OVERVIEW

The goal of this seminar is to introduce students to the government and politics of the Peoples Republic of China (PRC). This seminar is essentially a reading and writing course that identifies the formal political structures and processes of governance of the Peoples Republic of China. This seminar explores the origins of the PRC by situating processes of governance in their proper historical, geographical and cultural contexts, by examining China’s political ascendance, decline and re-emergence as a powerful nation state. Metaphors of the Silk Road and the Great Game are used to examine and explain responses by Western governments to the re-emergence of China as an important global economy. We also study the role of globalization in political, economic and social change.

OBJECTIVES

Students acquire and demonstrate knowledge of the evolution of contemporary governance and politics of the Peoples Republic of China. The course objectives: (1) to impart knowledge of key issues that determine governance structures and processes; (2) to inform students of the geographic, cultural, demographic, economic, and political characteristics of the PRC; (3) and to explain the PRC’s importance to the Asian region and its centrality, if not growing dominance, in world politics. Thereby, this course will enhance students’ awareness of issues and problems attendant upon China’s re-emergence as a world power and serve to demystify western views of China’s role and place in the world. Students will acquire and demonstrate knowledge of the PRC by means of reading assignments, lectures, class discussion, films, and the development of an abstract, annotated bibliography and issue paper.

Required Texts


Course Packet: On Reserve at Founders Library

Goldstein, Melvyn C. The Snow Lion and the Dragon, China Tibet and the Dali Lama. 1999.

Films

Warriors of Heaven and Earth (2004) Ping He
Still Life (2006) Zhang Yimou
To Live (1994) Zhang Yimou
The Story of Qiu Ju Zhang Yimou, 2002
Recommended
Veeck, Gregory, Smith Christopher, Panell, Clifton and Huang Youqin. 2006 China’s Geography: Globalization and the Dynamics of Political, Economic and Social Change.

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES AND COURSE GRADING
This is a reading and writing seminar on China. Students must read each set of assignments prior to class and attend all class sessions. Class sessions will open with a STUDENT LEAD discussion of the current reading assignment. Student performance will be assessed on the basis of 3 short papers (pages each), 2 film synopses (3 pages), and an issue/term paper (15-20-pages for undergraduate students and minimum of 30 pages for graduate students). Each student must meet with the instructor to identify and discuss a issue paper topic.

   *2 Short Papers 100 points @ each = 20%
   3 Film summaries 100 points each = 30%
   Issue Paper 100 points @ 50%
   Total Possible Points = 100

   THIS IS MEANT TO BE A CHALLENGING COURSE as well as a memorable and fun one. This course challenges and encourages each student to think, process information, analyze concepts, and formulate arguments. The simple regurgitation of material, no matter how precise, is not sufficient for a grade better than passing--C. The grading system is not amenable to curve, compromise, or plea bargaining. To earn grades of B and better, students must be thoroughly knowledgeable of all assigned materials (reading all materials more than once), participate actively and intelligently (cross referencing arguments--citing concepts, positions, and authorship to support propositions or questions), and accumulate a minimum total of 70 points at the conclusion of the course (where 83-92 points = B and 93-100 points = A). Students who accumulate a total of 82-70 points will earn the grade of C, 69-60 points earns a D and 59 or fewer points F.

NOTE: THE DUE DATES FOR ALL WRITING ASSIGNMENTS ARE GIVEN IN THIS SYLLABUS. IN ACCORDANCE WITH UNIVERSITY POLICY, YOU MUST ATTEND CLASS AND SUBMIT ASSIGNMENTS ON THESE DATES. PAPERS MAY BE SUBMITTED PRIOR TO THE DUE DATES BUT NO LATE PAPERS WILL BE ACCEPTED. STUDENTS WHO DO NOT SUBMIT ASSIGNMENTS BY THE SPECIFIED DUE DATES HEREIN EARN 0 POINTS FOR THE ACTIVITY.

Grades of Incomplete will be given only when legitimate reasons exist and they also require an "incomplete contract", in accordance with University policy.

* Indicates undergraduate assignment.
ASSIGNMENTS

Aug. 25 Course Introduction and Logistics. What is China? Why study China?

UNIT I: CHINA IN SOCIO-CULTURAL PERSPECTIVE
Sept. 1 Reading Day. NO CLASS
Introduction to the Peoples Republic of China and Power and Authority in China

Sept. 8 Reading Day. NO CLASS

FOCUS: CHINA’S POLITICS IN HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE
Sept. 15 Lashley, Zheng He and Ray Wang, Chapters, 1-4, p. 3-41.
772 Only: In Class Short Paper #1

Sept. 22 Huang, Chapters, 5-8, p. 41-97.
772 Only: View Film, Warriors of Heaven and Earth, (2004) Ping He

772 Only: Due: Film Synopsis #1 (Undergrad assignment)

Oct. 6 Due: Film Synopsis #2

772 Only: In Class: Short Paper #2

UNIT II: A CLOSER LOOK AT THE EVOLUTION OF CONTEMPORARY CHINA
Recommended: Film: To Live (1994) Zhang Yimou

Oct. 27 Ethnicity and Identity in China.
Read: Tibet Controversy. Goldstein, Melvyn C. The Snow Lion and the Dragon, China Tibet and the Dali Lama. All.
772 Only: View Film: Thurman on Tibet


Nov. 10 Reading Assignment: Siach, Chapters 3-4, p. 56-106. Graduate students’ suggested additional reading: Dru Gladney, Representing Nationality in China; David Wu Culture Change and Identity
Among Minorities in China; and Yee, Herbert S. *Ethnic Consciousness and Identity* and for graduate students Wenfang Tang and Gaochao He, *Separate but Loyal: Ethnicity and Nationalism in China* in Policy Studies, No. 56 East-West Center (online PDF)

**UNIT III: CHALLENGES: GOVERNANCE AND POLITICS FACING CHINA TODAY**

**Nov. 17**
Due Draft of paper (optional, strongly recommended)
Saich Chapters 5-9, p. 107-240

**Dec. 1**
Class Discussion: The Chinese State: Structures of Governance, Public Policy in China, Saich, Chapter 10-12, p. 241-314 and Wu, Guoguang, From Post-imperial to Late Communist Nationalism. Q and A re issue term papers.

**Dec. 6**
DUE 12 PM SHARP
Final Paper