

Chinese Politics (POLS 342)

Fall 2016

Professor: Jonathan Hassid
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Office Hours: Tues, Thurs 11-12 and Wed 10-12 in Ross Hall 515

Objectives: This course is designed to familiarize students with the development of the Chinese political system and major issues in China's contemporary government and society. By the end of the course students will be able to:

- Understand the issues facing China in the early 20th Century, and why those issues are still relevant today
- Understand how and why the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) won the Chinese civil war
- Understand the causes and consequences of the reform era
- Have a familiarity with the structure and effectiveness of the Chinese Party/state
- Have an understanding of the drivers and consequences of China's spectacular economic success – and current problems
- Understand many of the contemporary aspects of Chinese politics and society, including: foreign relations, corruption, environmental problems, the media, the legal system, the media and others.

Required books:

Lieberthal, *Governing China* (2nd Edition)
Spence, *The Search for Modern China* (3rd Edition)

Course Requirements:

Participation (15%): based on class attendance and in-class participation. **Come to class prepared to participate!**

Two mid-term exams (2@ 25% each, 50% total): two comprehensive mid-terms with essays, multiple choice and/or short answers. More details will be given as the dates approach.

Research paper (35%): a 10-12 page final research paper on a topic of your own choosing. The 35% grade value is broken down as follows: 5% for in-class presentation of research question & paper outline and 30% for the paper itself. We will discuss this paper in more detail later on.

Grades are based on the following grading system:

93 and higher = A
90 – 92 = A-
87 – 89 = B+
83 – 86 = B
80 – 82 = B-
77 – 79 = C+
73 – 76 = C
70 – 72 = C-
67 – 69 = D+
63 – 66 = D
60 – 62 = D-
59 and below = F.

Late or Missed Assignments

The in-class mid-term exams are only excused for official school absences (discussed and approved in advance), serious illness (with medical documentation), and bereavement (with documentation). Missed exams must be made up as quickly as possible, **with a two-week deadline**. 15 or more days after a missed exam, the make-up opportunity has expired. **If a student misses an exam for any reason and is unexcused, s/he will receive a 0.**

Late submission of the research paper or research paper outline will cost **TWO (2) letter grades per day** (any late submission means the highest grade possible is now a C), unless discussed in advance or with a documented medical excuse.

Course Adherence to University Policies

Academic misconduct

All acts of dishonesty in any work constitute academic misconduct. The *Student Disciplinary Regulations* will be followed in the event of academic misconduct. Depending on the act, a student could receive an F grade on the test/assignment, F grade for the course, and could be suspended or expelled from the University. Academic misconduct includes all acts of dishonesty in any academically-related matter and any knowing attempt to help another student commit an act of academic dishonesty. Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to each of the following acts when performed in any type of academic or academically-related matter, exercise, or activity:

Obtaining unauthorized information. Information is obtained dishonestly, for example, by copying graded homework assignments from another student, by working with another student on a take-home test or homework when not

specifically permitted to do so by the instructor, or by looking at your notes or other written work during an examination when not specifically permitted to do so.

Tendering of information. Students may not give or sell their work to another person who plans to submit it as his or her own. This includes giving their work to another student to be copied, giving someone answers to exam questions during the exam, taking an exam and discussing its contents with students who will be taking the same exam, or giving or selling a term paper to another student.

Misrepresentation. Students misrepresent their work by handing in the work of someone else. The following are examples: purchasing a paper from a term paper service; reproducing another person's paper (even with modifications) and submitting it as their own; having another student do their computer program or having someone else take their exam.

Bribery. Offering money or any item or service to a faculty member or any other person to gain academic advantage for yourself or another is dishonest.

Plagiarism. "Unacknowledged use of the information, ideas, or phrasing of other writers is an offense comparable with theft and fraud, and it is so recognized by the copyright and patent laws. Literary offenses of this kind are known as plagiarism."

See <http://www.dso.iastate.edu/ja/academic/misconduct.html>

Disability Accommodation. Iowa State University complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act and Sect 504 of the Rehabilitation Act. If you have a disability and anticipate needing accommodations in this course, please contact me to set up a meeting **within the first two weeks of the semester** or as soon as you become aware of your need. Before meeting with me, you will need to obtain a SAAR form with recommendations for accommodations from the [Disability Resources Office](#), located in Room 1076 on the main floor of the Student Services Building. Their telephone number is 515-294-7220 or email disabilityresources@iastate.edu . Retroactive requests for accommodations will not be honored.

Dead Week. This class follows the Iowa State University Dead Week policy as noted in section 10.6.4 of the Faculty Handbook <http://www.provost.iastate.edu/resources/faculty-handbook>.

Harassment and Discrimination. Iowa State University strives to maintain our campus as a place of work and study for faculty, staff, and students that is free of all forms of prohibited discrimination and harassment based upon race, ethnicity, sex (including sexual assault), pregnancy, color, religion, national origin, physical or mental disability, age, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity, genetic information, or status as a U.S. veteran. Any student who has concerns about such behavior should contact me,

[Student Assistance](#) at 515-294-1020 or email dso-sas@iastate.edu, or the [Office of Equal Opportunity and Compliance](#) at 515-294-7612.

Religious Accommodation. If an academic or work requirement conflicts with your religious practices and/or observances, you may request reasonable accommodations. Your request must be in writing, and I will review the request. You or I may also seek assistance from the [Dean of Students Office](#) or the [Office of Equal Opportunity and Compliance](#)

Contact Information. If you are experiencing, or have experienced, a problem with any of the above issues, email academicissues@iastate.edu.

Course Schedule

Part 1, Imperial legacies (3 weeks)

Week 1 (8/23, 8/25)

- 1) Introduction
- 2) The Chinese imperial system – Lieberthal, Ch. 1; The role of the emperor – *Emperor of China* (excerpt on Blackboard)

Week 2 (8/30, 9/1)

- 1) Early modern Europe encounters China – Sachdev (2012), “European responses to child abandonment, sale of children, and social welfare policies in Ming China” (on Blackboard)
- 2) Late imperial reforms – Spence, pp. 186-201.

Week 3 (9/6, 9/8)

- 1) The Xinhai Revolution – Spence, Ch. 11; The warlord era – Lieberthal, pp. 26-38
- 2) The Communist Revolution 1 – Spence Ch. 16.

Part 2, Mao to reform (5 weeks)

Week 4 (9/13, 9/15)

- 1) The Communist Revolution 2 – Lieberthal, pp. 39-56; Spence, Ch. 19.
Watch *To Live* (part 1) in class;
- 2) Early Maoism – Cheng & Letz document collection, Ch. 19 (on Blackboard)
Finish *To Live* in class

Week 5 (9/20, 9/22)

- 1) Early Maoism – Lieberthal, pp. 59-83; Early Communism – Spence, Ch. 20.
- 2) Hundred Flowers/Great Leap Forward – Spence, pp. 505-534.

Week 6 (9/27, 9/29)

1) Sino-Soviet Split Spence, pp. 523-528; Mao Zedong, “On the Correct Handling of Contradictions Among the People” (link on blackboard)

Exam review session

2) **Mid-term Exam (Sep. 29)**

Week 7 (10/4, 10/6)

1) The Cultural Revolution – Gao Yuan, *Born Red* (excerpt on blackboard)

2) The reform era – Lieberthal, Ch. 5

Week 8 (10/11, 10/13)

1) Tiananmen Square 1989 – Spence pp. Ch. 26; Reflecting on Tiananmen years later (New York Times story posted on blackboard)

Watch *Tiananmen Declassified* in class

2) Aftermath of Tiananmen – Zhao (1993) “Deng Xiaoping’s Southern Tour: Elite Politics in the Post-Tiananmen Era” (link on Blackboard)

Part 3, Contemporary China (6 weeks)

Week 9 (10/18, 10/20)

1) Structure of the Party/state – Lieberthal pp. 172-188, 207-232

2) China’s economy takes off – Rawski (1999) “Reforming China’s Economy” (on Blackboard)

Week 10 (10/25, 10/27)

1) China’s economy takes off cont’d – Woo (1999) “The Real Reasons for China’s Growth” (on Blackboard)

2) Problems in the economy – Lieberthal, Ch. 8

Watch *Blind Shaft* in class

Week 11 (11/1, 11/3)

1) State/society relations – Lieberthal, Ch. 10; Stern & O’Brien (2012), “Politics at the Boundary: Mixed Signals and the Chinese State” (on Blackboard)

2) Rural politics – O’Brien (1996), “Rightful Resistance” (on Blackboard)

Week 12 (11/8, 11/10)

- 1) Chinese media – Hassid (2008), “Controlling the Chinese Media: An Uncertain Business”; Hassid “China’s Media Presses Forward – Slowly” (on Blackboard)
- 2) **Second Mid-term Exam (Nov. 10)**

Week 13 (11/15, 11/17)

- 1) Environmental problems – Van Rooj & Wang, “China’s Pollution Challenge” Op-ed; also explore “Choking on growth” series in the *New York Times* (on Blackboard)
- 2) Taiwan, Tibet and Xinjiang – Lieberthal, pp. 326-33; Bovington (2002), “The Not-So-Silent Majority” (on Blackboard)

THANKSGIVING BREAK (Nov. 21-25)

Week 14 (11/29, 12/1)

- 1) Taiwan, Tibet and Xinjiang – Wang & Liu (2004), “Contending Identities in Taiwan: Implications for Cross-Strait Relations” (on Blackboard).

Research outlines due – present in class! (Nov. 29)

- 2) Hong Kong – articles on contemporary developments in HK and “One Country, Two Systems” (on Blackboard)

- Week 15 (12/6, 12/8)
- 1) Corruption – Read “Princelings” section in the *New York Times*; Wedeman (2005), “Anti-Corruption Campaigns and the Intensification of Corruption in China” (on Blackboard)
 - 2) The future? – “Room for Debate : Dawn of a New China?” in the *New York Times* (on Blackboard) & wrapping up

Final research paper will be due during finals week, exact time TBD.