

CHINESE POLITICS

Political Science 3352, Fall 2015
TuTh 12:30–1:50pm, Hyer Hall 200
Web page: <http://courses.smu.edu>

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

Office hours:
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 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 **Wednesday at 5pm before class***. An unexcused absence will adversely affect your course grade, as will being present but unprepared to participate, or participating without being prepared.

After four 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 cell 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***.

The course is designed, and will be conducted, like a graduate seminar. How well this course achieves its goals will depend on students' participation. 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. 24 and due Oct. 1, and the second take-home midterm will be made available on Oct. 22 and due Oct. 29. The exam is open book and open notes and will require no more than 7 pages (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 10–15 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. 1
Progress report	Oct. 8
First draft	Nov. 5
Final draft	Dec. 3

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. 14 at 5:00pm 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 no more than 7 pages (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 Disability Accommodations & Success Strategies (DASS) at 214-768-1470 or www.smu.edu/alec/dass.asp to verify the disability and establish eligibility for accommodations. You should then schedule an appointment with me to make appropriate arrangements. (See University Policy No. 2.4)

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 me, **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. This course requires use of the Blackboard.

Anita Chan, Richard Madsen, and Jonathan Unger, *Chen Village under Mao and Deng*, third edition (Berkeley: University of California Press, 2009).

Thomas J. Christensen, *The China Challenge: Shaping the Choices of a Rising Power* (New York: W. W. Norton, 2015).

Roderick MacFarquhar, ed., *The Politics of China: Sixty Years of the People's Republic of China*, third edition (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2011).

Barry Naughton, *The Chinese Economy: Transitions and Growth* (Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, 2007).

Sheila A. Smith, *Intimate Rivals: Japanese Domestic Politics and a Rising China* (New York: Columbia University Press, 2015).

Teresa Wright, *Party and State in Post-Mao China* (Malden, MA: Polity 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. Readings marked with an asterisk (*) are available electronically on the course webpage at the Blackboard (<http://courses.smu.edu>). 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.

1–2. Introduction (Aug. 25 & 27)

Naughton, introduction & chapters 1–2 (pp. 3–54).

Christensen, introduction & chapters 1–2 (pp. 1–62).

In preparation for the class discussion on the historical introduction of Chinese politics, 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. 2.

I. Politics and Economy in the Maoist Era

3. Socialist Transformation and Hundred Flowers (Sep. 1)

Chan, Madsen, and Unger, chapter 1 (pp. 13–40).

Naughton, chapter 3 (pp. 55–83).

Frederick C. Teiwes, “The Establishment and Consolidation of the New Regime, 1949–57” in MacFarquhar (pp. 6–86).

In preparation for the class discussion on politics in the Maoist era, 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=GgpKv-xXgf8>) by Sep. 2.

RESEARCH PAPER TOPIC AND QUESTION DUE SEP. 1.

4–5. NO CLASS (Sep. 3 & 8)

6. Great Leap Forward and Origins of the Cultural Revolution (Sep. 10)

Chan, Madsen, and Unger, chapters 2–3 (pp. 41–102).

Kenneth Lieberthal, “The Great Leap Forward and the Split in the Yan’an Leadership, 1958–65” in MacFarquhar (pp. 87–147).

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. 9.

7–8. Early Cultural Revolution (Sep. 15 & 17)

Chan, Madsen, and Unger, chapter 4 (pp. 103–140).

Harry Harding, “The Chinese State in Crisis, 1966–1969” in MacFarquhar (pp. 147–246).

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

9–10. Late Cultural Revolution and Mao’s Legacies (Sep. 22 & 24)

Chan, Madsen, and Unger, chapters 6 & 9 (pp. 169–185 & 236–266).

Roderick MacFarquhar, “The Succession to Mao and the End of Maoism, 1969–1982” in MacFarquhar (pp. 246–336).

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

11–12. Film, *To Live* (Sep. 29 & Oct. 1)

The first midterm distributed on Sep. 24 and due at the start of class on Oct. 1.

II. Post-Mao Economic Reform

13–15. Institutional Setting for the Post-Mao Reform (Oct. 6, 8 & 15)

Chan, Madsen, and Unger, chapters 10–13 (pp. 267–353).

Naughton, chapters 4–5 (pp. 85–136).

Wright, chapters 5–6 (pp. 113–179).

In preparation for the class discussion on origins of the post-Mao reform, 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=rHfXzG46faA>) by Oct. 14.

RESEARCH PAPER PROGRESS REPORT DUE OCT. 8.

16. Rural Reform and Agricultural Development (Oct. 20)

Naughton, chapters 10–12 (pp. 209–294).

Recommended Film: *Not One Less* (available at the Fondren Library Center AV Collection: call number IDD 00304)

17. Urban Reform and Industrial Development (Oct. 22)

Naughton, chapters 13–15 (pp. 297–374).

Recommended Film: *Shower* (available at the Fondren Library Center AV Collection: call number IDD 01526)

18–19. NO CLASS (Oct. 27 & 29)

The second midterm distributed on Oct. 22 and due Oct. 29 at 2pm by email.

III. China's Rise and International Relations

20. China and the World Economy (Nov. 3)

Naughton, chapters 16–17 & 20 (pp. 377–424 & 487–504).

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

21. The China Challenge (1): Understanding China's Rise (Nov. 5)

Christensen, chapters 3–4 (pp. 63–114).

* Elizabeth C. Economy, “China's Imperial President: Xi Jinping Tightens His Grip,” *Foreign Affairs* 93(6) (November/December 2014): pp. 80–91.

RESEARCH PAPER FIRST DRAFT DUE NOV. 5.

22. The China Challenge (2): Shaping China's Choices (Nov. 10)

Christensen, chapters 7–8 (pp. 204–287).

23–24. China-Japan Relations (Nov. 12 & 17)

[Guest Lecturer: Dr. Sheila Smith (Nov. 17)]

Smith, chapters 1–2, 4, & 6 (pp. 1–56, 101–145, & 188–236).

IV. Post-Mao Limited Political Reform

25. The Road to Tiananmen (Nov. 19)

* Richard Baum, *Burying Mao: Chinese Politics in the Age of Deng Xiaoping* (Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 1994): pp. 247–310.

Recommended Film: *Gate of Heavenly Peace* (available at the Fondren Library Center AV Collection: call number IDD 08738)

26–27. Elite Control and Public Relations (Nov. 24 & Dec. 1)

Alice Miller, “Dilemmas of Globalization and Governance” in MacFarquhar (pp. 528–599).

Wright, chapters 2–4 (pp. 18–112).

28. Whither China? (Dec. 3)

Naughton, chapters 7–9 (pp. 161–228).

RESEARCH PAPER FINAL DRAFT DUE DEC. 3

TAKE-HOME FINAL – Distributed on Dec. 3 and due on Dec. 14, 5:00pm, by email