POLITICS OF CHINA
Political Science 342, WINTER 2015, 4 credits
Tuesday and Thursday, 12:00-1:20PM, 117 GSH

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This course offers a general introduction to the politics of contemporary China. After background on the imperial and Republican periods and the development of the Communist revolution, we will focus on major political events in the People’s Republic: land reform, Hundred Flowers Campaign, Great Leap Forward, Cultural Revolution, Democracy Wall, post-Mao reforms, Tiananmen Uprisings, Beijing Olympics, etc. Then we proceed to a thematic discussion of popular participation and protest, state control, the emergence of civil society groups, and major challenges facing contemporary China. The basic objectives of this course are to provide a working knowledge of Chinese politics and to encourage a critical evaluation of the positive and negative aspects of China’s socialist experiment.

REQUIREMENTS AND EVALUATION
All books are available at the UO bookstore and other course readings will be on the Blackboard (http://blackboard.uoregon.edu/) and through the library E-reserves. Copies of the required books are also on reserve at the Knight Library.

REQUIRED:


For those students seeking further background in Chinese history or politics, two additional textbooks are highly recommended: Origins of the Chinese Revolution, 1915-49 (Lucian Bianco) and Mao’s China and After (Maurice Meisner). Together, these books provide an overview of China from the end of the Qing Dynasty up to current political events. For those seeking background in China’s dynastic history I would highly recommend Jonathan Spence’s The Search for Modern China. For those interested in keeping up with contemporary events in China, see the China Digital Times, available at: http://chinadigitaltimes.net/.

Expectations
I have high expectations of my students. This course integrates lectures, in-class discussion and a heavy dose of reading. Throughout the term I expect you to come to class having read thoroughly and critically, and ready to demonstrate an understanding of the material. During class I expect you to actively participate in discussions, which includes making contributions and being a good listener (responding to other students, asking questions of them, and listening attentively). I expect each of you to participate in classroom discussions and will feel free to call on you, even when you do not volunteer.

Your attendance is essential to your learning and to the success of the course. Students are expected to attend all class sessions and to submit work on a timely basis, unless documentation is given excusing an absence or late submission for medical, religious or personal reasons, or for official university business. Students must notify me as soon as possible (preferably, in advance) of the reason for the absence.
Assignments are due at the beginning of class. An assignment is a day late if you bring it in after class. Late assignments are marked down one grade per day (that is, a B becomes a C after one day).

Please check your UO email and the course Blackboard daily. I will frequently send you information regarding lectures, links to additional readings, questions to help guide discussion, and other important course-related messages. When you e-mail the GTFs and me regarding course matters, please include “PS 342” and your name in the subject line.

Learning Goals
The basic objectives of this course are to provide a working knowledge of Chinese politics and to encourage a critical evaluation of the positive and negative aspects of China’s socialist experiment. Students will learn to analyze political issues and phenomena related to contemporary China by using political science concepts, theories, and methodologies.

Evaluation
Your grade will have four components:

1. Map quiz (5%) A map quiz of China is scheduled for Jan. 15
2. Quizzes (15%) Three to four classes will begin with unannounced quizzes, which will cover readings since the previous quiz. There will be no make-ups for missed quizzes. Your grade will include only your top two or three scores, so missing one will not affect your grade. Those taking all quizzes will have their lowest score dropped.
3. Midterm exam (40%) The midterm will include essay, short-answer and ID sections and is scheduled for Feb. 05
4. Final exam (40%) The final will include essay, short-answer and ID sections and is scheduled for 8:00am Thursday, Mar. 19

Academic Integrity
Any form of plagiarism or cheating will not be tolerated and students will receive a zero on the assignment. Plagiarism, or academic theft, is passing off someone else’s work as your own. When you hand in an assignment, make sure that everything in it is your own work and that you have made the appropriate references where necessary. Please review the following UO websites for clarification:
http://libweb.uoregon.edu/guides/plagiarism/students/
http://studentlife.uoregon.edu/StudentConductandCommunityStandards/ConductCode/tabid/69/Default.aspx

Special Needs
The University of Oregon is working to create inclusive learning environments. If there are aspects of the instruction or design of this course that result in disability related barriers to your participation, please notify me as soon as possible. You may also wish to contact Disability Services in 164 Oregon Hall at 346-1155 or disabsrv@uoregon.edu

Classroom Etiquette
Laptops — You may bring your laptops to class for taking notes. However, please refrain from sending emails, messaging, playing games and surfing the Net (including social networking sites) during lecture.

Cell phones — Please remember to silence your cell phone before class. If you need to take an important call or make a text please leave the room so as not to disrupt the classroom environment.
Respect — I expect our discussions to be lively affairs. Please treat everyone in the class with respect. When participating in a discussion, listen with an open mind and speak with prudence. Stay focused on the ideas being offered, and never make ad hominem arguments or other personal attacks.

LECTURES AND READINGS

**Week 1: HISTORICAL LEGACIES**
Tuesday, Jan. 06 — no reading

Thursday, Jan. 08 — The Fall of Imperial China and National Disintegration – Is revolutionary necessary? Is revolution inevitable?
   Lieberthal, *Governing China*, 1–39
   SUN Yat-Sen, “The Three Principles of the People” 1924 (Blackboard)

**Week 2: THE COMMUNIST RISE TO POWER – From May 4th to Marxism**
Tuesday, Jan. 13 — “Revolution is not a dinner party.”
   Lieberthal, *Governing China*, 39–56

Thursday, Jan. 15 — Marx, Lenin and Mao
   Lieberthal, *Governing China*, 59-83
   **In-class MAP QUIZ**

**Week 3: MAOIST-ERA POLITICS, 1949–76**
Tuesday, Jan. 20 — Land Reform, Hundred Flowers Campaign, Great Leap Forward
   Lieberthal, *Governing China*, 84–122
   Chan et al., *Chen Village* 13-40

Thursday, Jan. 22 — The Cultural Revolution and the Chen Village: A Case Study of Rural China
   Chan et al., *Chen Village* 74–102
   **PREVIEW Cultural Revolution Discussion Questions Handout** (Blackboard)

**Week 4: THE END OF THE REVOLUTIONARY ROAD**
Tuesday, Jan. 27 — The Cultural Revolution
   Chan et al., *Chen Village*, 103–168

Thursday, Jan. 29 — The Cultural Revolution and the Chen Village: A Case Study of Rural China
   Chan et al., *Chen Village*, 169–212
   Film: Portions of *Morning Sun*
   Debate: Assessing Mao

**Week 5: CHINESE FOREIGN POLICY**
Tuesday, Feb. 03 — Nixon in China and The Shanghai Communiqué (and review)
   Chen et al., *Chen Village*, 236-266.

Thursday, Feb. 05 — **In-class midterm examination**

**Week 6: “OPENING AND REFORM”**
Tuesday, Feb. 10 — A New Blueprint for China
Chen et al., *Chen Village*, 267–329

**Recommended:**

Thursday, Feb. 12 — Accountability, Rule of Law and Policymaking – Are Chinese political elites accountable?
Lieberthal, *Governing China*, 295

**Week 7: “CROSSING THE RIVER BY FEELING THE STONES”**
Tuesday, Feb. 17 — CIVIL SOCIETY AND THE MIDDLE CLASS – What are the political implications of an emerging civil society and middle class? Is China moving toward democracy?

Chen et al., *Chen Village*, 354-375.

Thursday, Feb. 19 — Village Elections – Is China Democratic?
Portions of film *Please Vote for Me*

**Week 8: RELIGIOUS REVIVALS AND MINORITY TENSIONS**
Tuesday, Feb. 24 — Religion – How does an atheist state manage and monitor religion?

**Recommended:**

Thursday, Feb. 26 — Minorities

**Recommended:**


**Week 9: SOCIAL UNREST AND PROTEST**

Tuesday, Mar. 03 — Environmental Challenges – What are the most pressing environmental concerns in China today? Will the environment be China’s Achilles’ heel?


Liberthal, Governing China, 273–88


Thursday, Mar. 05 — Resistance and Control – Why are ordinary Chinese taking to the streets and what are they angry about?


**Recommended:**


**Week 10: RESILIENT AUTHORITARIANISM**

Tuesday, Mar. 10 — The Internet and Censorship – How does the Chinese government control information?


**Recommended:**

Evgeny Morozov, “Why the KGB wants you to join Facebook,” In The Net Delusion: The Darkside of Internet Freedom (New York: Public Affairs, 2011), 143-178. (Blackboard)


Thursday, Mar. 12 — Was the Chinese Socialist experiment a success? (and review)


Liberthal, Governing China, 315-336

**Recommended:**


**Final Examination -- 8:00am Thursday, Mar. 19**