

Chinese Politics

This lecture course introduces students to the politics of the People's Republic of China. Complementing offerings in other departments, the course emphasizes events in the period since the Chinese Communist Party established its regime in 1949. No previous knowledge of China's history, culture, or language is required. Any student willing to invest time in the reading and in attending lectures should be able to grasp the major themes of the course.

The semester begins with a brief review of China's political history before 1949 in order to establish the necessary foundation for understanding the significance of subsequent events. After this survey, we analyze the ways in which the Communist Party set out to reorganize China after the revolution, the consequences of these efforts (spectacular achievements as well as breathtaking failures), and the debates provoked within the elite and among the general population. We also assess the prospects of the communist regime in China. On the one hand, the regime is identified with the benefits of bold and successful economic reforms implemented since 1978. On the other hand, it is also identified with the sometimes disastrous costs of policies it put in place in the 1950s and 1960s, as well as serious political and social problems that have accompanied the benefits of reform and provoked occasional popular resistance, most notably the upheaval and tragedy of 1989.

Although the principal focus is on the domestic politics of the PRC, the course also examines China's international relations. It includes: (1) analysis of the century-long period of domestic turmoil and revolution before 1949 when the country was largely at the mercy of foreign powers; (2) brief lectures about China's approach to coping with the dangers it faced during the Cold War era dominated by two sometimes hostile superpowers; and, (3) more extended consideration of China's role in the current era during which many argue that China is emerging as one of the world's great powers whose foreign policy will be a major influence on international peace and security in the 21st century.

Course Requirements:

Required readings are listed in **bold** below the topics we will cover.

I also include some optional, recommended readings for those interested in supplementary background material. These appear in italics and include: (1) one of the best comprehensive histories of China (*Search for Modern China*), a helpful reference source to clarify some of the details omitted in the other readings or lectures; (2) an account of one young person's Cultural Revolution experience and its impact on his life (*Son of the Revolution*); (3) a study of one village and its experiences with life under the communist regime, mainly prior to the reforms implemented beginning in 1978 (*Chen Village*).

Grading:

There will be a map quiz, a take-home midterm essay, an in-class midterm exam, and a final exam. The exams are designed to assess the student's mastery of material presented in readings *and* lectures. Students will also be expected to be participate in a weekly recitation where there will be ample opportunity to discuss the lectures and readings, and to raise questions for clarification.

Map quiz: requires students to know the major features of China's political geography relevant to understanding the course material. The content of the quiz will be announced in advance; the quiz will be given in recitation.

Take-home midterm essay: this is not a research paper and in writing it you need only draw on the readings and lectures for this course. Topic distributed Tuesday, September 27; essay due Tuesday, October 4.

In-class midterm exam: Tuesday, October 25

Final exam: Thursday, December 15, 12-2pm

Your grade for the semester is based on the following: take-home midterm essay (25%); in-class midterm exam (25%), final exam (40%), recitation (10%, including map quiz).

Course Materials:

The Books for this course are available for purchase at the University of Pennsylvania bookstore.

Required

Bianco, Lucien. *Origins of the Chinese Revolution*
Chen Jo-hsi *The Execution of Mayor Yin*
Goldstein, Avery *Rising to the Challenge*
Kristof, Nicholas and Sheryl WuDunn. *China Wakes*
Lieberthal, Kenneth. *Governing China* (2nd edition)

Recommended only:

Spence, Jonathan. *Search for Modern China*
Liang Heng and Judith Shapiro. *Son of the Revolution*
Chan, Anita, Richard Madsen, and Jonathan Unger. *Chen Village*

A **Website** for the class is accessed through <http://courseweb.upenn.edu/> I will post topics to be covered in each lecture, course announcements, supplemental materials, and links to useful resources available online.

Schedule of Course Topics

The Chinese Revolution

- I. The Decline of Imperial China
- II. Republican Revolution
- III. Communist Revolution

The People's Republic of China

- I. The Maoist Era: Conventional Communist Dictatorship (1949-1965)
 - A. Consolidation and Transformation (1949-1955)
 - B. Hundred Flowers and Great Leaps (1956-1965)
 - C. Foreign Policy: Sino-Soviet Alliance (1950-1959)
- II. The Maoist Era: Revolutionary Socialist Experiment (1966-1978)
 - A. Cultural Revolution (1966-1969)
 - B. Foreign Policy: Revolutionary Independence (1960-1968)
 - C. Stalemate and Succession (1970-1978)
 - D. Foreign Policy: Sino-American Rapprochement (1969-1982)
- III. The Reform Era (1979-)
 - A. Economic Reforms
 1. Enlivening the Domestic Economy
 - Agriculture
 - Industry
 2. Opening to the Outside
 - Foreign Trade & Investment
 - B. Political Reforms
 1. New Authoritarianism
 2. Tiananmen Crisis
 - C. Foreign Policy: Nationalist Independence (1983-)
 1. China's Rise in a Changing World
 2. China's Grand Strategy
 3. China's International Relations in the 21st Century
 - D. Recent Developments and Prospects for the Future

Lecture Schedule and Reading Assignments

(dates are best estimates)

The Chinese Revolution

I. The Decline of Imperial China (Sept. 13)

Lieberthal, K. *Governing China*, pp. 3-26

Spence, J. The Search for Modern China, pp. 1-242

II. Republican Revolution (Sept. 15)

Bianco, L. *Origins of the Chinese Revolution*, pp. 1-52

Lieberthal, K. *Governing China*, pp. 26-39

Spence, J. The Search for Modern China, pp. 243-289

III. Communist Revolution (Sept. 20, Sept. 22)

Bianco, L. *Origins of the Chinese Revolution*, pp. 53-208

Lieberthal, K. *Governing China*, pp. 39-56

Spence, J. The Search for Modern China, pp. 290-488

Take-home Midterm Essay Topic Distributed September 27

(Essay Due October 4)

The People's Republic of China

I. The Maoist Era: Conventional Communist Dictatorship (1949-1965)

A. Consolidation and Transformation, 1949-1955 (Sept. 27)

Lieberthal, K. *Governing China*, pp. 59-98

Spence, J. The Search for Modern China, pp. 489-536

B. Hundred Flowers and Great Leaps, 1956-1965 (Sept. 29, Oct. 4)

Lieberthal, K. *Governing China*, pp. 99-112

Chan, Madsen, Unger. Chen Village, pp. 1-102

Liang and Shapiro. Son of the Revolution, pp. 1-39

Spence, J. The Search for Modern China, pp. 536-564

C. Foreign Policy: Sino-Soviet Alliance, 1950-1959 (Oct. 6)

II. The Maoist Era: Revolutionary Socialist Experiment (1966-1978)

A. Cultural Revolution, 1966-1969 (Oct. 11)

Lieberthal, K. *Governing China*, pp. 112-116

Chen Jo-hsi *Execution of Mayor Yin*, pp. 3-33

Chan, Madsen, Unger. Chen Village, pp. 103-168

Liang and Shapiro. Son of the Revolution, pp. 40-175

Spence, J. The Search for Modern China, pp. 565-586

B. Foreign Policy: Revolutionary Independence, 1960-1968 (Oct. 13)

C. Stalemate and Succession, 1970-1978 (Oct. 20)

Lieberthal, K. *Governing China*, pp. 116-122

Chen Jo-hsi *Execution of Mayor Yin*, pp. 34-61, 139-190

Liang and Shapiro. Son of the Revolution, pp. 176-258

Chan, Madsen, Unger. Chen Village, pp. 169-264

Spence, J. The Search for Modern China, pp. 589-646

Midterm Exam
Tuesday, October 25

D. Foreign Policy: Sino-American Rapprochement, 1969-1982
(Oct. 27)

Chen Jo-hsi *Execution of Mayor Yin*, pp. 191-202

II. The Reform Era (1979-

A. Economic Reforms

- 1. Enlivening the Domestic Economy** (Nov. 1, 3)
- 2. Opening to the Outside** (Nov. 8)

Lieberthal, K. *Governing China*, pp. 123-140, 245-288

Kristof and WuDunn. *China Wakes*, chapters 1-6

Chan, Madsen, Unger. Chen Village, pp. 265-284

B. Political Reforms

- 1. New Authoritarianism** (Nov. 10, 15)
- 2. Tiananmen Crisis** (Nov. 17)

Lieberthal, K. *Governing China*, pp. 140-167, 171-242, 289-326

Kristof and WuDunn, *China Wakes*, chapters 7-12

Nathan, Andrew J. "The Tiananmen Papers (secret documents on Chinese reaction to student demonstrations of 1989)"

Foreign Affairs (Jan-Feb 2001), Vol. 80, No. 1, pp. 2-48.

Available on course website or through Penn's library website, E-Resources.

Liang and Shapiro, Son of the Revolution, pp. 268-292

C. Foreign Policy: Nationalist Independence, 1990-

- 1. China's Rise in a Changing World** (Nov. 22)

Goldstein, A. *Rising to the Challenge*, pp. 1-48

(recommended but not required, pp. 49-81)

2. China's Grand Strategy (Nov. 29)

Goldstein, A. *Rising to the Challenge*, pp. 81-135

3. China's International Relations in the 21st Century (Dec. 1)

Goldstein, A. *Rising to the Challenge*, pp. 136-176

D. Recent Developments and Prospects for the Future (Dec. 6, 8)

Lieberthal, K. *Governing China*, pp. 326-336

Goldstein, A. *Rising to the Challenge*, pp. 177-219

Kristof and WuDunn. China Wakes, chapters 13-16