

Politics of China
Fall 2016 - PSC 300.m202

TuTh, 2-3:20pm
Eggers Hall: 010

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

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 no required book for the class, but you are encouraged to obtain the recommended text listed below. All books listed below are available for purchase from the University Bookstore and available from the library. For those of you who are unable to acquire the recommended books listed below, I will offer paper copy of all readings from them. 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"). **Check this folder on a weekly basis! 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 the start of class.

Recommended Text

- Lieberthal, Kenneth. 2003. *Governing China: From Revolution Through Reform*
- McGregor, Richard. 2010. *The Party: The Secret World of China's Communist Rulers*
- Shirk, Susan. 2008. *China: Fragile Super Power*
- Nathan & Scobell. 2012. *The Great Wall and the Empty Fortress: China's Search for Security*
- Hayton, Bill. 2014. *The South China Sea: The Struggle for Power in Asia*
- 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.
- Forecast how the Chinese state and society may 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%
Writing Requirement	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).

Writing Requirement: To complete the course you will be required to fulfill a writing requirement. This writing requirement can be fulfilled by either two short research notes (4 to 5 pages each) on topics related to weekly readings, or by one longer research paper based on a question chosen in collaboration by you and the instructor (15 pages, double spaced).

Research notes — If you elect to write the two short research notes, you will be able to choose from among 10 questions, each corresponding to a specific week's readings, provided to you by the instructor. You are free to choose which questions you answer, but all research notes must be completed and turned in by the Thursday, at 2pm, of the week associated with each question. So plan your time and schedules ahead of time.

Research paper — If you elect to write the research paper, you must declare your intentions with a formal research proposal, and receive approval by the instructor, before October 27th. In this paper, you 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-a-vis the comparison case. The final draft of your paper will be due on Thursday, December 08th, at 2pm.

**All writing assignments must be submitted in both paper copy and digital document to Blackboard's Turnitin.com submissions bin. No late papers will be accepted under any circumstances.

Academic Integrity: Syracuse University's academic integrity policy reflects the high value that we, as a university community, place on honesty in academic work. The policy defines our expectations for academic honesty and holds students accountable for the integrity of all work they submit. Students should understand that it is their responsibility to learn about coursespecific expectations, as well as about universitywide academic integrity expectations. 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 instance of academic dishonesty 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 presumptive penalty for a first instance of academic dishonesty by a graduate student is suspension or expulsion. SU students are required to read an online summary of the university's academic integrity expectations and provide an electronic signature agreeing to abide by them twice a year during pre-term checkin on MySlice. 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>.

Important Dates To Remember

- Oct 20 - Midterm Exam
- Oct 27 - *Research Paper Proposal*
- Dec 08 - *Research Paper Due*
- Dec 16 - Final Exam (8-10am, Hall of Languages 202)

Course Outline

Week 1 - Introduction to Politics of China

- Aug 30: Anatomy of a Superpower
- Sep 01: *** NO CLASS ***

Module 1: Physiology

Week 2 - Physical and Political Anatomy

- Sep 06 -
 - Map Quiz
 - Naughton. 2007. "The Geographical Setting" Chapter 1 in *The Chinese Economy*, pp.15-29
- Sep 08
 - Lawrence & Martin. 2013. "Understanding China's Political System." *Congressional Research Service*, pp. 1-39.

Week 3 - Origin and Evolution

- Sep 13
 - Lieberthal. 2003. Chapters 3 and 4 "The Maoist Era" in *Governing China* pp. 60-119
 - 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.
- Sep 15
 - Lieberthal. 2003. Chapters 5 "The Reform Era" in *Governing China* pp. 125-166
 - Gueorguiev & Schuler. 2016. "Keeping Your Head Down: Public Profiles and Promotion in One-Party Regimes." *Journal of East Asian Studies* pp. 87-116.

Week 4 - Mind and Body

- Sep 20
 - MacGregor. 2010. *The Party*. Chapters 1, 2, 3. pp. 1-103.
- Sep 22
 - Shirk. 1993. "Chinese Political Institutions" Part 2 in *The Political Logic of Economic Reform in China*, pp. 53-91.
 - 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 5 - Power to Prosper

- Sep 27
 - Montinola, Qian, & Weingast. 1995. "Federalism, Chinese Style: The Political Basis for Economic Success," *World Politics*, pp. 50-81.
 - Shirk, 1993. "Playing to the Provinces" Part 3 in *The Political Logic of Economic Reform in China*, pp. 147-196.
- Sep 29
 - Cai & Triesman. 2006. "Did Government Decentralization Cause China's Economic Miracle?" *World Politics*, pp. 505-535.
 - O'Brian & Li. 1999. "Selective Policy Implementation in Rural China," *Comparative Politics*, pp. 167-186.

Week 6 - Growing Pains

- Oct 04 - *Documentary: Frontline: The Tank Man*
- Oct 06 -
 - Tanner. 2004. "China Rethinks Unrest," *The Washington Quarterly*, pp. 137-156.
 - Chen & Dickson. 2008. "Allies of the State: Democratic Support and Regime Support among China's Entrepreneurs," *The China Quarterly*, pp. 780-804.

Week 7 - Adaptation or Stagnation

- Oct 11
 - Pei. 2006. Introduction and Chapter 1 in *China's Trapped Transition: The Limits of Developmental Autocracy*, pp. 1-44.
 - Nathan. 2003. "Authoritarian Resilience" *Journal of Democracy*, pp. 6-17.
- Oct 13
 - Fewsmith. 2013. Chapter 1 "The Problem of Governance in China" in *The Logic and Limits of Political Reform in China*, pp. 1-42.
 - Cai. 2004. "Managed Participation in China", *Political Science Quarterly*. pp. 137-156.

Week 8 - (Debating China's Future)

- Oct 18 - *Documentary: China's Economy: How China Fooled the World*
 - In Class Debate
 - Shambaugh. 2015 "The Coming Chinese Crackup," *Wall Street Journal* (March 7-8), p. C2.
 - Nathan et. al. 2015. China, Circa 2016. [ChinaFile](#)
- Oct 20 - **Midterm**

Module 2: Psychology

Week 9 - Fragile Superpower

- Oct 25
 - Shirk. 2008. Chapters 1, 2, and 3 in *China: Fragile Superpower*. pp. 1-78.
- Oct 27 (**Research paper proposals must be approved by today**)
 - Nathan & Scobell. 2012. Chapter 1 “What Drives China’s Foreign Policy” in *The Great Wall and the Empty Fortress: China’s Search for Security*, pp. 37-62.

Week 10 - The Home Front

- Nov 01
 - Hillman. 2014. Chapter 4 in *Patronage and Power: Local State Networks and Party-State Resilience in Rural China*, pp. 80-120.
 - Wedeman. 2014. “Xi Jinping’s Tiger Hunt and the Politics of Corruption” [China Currents](#)
 - SCMP - Tigers and Flies ([click here](#))
- Nov 03
 - Shirk. 2008. Chapter 3, “Media and the Internet,” in *China: Fragile Superpower*. pp. 79-104.
 - Link. 2002. “China: The Anaconda in the Chandelier,” *The New York Review of Books*

Module 3: Ecology

Week 11 - Big Backyard

- Nov 08
 - Nathan & Scobell. 2012. Chapter 4 “The Northeast Asia Regional System” in *The Great Wall and the Empty Fortress: China’s Search for Security*, pp. 114-138.
 - Kaplan 2014. Chapter 2 - “China’s Caribbean” in *Asia’s Cauldron*
- Nov 10
 - Economy & Levi. 2013. Chapters 4 and 5 in - *By all Means Necessary*
 - Economy & Levi. 2013. Chapters 8 and 9 in - *By all Means Necessary*

Week 12 - Making Friends and Enemies

- Nov 15
 - 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*. pp. 1-19.
- Nov 17
 - Jakobson & Knox 2010. New foreign policy actors in China. *Stockholm International Peace Research Institute*, 1-51.

Week 13 - Thanksgiving

Week 14 - A Special Relationship

- Nov 29
 - Beckley. 2011. "China's Century? Why America's Edge Will Endure," *International Security*, 36:3, pp 41-78.
 - Steinberg & O'Hanlon. 2014. Introduction Chapter in *Strategic Reassurance and Resolve US-China Relations in the Twenty First Century*. pp. 1-16.
- Dec 01
 - Shirk. 2008. Chapters 5 and 9 in *China: Fragile Superpower*. pp. 105-140; 255-270.
 - Gueorguiev & Lovely. 2016. Chapter 8, "The Trans-Pacific Partnership: Perspectives from China," in *The World Trade System*. pp. 231-265.

Week 15 - Full Circle

- Dec 06
 - Osnos. 2014. Part I in *Age of Ambition*. pp. 14-119.
- Dec 08
 - *Documentary - Manufacturing China's Future*
 - Pan and Xu. "What it Means to Be 'Liberal' or 'Conservative' in China."

Week 16 - Final Exam

- Dec 16
 - **Final Exam**