

POLITICS OF CHINA
Political Science: PSC 300.m202
Syracuse University
Prof. Dimitar Gueorguiev
Spring 2015

Course Information:

Classroom: Archbold Gymnasium 210
Class Time: TuTh 2:00-3:20pm

Instructor: Dimitar Gueorguiev
Office: 332 Eggers
Office Hours: Wed 10-12pm
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Prerequisites: 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.

Readings

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 should 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

- Hayton, Bill. (2014). *The South China Sea: The Struggle for Power in Asia*
- McGregor, Richard. (2010). *The Party: The Secret World of China's Communist Rulers*
- Osnos, Evan. (2014). *Age of Ambition: Chasing Fortune, Truth, and Faith in the New China*. Farrar

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.

Grading Breakdown

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

*The final exam will be cumulative but will reflect post-midterm material more heavily.

Quizzes

There will be scheduled 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 discussed in the course, (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. Comparative research papers will be due on Tuesday April 23rd 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>.

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>.

SU's Religious Observances policy: http://supolicies.syr.edu/emp_ben/religious_observance.htm

Course Schedule and Readings

Important Dates To Remember

- Feb 24 - Comparative Research Paper Topic Discussion
- Mar 03 - Midterm Exam
- Apr 23 - Comparative Research Paper Due
- Apr 30 - Final Exam

Week 1 – Introduction to the PRC

13-Jan

- Course Introduction and Organization
- Map Quiz

15-Jan

- Naughton. 2007. “The Geographical Setting” Chapter 1 in *The Chinese Economy*, pp.15-29
- Lieberthal Chapter 3

Week 2 – Anatomy of the PRC

20-Jan

- Lieberthal Chapters 6 through 8
- Lawrence & Martin. 2013. “Understanding China’s Political System.” CRS
- Miller. 2013. “The New Party Politburo Leadership,” *China Leadership Monitor*, No. 40.

22-Jan

- Macgregor. 2010. *The Party*. Chapters 1, 2, 3. pp. 1-103.
- Shirk. 1993. “Chinese Political Institutions” Part 2 in *The Political Logic of Economic Reform in China*. pp. 53-91.

Week 3 – The Chinese Communist Party – The Power to Prosper

27-Jan

- 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.

29-Jan

- Li and Zhou, “Political Turnover and Economic Performance: The Incentive Role of Personnel Control in China,” *Journal of Public Economics*, 89 (2005), p. 1743–1762.
- V. C. Shih, “‘Nauseating’ Displays of Loyalty: Monitoring the Factional Bargain through Ideological Campaigns in China,” *The Journal of Politics*, 70 (2008), p. 1177.

Week 4 – The Reform Era

03-Feb

- Deng Xiaoping. 1980. “On the Reform of the System of Party and State Leadership,” in *Selected Works of Deng Xiaoping (1975-1982)*, pp. 302-325.
- Shirk. 1993. “Playing to the Provinces” Part 3 in *The Political Logic of Economic Reform in China*, pp. 147-196.

05-Feb

- Movie: The Tank Man (Frontline)

Week 5 – The Limits of Reform

10-Feb

- Pei. 2006. *China's Trapped Transition: The Limits of Developmental Autocracy* Introduction and Chapter 1, pp. 1-44
- Yang. 2006. "Economic Transition and the Problem of Governance in China" Chapter 1 in *Remaking the Chinese Leviathan*, pp. 1-24.

12-Feb

- Huang. 2001 "Political Institutions and Fiscal Reforms in China," *Problems of Post-Communism*, pp. 16-26.
- Fewsmith 2013. "The Problem of Governance in China" Chapter 1 in *The Logic and Limits of Political Reform in China*

Week 6 – State and Society

17-Feb

- Yu. 2008. Chapter 4: "China's Civil Society: Conceptual Definitions" pp. 37-51
- Tanner. 2004. "China Rethinks Unrest," *The Washington Quarterly*

19-Feb

- Cai. 2004. "Managed Participation in China", *Political Science Quarterly*. pp. 137-156
- Fewsmith. 2013. "The Elusive Search for Effective Sub-County Governance." Chapter 9 in *Mao's Invisible Hand*

Week 7 – Governance and Policymaking

24-Feb

- Kung and Chen. 2011. "The tragedy of the Nomenklatura: Career incentives and political radicalism during China's great leap famine." *American Political Science Review* 105.01: pp. 27-45.
- O'Brian & Li. 1999. "Selective Policy Implementation in Rural China," *Comparative Politics*, pp. 167-186
- Smith. 2009. "Political Machinations in a Rural County" *The China Journal*, pp. 29-59.

26-Feb

- Malesky, Abrami and Zheng, 2011. "Institutions and Inequality in Single-Party Regimes: A Comparative Analysis of Vietnam and China." *Comparative Politics* 43(4): 409-427.
- Dimitrov. 2013. *Internal Government Assessments of the Quality of Governance in China*, CCDRL Working Papers.

Week 8 – Midterm Week

03-Mar

- Midterm Review

05-Mar

- Midterm Examination

Week 9 – Spring Break (No Class)

Week 10 – Authoritarian Resilience (The First Ring)

17-Mar

- Nathan. 2003. “Authoritarian Resilience” *Journal of Democracy*, pp. 6-17
- Dimitrov. 2013. Part 1 Reform and Resilience in *Why Communism Did Not Collapse: Understanding Authoritarian Regime Resilience in Asia and Europe*, Cambridge Press, p. 3-66.

19-Mar

- Qiang, Zhai, 2009. “1959: Preventing Peaceful Evolution,” *China Heritage Quarterly*.
- Yu. 2014. “Towards Good Governance in China.” Introduction Chapter in *China’s Political Development Chinese and American Perspectives* p. 1-38.

Week 11 – Fragile Superpower

24-Mar

- Shirk. 2008. Chapters 1 in *China Fragile Superpower*. pp. 1-13.
- Weiss, Jessica. 2012, “Authoritarian signaling, mass audiences, and nationalist protest in China.” *International Organization* 67(01): 1-35.

26-Mar

- Shirk. 2008. Chapters 9 in *China Fragile Superpower*. pp. 255-270.
- Steinberg and Hanlon. 2014. Introduction Chapter in *Strategic Reassurance and Resolve US-China Relations in the Twenty First Century*. pp. 1-16.

Week 12 – China and its Neighbors (The Second Ring)

31-Mar

- Nathan and Scobell. 2012. Chapters 3 and 5 in *The Great Wall and the Empty Fortress: China’s Search for Security*
- *The Diplomat* – “China’s Growing Presence in Russia’s Backyard”
- Kaplan 2014 – Chapter 2 – “China’s Caribbean” in *Asia’s Cauldron*

02-Apr

- Nathan and Scobell. 2012. Chapter 6 in *The Great Wall and the Empty Fortress: China’s Search for Security*
- Hayton, Chapter 4 “Rocks and Other Hard Places: South China Sea and International Law”
- Kaplan 2014 - Chapters 3 (Vietnam) and 6 (Philippines) – *Asia’s Cauldron*

Week 13 – China’s Foreign Policy (The Third Ring and Beyond)

07-Apr

- Nathan and 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. 3-62.
- Economy and Levi – 2013 – Chapters 8 and 9 in – *By all Means Necessary*
- *The Diplomat* – “Chinese Foreign Policy – A New Era Dawns”

09-Apr

- Beckley. 2011. China’s Century? Why America’s Edge Will Endure, *International Security*, volume 36, issue 3, pages 41-78.
- Christensen. 2009. “Shaping the Choices of a Rising China: Recent Lessons for the Obama Administration,” *The Washington Quarterly*, pp. 89-104.
- *The Diplomat* – “China’s Alternative Diplomacy”

Week 14 – China’s Soft Power

14-Apr

- Kurlantzick, Chapters 1 & 3 in *Charm Offensive: How China’s Soft Power is Transforming the World*. pp. 1-11 & 37-60.
- Economy and Levi – 2013 – Chapters 4 and 5 in – *By all Means Necessary*
- Brautigam. 2009. Prologue in *The Dragon’s Gift: The Real Story of China in Africa*. P. 1-19.

16-Apr

- Guest Speaker, Professor Terrill Lautz: “China's Quest for Soft Power”

Week 15 – Challenges and Prospects

21-Apr

- Economy, Elizabeth C. "The great leap backward? The costs of China's environmental crisis." *Foreign Affairs* (2007): 38-59.
- X. Zhang, J. Yang, and S. Wang, “China Has Reached the Lewis Turning Point,” *China Economic Review*, 22 (2011), p. 542–554.
- Wedeman. 2014. "Xi Jinping’s Tiger Hunt and the Politics of Corruption." *China Currents* 13.2
- Knight. 2013. "Inequality in China: an overview." *The World Bank Research Observer*. 55-78.

23-Apr

- Comparative Research Paper due today
- Osnos. 2014. Part I in *Age of Ambition*. p. 14-119.
- Osnos. 2014. Epilogue in *Age of Ambition*.

Week 16 – Final Exam

28-Apr

- Final Exam Review

30-Apr

- Final Exam: Thu, Apr 30, 12:45pm-2:45pm