

CET Syllabus of Record



Program: CET Shanghai

Course Code / Title: (SH/POLI 340) Politics and Governance in China

Total Hours: 45

Recommended Credits: 3

Primary Discipline / Suggested Cross Listings: Political Science / East Asian Studies, International Relations

Language of Instruction: English

Prerequisites/Requirements: None

Description

This course begins with a historical survey of imperial China (before 1912) and Republican China (1912-1949). After providing some historical background, the course then focuses on the politics of the People's Republic of China, including the Mao era (1949-1978) and the reform era (after 1978). Special attention is paid to "Mao Zedong Thought," Deng Xiaoping's contributions and legacies, the organizational structure and operational dynamics of the current political system, modern state building, and the Communist Party's strategies for survival. When examining these issues, students engage in some of the current debates of the field, mainly those over the features of China's politico-economic transition and the prospect of democracy in China.

Objectives

By the end of the course, students:

- Have a solid knowledge of the issues that are covered in this course (as described above)
- Have a good grasp of the most pressing issues in today's China, e.g., why the ruling Chinese Communist Party (CCP) has survived and reinvigorated while its counterparts in the former Soviet Bloc had all collapsed by the early 1990s
- Are able to engage in debates in the China field and form their own stances

Course Requirements

Course readings, averaging 30 pages per session, should be completed before class. Students must attend all classes and are expected to participate actively in all class discussions.

Students take two in-class midterm exams (closed-book, 60 minutes). Both consist of five short essay questions. They are held at the end of Part One and Part Two respectively (see Outline of Course Content for details.)

Students are asked to write a short critique paper (4 pages double spaced) on two assigned articles.

For their final exam, students submit a research paper (10 pages double spaced). Students are expected to show original thinking and independent analysis of the issues in question. A separate guide is circulated in class.

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Finally, several extra credit opportunities are given in class without prior announcements.

Grading

The final grade shall be determined as follows:

Class participation	10%
Midterm exams	40% (20% + 20%)
Critique paper	10%
Final exam	40%

Primary Texts

- Lieberthal, Kenneth (2004) *Governing China: from Revolution through Reform*. New York: W.W. Norton & Company.
- Fewsmith, Joseph (2008) *China since Tiananmen: From Deng Xiaoping to Hu Jintao* (2nd edition). New York: Cambridge University Press.
- Gries, Peter, and Stanley Rosen, eds. (2010) *Chinese Politics: State, Society and the Market*. New York: Routledge.
- Chen, Jie, and Bruce J. Dickson (2010) *Allies of the State: China's Private Entrepreneurs and Democratic Change*. Harvard University Press.
- Heilmann, Sebastian, and Elizabeth J. Perry, eds. (2011) *Mao's Invisible Hand: The Political Foundations of Adaptive Governance*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press.
- Shambaugh, David (2009) *China's Communist Party: Atrophy and Adaptation*. CA: University of California Press.
- Yang, Dali L. (2004) *Remaking the Chinese Leviathan: Market Transition and the Politics of Governance in China*. Stanford, CA: Stanford University Press.

Supplementary Texts

Some other readings from academic journals are provided regularly throughout the course.

Outline of Course Content

Note: Fall/Spring students cover approximately 1 topic per week. During the summer, when class periods are longer, students cover approximately 2 topics per week.

Part I: An Overview

Topic 1 – Introduction; the legacies of imperial China and the Republican Era

- 1) Five key components of the imperial system
- 2) The Yan'an period (1935-1947) and legacies of the CCP's path to power.

Topic 2 – The Maoist system and the Maoist era

- 1) "Mao Zedong Thought"
- 2) The Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution

Topic 3 – Deng Xiaoping's contributions and legacies

- 1) Launching the reform and opening up
- 2) Raising the "four cardinal principles"
- 3) The student movement in 1989
- 4) The "Southern Tour" in early 1992

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Topic 4 – China under Jiang Zemin and Hu Jintao

- 1) The Jiang Zemin era (mid-1990s to 2003)
- 2) The Hu Jintao Era (from 2003 to 2012)

Part II: The Political System

Topic 5 – The view from the outside

- 1) Formal organizational structure
- 2) Operational dynamics of the political system

Topic 6 – The view from the inside

- 1) The top 25 to 35
- 2) Configuration of political power
- 3) Party control of the government

Part III: The Transformation of the Chinese State

Topic 7 – State transformation in its structure.

- 1) The remaking of the administrative state
- 2) The smuggling crisis and the leveling of the economic playing field

Topic 8 – State transformation in its modes of governance.

- 1) Importing Western modes of governance
- 2) Guerrilla policy style and adaptive governance

Part IV: The Party's Strategies for Survival

Topic 9 – Toward lessons for longevity.

- 1) Lessons from the collapse of Communist parties in the former Soviet Bloc
- 2) Lessons from non-Communist states

Topic 10 – Rebuilding the Party

- 1) The organizational dimension
- 2) The ideological dimension: the Party and private entrepreneurs

Part IV: The Future of China

Topic 11 – Debates over the prospects for democracy in China

- 1) Pessimists
- 2) Optimists