013), 326-343.
- P. Link, ‘China: The Anaconda in the Chandelier’, *The New York Review of Books*, 2002.

Week 16 - Final Prep

- May 03
- Nathan et. al. 2015. China, Circa 2016. [ChinaFile](#)
- Between Wang 2015 “Bullying and Flattery: A Theory on Chinese Politics”, [The Diplomat](#)
- May 10
- **Final Exam**