**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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TA: Jiayi Zhang  
Office: Eggers 024  
Office Hours: Mon 1:30-3pm  
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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**  

**Recommended**  
- Hayton, Bill. (2014). *The South China Sea: The Struggle for Power in Asia*  
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](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](https://myslice.syr.edu).

SU’s Religious Observances policy: [http://supolicies.syr.edu/emp_ben/religious_observance.htm](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
- 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
22-Jan

Week 3 – The Chinese Communist Party – The Power to Prosper
27-Jan
29-Jan

Week 4 – The Reform Era
03-Feb
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
12-Feb
- 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
19-Feb
- Fewsmith. 2013. “The Elusive Search for Effective Sub-County Governance.” Chapter 9 in *Mao’s Invisible Hand*

Week 7 – Governance and Policymaking
24-Feb
26-Feb

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

19-Mar

Week 11 – Fragile Superpower

24-Mar

26-Mar

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

09-Apr
- The Diplomat – “China’s Alternative Diplomacy”
Week 14 – China’s Soft Power
14-Apr
- Economy and Levi – 2013 – Chapters 4 and 5 in – By all Means Necessary
16-Apr
- Guest Speaker, Professor Terrill Lautz: “China’s Quest for Soft Power”

Week 15 – Challenges and Prospects
21-Apr
23-Apr
- Comparative Research Paper due today

Week 16 – Final Exam
28-Apr
- Final Exam Review
30-Apr
- Final Exam: Thu, Apr 30, 12:45pm-2:45pm