

CHINESE POLITICS

Political Science 3352, Fall 2019

M 6:30–9:20pm, Dallas Hall 102

Web page: <http://canvas.smu.edu>

Professor Hiroki Takeuchi
Department of Political Science
Office: 211 Collins Hall
Email: htakeuch@smu.edu

Office hours:
MWF 2:00–3:00pm
and by appointment

Course Description and Objectives

This course offers a general introduction to the politics of contemporary China. Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- (1) understand Chinese political history since the establishment of the People's Republic of China (PRC) in 1949;
- (2) analyze some of the major challenges confronting the PRC today; and
- (3) to critically evaluate the positive and negative aspects of China's socialist experiment by using a working knowledge of Chinese politics.

Throughout the course, efforts will be made to integrate historical materials with the study of specific political issues and analytical concepts. We begin in Part I by reviewing historical background of current China, covering the 1949 communist revolution, socialist transformation, the Great Leap Forward, and the Cultural Revolution. Part II then examines China's post-Mao economic reforms in various aspects, including agriculture, industry, and international political economy. Part III discusses the buildup of internal political and socio-economic tensions throughout the post-Mao reform that promises to bedevil the Chinese leadership well into the 21st century.

For those lacking sufficient previous knowledge of Chinese history, I would highly recommend Jonathan Spence, *The Search for Modern China* (New York: W. W. Norton, 1990), or William T. Rowe, "Approaches to Modern Chinese Social History," in Oliver Zunz, ed., *Reliving the Past: The Worlds of Social History* (Chapel Hill, NC: University of North Carolina Press, 1985), pp. 236-96. Spence is particularly strong on intellectual history and foreign relations, and writes gracefully. Rowe provides a fine summary of the state of the field on the large questions in Chinese history: e.g., when feudalism ended; why capitalism did not develop; oriental despotism or local autonomy; administrative units or macro regions. **No prior knowledge of Chinese politics or history will be assumed.**

Course Requirements

1. Attendance and participation (20% of a student's course grade): Attendance at lecture and participation in discussion are mandatory. The readings vary in length and difficulty but

average about 100–150 pages per week. You are expected to attend all the lectures and do the required readings. Come to class **prepared and ready to participate** in discussing the material assigned in the readings. Most importantly, *students are required to turn in a **memo** by **emailing** it to the instructor by **Tuesday at 5pm***. An unexcused absence will adversely affect your course grade, as will being present but unprepared to participate, or participating without being prepared.

After two unexcused absences, I may drop you from the course or give an FA (F for attendance) to your course grade. An excused absence is almost exclusively restricted to religious reasons, certain university activities, documented medical conditions, or documented family emergencies. Absences for religious reasons or for university extracurricular activities require communication with me at the **beginning** of the semester. It is **your** responsibility to make arrangements with me **prior** to any missed scheduled examination or other missed assignment for making up the work.

Ultimately your attendance and participation grade turns on **my** impression of how seriously you take this course. It is **your** responsibility to take this course seriously and let me know that. How? Attend class; be prepared for class—read the assignments for understanding, be ready to ask and answer questions, take an informed role in discussions, and most importantly, write a good memo; **arrive early** to class; remain for the entire class; *be attentive in class without distracting me or your classmates with smart phones, text messages, side conversations, bathroom trips, coming-and-going, and so forth*; complete assignments when due; and demonstrate your understanding on the essays and other assignments. Laptops, cell phones, iPhones, and any other *electronic devices may not be used in class—not even for note-taking*.

Students are expected to do the assigned reading **before** class; to have read **actively**, comparing what they are reading with what they already know through other readings in this class or other classes to join class discussions.

2. **Two Take-home midterms** (15% each): The first take-home midterm will be made available on Sep. 25 and **due Oct. 2**, and the second take-home midterm will be made available on Oct. 23 and **due Oct. 30**. The exam is open book and open notes and will require 7 pages or longer (typed, double-spaced, 12-point font) of writing. No extensions will be granted except in the case of a serious illness or a death in the family. **Please plan to finish the assignment prior to the due date, and leave adequate time to work out any computer or printer problems that may arise.**
3. **Research paper** (35%): Each student will be required to write a 15-page research paper (typed, double-spaced, and 12-point font) on a controversial issue in Chinese politics. Topics and readings for the paper should be developed in close consultation with the course instructor. *Each paper must be re-written, taking into account criticism of your first draft.* Each student is required to meet the following due dates:

Paper topic / question	Sep. 11
Progress report	Oct. 9

First draft	Nov. 13
Final draft	Dec. 4

Each research paper will be evaluated based on the final draft. However, *the paper will not be graded and given an F if you have not turned in the first draft or some of the previous assignments.* Moreover, if you turn in the first draft late, your research paper grade will be marked down with 20%. *A paper written without close consultation with the instructor will not be graded and given an F.* If you receive an F for the research paper, you will also receive an F for your course grade. **Late papers will not be accepted.** More detailed information on this assignment will be posted on the course web site.

4. Take-home final (15%): The take-home final will be made available on Dec. 4 and **due Dec. 18 at 9:30pm by email.** It will cover material from the entire semester but mainly from Parts III. The exam is open book and open notes and will require 7 pages or longer (typed, double-spaced, 12-point font) of writing. **Late assignments will not be accepted.** Incompletes will be granted only in circumstances beyond your control: e.g., illness or family emergencies.

Each of you must meet with Professor Takeuchi for 20 minutes in the first weeks of the semester. Sign up for an appointment time during the first day in class. Be punctual.

Disability Accommodations

If you need academic accommodations for a disability, it is **your** responsibility to first contact and register with Disability Accommodations & Success Strategies (DASS) at 214-768-1470 or <http://www.smu.edu/Provost/ALEC/DASS> to begin the process. Once registered, students should then schedule an appointment with the professor as early in the semester as possible, present a DASS Accommodation Letter, and make appropriate arrangements. Please note that accommodations are not retroactive and require advance notice to implement.

Religious Observance

If you wish to be absent on religiously observed holidays that require missing class, you should notify me in **writing** at the **beginning** of the semester, and should discuss with them, **in advance**, acceptable ways of making up any work missed because of the absence.

Excused Absences for University Extracurricular Activities

If you participate in an officially sanctioned, scheduled University extracurricular activity, you will be given the opportunity to make up class assignments or other graded assignments missed as a result of your participation. It is **your** responsibility to make arrangements with me prior to any missed scheduled examination or other missed assignment for making up the work.

Books and Readings

The following books are available for purchase at the bookstore. There may be changes in the readings and assignments below.

Elizabeth C. Economy, *The Third Revolution: Xi Jinping and the New Chinese State* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2018).

Yukon Huang, *Cracking the China Conundrum: Why Conventional Economic Wisdom Is Wrong* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2017).

Barry Naughton, *The Chinese Economy: Adaptation and Growth*, second edition (Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, 2018).

Andrew G. Walder, *China Under Mao: A Revolution Derailed* (Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 2015).

Schedule and Reading Assignments

Readings provide background on topics covered in class lectures and discussions, so read the assignment **before** the class for which they are assigned. Because the course will make frequent reference to current events, you should make a habit of *reading a respectable newspaper on a regular basis* and pay attention to the events in China.

1. NO CLASS (Aug. 28)

2. Introduction (Sep. 4)

Naughton, chapters 1–3 (pp. 1–64)

Walder, chapters 1–2 (pp. 1–39)

You are required to watch the documentary film, *China: A Century of Revolution 1: China in Revolution* (available at the Fondren Library Center AV Collection: call number IDD 02678 & 02679; also available at You Tube, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I5cl0GjPjy4>) by Sep. 3.

I. Politics and Economics in the Maoist Era

3. Communist Revolution and Socialist Transformation (Sep. 11)

Naughton, chapter 4 (pp. 65–93)

Walder, chapters 3–7 (pp. 40–151)

You are required to watch the documentary film, *China: A Century of Revolution 2: The Mao Years* (available at the Fondren Library Center AV Collection: call number IDD 03575; also available at You Tube, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GMaXSKH2w3c>) by Sep. 10.

RESEARCH PAPER TOPIC AND QUESTION DUE SEP. 11.

4. Great Leap Forward and Early Cultural Revolution (Sep. 18)

Walder, chapters 8–11 (pp. 152–262)

In preparation for the class discussion, you are required to watch the movie, *The Blue Kite* (available at the Fondren Library Center AV Collection: call number IDD 02676; also available at You Tube, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BCKlm7iPUhk>) by Sep. 17.

Recommended Film: *Morning Sun* (available at the Fondren Library Center AV Collection: call number IDD 02813).

5. Late Cultural Revolution and Mao's Legacies (Sep. 25)

Naughton, chapters 5–6 (pp. 95–152)

Walder, chapters 12–14 (pp. 263–344)

In preparation for the class discussion on legacies of the Maoist period, you are required to watch the documentary film, *China: A Century of Revolution 3: Born under the Red Flag* (available at the Fondren Library Center AV Collection: call number IDD 06356; also available at You Tube, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qsmJXJcvG3g>) by Sep. 24.

Recommended Film: *Farewell My Concubine* (available at the Fondren Library Center AV Collection: call number IDD 00223).

6. Film, *To Live* (Oct. 2)

The first midterm distributed on Sep. 25 and due at the start of class on Oct. 2.

II. Post-Mao Economic Reform

7. Patterns of Growth and Macroeconomic Development (Oct. 9)

Naughton, chapters 7–10 (pp. 155–256)

RESEARCH PAPER PROGRESS REPORT DUE OCT. 9

8. Rural and Urban Reforms: Agricultural and Industrial Development (Oct. 16)

Naughton, chapters 11–15 (pp. 259–394)

Recommended Films: *Not One Less* (available at the Fondren Library Center AV Collection: call number IDD 00304); *Shower* (available at the Fondren Library Center AV Collection: call number IDD 01526).

9. China's Future and the World Economy (Oct. 23)

Naughton, chapters 16–17 & 19–21 (pp. 397–449 & 479–569)

Recommended Films: *Mardi Gras: Made in China* (available at the Fondren Library Center AV Collection: call number IDD 02113); *China Blue* (available at the Fondren Library Center AV Collection: call number IDD 04489)

10. Discussion (Oct. 30)

The second midterm distributed on Oct. 23 and due at the start of class on Oct. 30.

III. Where Will Xi Jinping Bring China?

11–12. Xi Jinping and the Chinese State (Nov. 6 & 13)

Economy, entire (250 pages)

RESEARCH PAPER FIRST DRAFT DUE NOV. 13

13–14. Cracking the China Conundrum (Nov. 20 & Dec. 4)

Huang, entire (200 pages)

RESEARCH PAPER FINAL DRAFT DUE DEC. 4

TAKE-HOME FINAL – Distributed on Dec. 4 and due on Dec. 18, 9:30pm, by email