

CHINESE POLITICS

Political Science 3352, Fall 2020
MW 5:00–6:20pm, Hyer Hall 100 (SMUFlex)
Web page: <http://canvas.smu.edu>

Professor Hiroki Takeuchi
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Virtual office hours: MWF 3:00–4:00pm
Zoom 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 (including memo assignments) (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 (following the SMUFlex rules) 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 5pm of the due date.*

Class attendance is expected. An unexcused absence will adversely affect your course grade, as will being present but unprepared to participate, or participating without being prepared. Your attendance will be counted as long as you let me know your absence (preferably in advance, but if not then as soon as possible). In short, you must communicate with me as soon as possible when you have to be absent from class.

*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.*

Zoom Participation: When you participate in a Zoom class meeting, you must turn on the video feature for the duration of the class meeting. Non-participation will lead to a commensurate penalty in your grade for the course. During the class, please obey the following Zoom protocol:

- Please raise your hand virtually by using the Raise Hand function.
- Please wait to be called on before you unmute to speak.
- Please use the Chat function only if you have trouble getting my attention.
- Please keep your video on so I can see you.

Mature, respectful behavior befitting an SMU student is expected. When you participate in a class meeting over Zoom, please find a quiet location where you may work uninterrupted. *Turn off mobile phones and other devices that may disrupt the meeting.*

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—complete the reading 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.*

2. **Two Take-home midterms** (15% each): The exam is open book and open notes and will require 5–7 pages (typed, double-spaced, 12-point font) of writing. Essays will be evaluated on the basis of: demonstrated mastery of the assigned readings; skill in exposing nuances of similarity and difference in various defensible positions; cogency, clarity, precision and organization of presentation; and relevance of evidence marshaled to *support your argument(s)*. Papers shorter than the indicated length will receive deduction of your grade unless you receive my consent prior to submission. Same if your paper is single-spaced, you use abnormally small or large margins or fonts (12-point), or your paper is not typed. 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 problems that may arise.**

3. **Research paper** (35%): Each student will be required to write a research paper of 12–15 pages (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. 3
Progress report	Oct. 4
First draft	Nov. 8
Final draft	Dec. 6

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 Nov. 23 and **due Dec. 14 at 6:00pm by email.** It will cover material from the entire semester but mainly from Part III. The exam is open book and open notes and will require 5–7 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 15 minutes in the first weeks of the semester. Sign up for an appointment time during the first day in class. Be punctual.

Disability Accommodations

Students needing academic accommodations for a disability must first register with Disability Accommodations & Success Strategies (DASS). Students can call 214–768–1470 or visit www.smu.edu/Provost/SASP/DASS to begin the process. Once approved and registered, students will submit a DASS Accommodation Letter to faculty through the electronic portal *DASS Link* and

then communicate directly with each instructor to make appropriate arrangements. Please note that accommodations are not retroactive and require advance notice to implement.

Religious Observance

Religiously observant students wishing to be absent on holidays that require missing class should notify their professors 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. (<https://www.smu.edu/StudentAffairs/ChaplainandReligious-Life/ReligiousHolidays>).

Excused Absences for University Extracurricular Activities

Students participating in an officially sanctioned, scheduled University extracurricular activity should be given the opportunity to make up class assignments or other graded assignments missed as a result of your participation. It is the responsibility of the student to make arrangements with the instructor prior to any missed scheduled examination or other missed assignment for making up the work. (See [2020–2021 SMU Undergraduate Catalog](#) under “Enrollment and Academic Records/Excused Absences.”)

Student Academic Success Programs (SASP)

Students needing assistance with writing assignments for SMU courses may schedule an appointment with the Writing Center through Canvas. Students wishing support with subject-specific tutoring or success strategies should contact SASP, Loyd All Sports Center, Suite 202; 214–768–3648; <https://www.smu.edu/sasp>.

Books and Readings

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

Bruce J. Dickson, *The Dictator’s Dilemma: The Chinese Communist Party’s Strategy for Survival* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2016).

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

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.

1–2. Introduction (Aug. 24 & 26)

Naughton, chapters 1–3 (pp. 1–64)

* Uri Friedman, “Why America Resists Learning from Other Countries,” *Atlantic*, May 14, 2020 (<https://www.theatlantic.com/politics/archive/2020/05/coronavirus-could-end-american-exceptionalism/611605/>)

You are required to watch the documentary film, *China: A Century of Revolution 1: China in Revolution* (available at the Hamon Arts Library AV Collection: call number IDD 02678 & 02679; also available at You Tube, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I5cl0GjPjy4>) by Aug. 26.

I. Politics and Economics in the Maoist Era

3–4. Communist Revolution and Socialist Transformation (Aug. 31 & Sep. 2)

Walder, chapters 1–7 (pp. 1–151)

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

RESEARCH PAPER TOPIC AND QUESTION DUE SEP. 3, 5PM, BY EMAIL

5–6. Great Leap Forward and Early Cultural Revolution (Sep. 7 & 9)

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 Hamon Arts Library AV Collection: call number IDD 02676; also available at You Tube, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BCKlm7iPUhk>) by Sep. 9.

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

Memo Assignment 1 due Sep. 13, 5pm, by email.

7–8. Late Cultural Revolution and Mao’s Legacies (Sep. 14 & 16)

Walder, chapters 12–14 (pp. 263–344)

Naughton, chapter 4 (pp. 65–93)

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

9–10. Review (Sep. 21 & 23)

THE FIRST TAKE-HOME MIDTERM DUE SEP. 27, 5PM, BY EMAIL

II. Post-Mao Economic Reform

11–12. Market Transition, the Urban-Rural Divide, and Structural Change (Sep. 28 & 30)

Naughton, chapters 5–7 (pp. 95–183)

RESEARCH PAPER PROGRESS REPORT DUE OCTOBER 4, 5PM, BY EMAIL

13. Rural Reform and Agricultural Development (Oct. 5)

Naughton, chapters 11 & 13 (pp. 259–278 & 307–329)

* Hiroki Takeuchi, “Survival Strategies of Township Governments in Rural China: From Predatory Taxation to Land Trade,” *Journal of Contemporary China* 22 (2013): 755–772.

Recommended Film: *Not One Less* (available at the Hamon Arts Library AV Collection: call number IDD 00304).

14. Urban Reform and Industrial Development (Oct. 7)

Naughton, chapters 14–15 (pp. 333–394)

Recommended Film: *Shower* (available at the Hamon Arts Library AV Collection: call number IDD 01526).

15. China and the World Economy (Oct. 12)

Naughton, chapters 16–17 (pp. 397–449)

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

16. China's Rise and U.S.-China Relations (Oct. 14)

* Kurt M. Campbell and Ely Ratner, "The China Reckoning: How Beijing Defied American Expectations," *Foreign Affairs* 97(2) (March/April 2018): pp. 60–70.

* "Did America Get China Wrong?" *Foreign Affairs* 97(4) (July/August 2018): pp. 183–195.

* Alastair Iain Johnston, "The Failure of the 'Failure of Engagement' with China," *The Washington Quarterly* 42(2) (Summer 2019): pp. 99–114.

* Hiroki Takeuchi, "Domestic Politics of Chinese Foreign Policy: Where Will Xi Jinping Bring China?" *Asian Security* 15(2) (May 2019): pp. 205–213.

* Suisheng Zhao, "Rhetoric and Reality of China's Global Leadership in the Context of COVID-19: Implications for the US-led World Order and Liberal Globalization," *Journal of Contemporary China* (forthcoming, 2020): pp. 1–16.

* Claire Cain Miller, "The Long Term Jobs Killer Is Not China: It's Automation," *New York Times*, December 21, 2016 (<https://www.nytimes.com/2016/12/21/upshot/the-long-term-jobs-killer-is-not-china-its-automation.html>?)

* Mary E. Lovely, "How China Wins the Trade War," *New York Times*, August 8, 2018 (<https://www.nytimes.com/2018/08/08/opinion/trump-tariffs-china-trade-war-who-will-win.html>?)

* Yukon Huang, "The Unlikely, Obvious Solution to the Trade War," *New York Times*, September 24, 2018 (<https://www.nytimes.com/2018/09/24/opinion/us-china-trade-war-tariffs-wto.html>?)

Memo Assignment 2 due Oct. 18, 5pm, by email.

17–18. China's Future (Oct. 19 & 21)

Naughton, chapters 8–10 & 21 (pp. 185–256 & 543–569)

19–20. Review (Oct. 26 & 28)

THE SECOND TAKE-HOME MIDTERM DUE NOV. 1, 5PM, BY EMAIL

III. Where Will Xi Jinping Bring China?

21–22. Xi Jinping and the Chinese State I (Nov. 2 & 4)

Economy, chapters 1–3 (pp. 1–90)

RESEARCH PAPER FIRST DRAFT DUE NOV. 8, 5PM, BY EMAIL

23–24. Xi Jinping and the Chinese State II (Nov. 9 & 11)

Economy, chapters 4–7 (pp. 91–230)

25–27. The Chinese Communist Party’s Strategy for Survival (Nov. 16, 18 & 23)

Dickson, chapters 1–4 (pp. 1–213)

Memo Assignment 3 due Nov. 22, 5pm, by email.

28. Review (Dec. 2)

RESEARCH PAPER FINAL DRAFT DUE DEC. 6, 5PM, BY EMAIL

TAKE-HOME FINAL DUE DEC. 14, 6PM, BY EMAIL