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## POLS-Y333 Chinese Politics

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### Course Overview

This course provides an overview of China's political system. We will begin with a brief historical overview of China's political development from 1949 to the present. The remainder of the course will examine the key challenges facing the current generation of CCP leadership, such as economic reforms, regime stability, and political reform. Students will also be familiarized with prominent theories of authoritarian politics. Among other topics, we will examine: factionalism, power-sharing, and political purges; corruption; avenues for political participation and representation; public opinion; protest movements and dissidents; co-optation of ethnic minorities; and media and internet control.

### Instructor

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Office Hours: Please sign up at <https://calendly.com/jasonywu/meeting>

### Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of this class, students should be able to:

- Acquire a detailed understanding of the political cultures, systems, and ideologies of People's Republic of China
- Examine the key political challenges and governance issues confronting the regime and the ruling Chinese Communist Party
- Debate the social and economic impacts of the formal and informal institutions and practices the Party adopts
- Discuss the basic dynamics of Chinese foreign policy toward a variety of countries and regions and on a variety of issues
- Understand and critically evaluate the main theoretical and empirical approaches to the study of Chinese politics
- Compare political cultures, processes and outcomes in China with those in other countries

## Requirements and Grading

Students are expected to regularly attend class, contribute to class discussions, and complete the reading assignments. I will randomly cold call students to ensure that we get a chance to hear from everyone. There will also be a midterm exam (October 4), a five-page research paper (November 9), and a take-home final exam (December 12).

- Participation: 25%
- Midterm Exam: 25%
- Research Paper: 25%
- Final Exam: 25%

## Course Policies

### Academic Integrity

You are expected to abide by the guidelines of the IU Code of Student Rights, Responsibilities, and Conduct (<http://studentcode.iu.edu/responsibilities/academic-misconduct.html>) regarding cheating and plagiarism. Any ideas or materials taken from another source must be fully acknowledged and cited.

### Disability Accommodation

Please contact me if you require assistance or academic accommodations for a disability. You should establish your eligibility for disability support services through the Office of Disability Services for Students in Wells Library W302, 812-855-7578.

### Late Policy

Late papers will be penalized by one grade (e.g. A- to B+) every twenty-four hours, with a maximum penalty of 20 %.

## Course Outline and Readings

No books are required for this course, but we read enough of several books that you may wish to purchase them. The following books are recommended references.

- Ang, Yuen Yuen. 2016. *How China Escaped the Poverty Trap*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press.
- Lieberthal, Kenneth. 2004. *Governing China: From Revolution Through Reform (2nd ed)*. New York: W. W. Norton & Company.

- Joseph, William A. (ed). 2019. *Politics in China: An Introduction (3rd ed)*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Spence, Jonathan. 2012. *The Search for Modern China (3rd ed)*. New York: W.W. Norton.

### *Week 1: Introduction*

August 23 - Course Overview

August 25 - Contestation from Within

- Svobik, Milan W. 2013. *The Politics of Authoritarian Rule*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. Chapter 1, p. 1-18.

### *Week 2: Comparative Perspectives*

August 30 - Contestation from Below

- Przeworski, Adam, & Fernando Limongi. 1997. "Modernization: Theories and Facts." *World Politics* 49(2): 155-183.

September 1 - From Imperial China to the Republican Era

- Lieberthal, Kenneth. 2004. *Governing China*. Chapters 1 & 2, p. 1-58.

### *Week 3: Historical Background*

September 6 - Revolution and War

- Spence, Jonathan. 2012. *The Search for Modern China*, Chapter 16, p. 356-396.
- (Recommended) Spence, Jonathan. 2012. *The Search for Modern China*, Chapter 17, p. 397-431.

September 8 - The Politics of Liberation

- Spence, Jonathan. 2012. *The Search for Modern China*, Chapter 19, p. 460-483.
- (Recommended) Spence, Jonathan. 2012. *The Search for Modern China*, Chapter 20, p. 484-513.
- (Recommended) Mao Zedong. "On the People's Democratic Dictatorship." 30 June 1949. Speech In Commemoration of the Twenty-eighth Anniversary of the Communist Party of China. [http://www.marxists.org/reference/archive/mao/selected-works/volume-4/mswv4\\_65.htm](http://www.marxists.org/reference/archive/mao/selected-works/volume-4/mswv4_65.htm)

### *Week 4: The Mao Era*

#### September 13 - The Great Leap Forward

- Dikötter, Frank. 2011. *Mao's Great Famine: The History of China's Most Devastating Catastrophe, 1958-62*, "Preface," "Launching Sputniks," "Steel Fever," "Warning Signs," "The End of Truth," "On the Sly," "Violence."
- (Recommended) Yang, Jisheng. 2012. *Tombstone*, Preface.

#### September 15 - The Cultural Revolution

- Chan, Anita, Richard Madsen, & Jonathan Unger. 2009. *Chen Village: Revolution to Globalization*, Chapter 5, p. 141-168.
- (Recommended) Chan, Anita, Richard Madsen, & Jonathan Unger. 2009. *Chen Village: Revolution to Globalization*, Chapter 1, p. 13-40.

### Week 5: The Reform Era

#### September 20 - Reform and Opening

- Chan, Anita, Richard Madsen, & Jonathan Unger. 2009. *Chen Village: Revolution to Globalization*, Chapters 10 & 12, p. 267-287 & 309-329.
- (Recommended) Ang, Yuen Yuen. 2016. *How China Escaped the Poverty Trap*, Chapter 1, p. 23-47.
- (Recommended) Deng Xiaoping. "On the Reform of the System of Party and State Leadership." August 18, 1980. In *Selected Works of Deng Xiaoping (1975-1982)*, p. 302-325.
- (Recommended) *The Search for Modern China*, Chapter 24, p. 587-614.
- (Recommended) "Resolution on Certain Questions in the History of Our Party Since the Founding of the People's Republic of China," Sixth Plenary Session of the Eleventh Central Committee of the Communist Party of China, June 27, 1981 (excerpts).

#### September 22 - The Road to Tiananmen

- Spence, Jonathan. 2012. *The Search for Modern China*, Chapter 26, p. 639-665.
- (Recommended) Documentary: "The Gate of Heavenly Peace."
- (Recommended) Desposato, Scott W., Gang Wang, and Jason Y. Wu. 2021. "The Long-Term Impact of Mobilization and Repression on Political Trust." *Comparative Political Studies* 54(14): 2447-2474.

### Week 6: After Tiananmen

#### September 27 - Reverting to Reform

- Fewsmith, Joseph. 2009. *China Since Tiananmen*, Chapter 2, p. 48-79.

#### September 29 - Present Day

- Economy, Elizabeth. 2018. *The Third Revolution*, Chapters 1-2, p. 1-54.

### Week 7: The Party

October 4 - **Midterm Exam in class**

October 6 - China's Political System

- Li, Cheng. 2019. "China's Communist Party State: The Structure and Dynamics of Power" in *Politics in China: An Introduction (3rd ed)*, Chapter 6, p. 201-236.
- (Recommended) The Constitution of the Chinese Communist Party. Available at [http://www.china.org.cn/china/18th\\_cpc\\_congress/2012-11/16/content\\_27138030.htm](http://www.china.org.cn/china/18th_cpc_congress/2012-11/16/content_27138030.htm)

### Week 8: Institutions and Competition

October 11 - Fragmentation and the Policy Process

- Mertha, Andrew. 2009. "Fragmented Authoritarianism 2.0: Political Pluralization in the Chinese Policy Process." *The China Quarterly* 200: 996-1012.
- (Recommended) Lieberthal, Kenneth. 2004. *Governing China*, Chapter 7, p. 206-242.

October 13 - Factional Politics

- Shih, Victor, Christopher Adolph, and Mingxing Liu. 2012. "Getting Ahead in the Communist Party: Explaining the Advancement of Central Committee Members in China." *American Political Science Review* 106(1): 166-187.
- (Recommended) Shih, Victor. 2008. "'Nauseating' Displays of Loyalty: Monitoring the Factional Bargain through Ideological Campaigns in China." *Journal of Politics* 70(4): p. 1177-1192.

### Week 9: Governance and Growth

October 18 - Decentralization and Reform

- Ang, Yuen Yuen. 2016. *How China Escaped the Poverty Trap*, Chapter 4, p. 103-137.

October 20 - Challenges of Reform

- Ang, Yuen Yuen. 2016. *How China Escaped the Poverty Trap*, Chapter 5, p. 141-183.

### Week 10: Growing Pains

October 25 - Local Governance

- Smith, Graeme. 2009. "Political Machinations in a Rural County." *The China Journal* 62: 29-59.

October 27 - Corruption and Anti-Corruption

- Ang, Yuen Yuen. 2020. *China's Gilded Age*, Chapter 1, p. 1-22.

*Week 11: In the Name of the People*

November 1 - Public Opinion

- Dickson, Bruce. 2016. *The Dictator's Dilemma*, Chapter 5, p. 214-261.

November 3 - Ideology

- Wu, Jason Y., and Tianguang Meng. 2022. "The Nature of Ideology in Urban China." *Comparative Politics*, Forthcoming.
- (Recommended) Fewsmith, Joseph. 2009. *China Since Tiananmen*, Chapter 4, p. 113-139.

*Week 12: State Control*

November 8 - Media, Censorship and Propaganda

- Repnikova, Maria. 2017. *Media Politics in China*, Chapter 4, p. 76-107.
- (Recommended) King, Gary; Pan, Jennifer; and Margaret E. Roberts. 2013. "How Censorship in China Allows Government Criticism but Silences Collective Expression." *American Political Science Review* 107(2): 326-343.
- (Recommended) Roberts, Margaret E. 2018. *Censored*.

**Research Paper Due at Midnight on Wednesday, November 9.**

November 10 - Stability Maintenance

- Xu, Xu. 2021. "To Repress or Co-Opt? Authoritarian Control in the Age of Digital Surveillance." *American Journal of Political Science* 65(2): 309-325.
- (Recommended) Lorentzen, Peter. 2017. "Designing Contentious Politics in Post-1989 China." *Modern China*, p. 1-35.
- Document No. 9.

*Week 13: Contention*

November 15 - Protest

- Fu, Diana. 2017. "Disguised Collective Action in China." *Comparative Political Studies* 50(4): 499-527.
- (Recommended) Kuran, Timur. 1991. "Now Out of Never: The Element of Surprise in the East European Revolution of 1989." *World Politics* 44(1): 7-48.

## November 17 - Ethnic and Peripheral Politics

- McNamee, Lachlan, and Anna Zhang. 2019. "Demographic Engineering and International Conflict: Evidence from China and the Former USSR." *International Organization* 73: 291-327.
- "Absolutely No Mercy: Leaked Files Expose How China Organized Mass Detentions of Muslims," *The New York Times*, 16 November 2019. Available at <https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2019/11/16/world/asia/china-xinjiang-documents.html>. Non-paywalled version available at <https://web.archive.org/web/20191222022035/https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2019/11/16/world/asia/china-xinjiang-documents.html>.

## Week 14: Thanksgiving Break

November 22 - No Class

November 24 - No Class

## Week 15: Contrasting Identities

November 29 - Nationalism

- Weiss, Jessica. 2013. "Authoritarian Signaling, Mass Audiences, and Nationalist Protest in China." *International Organization* 67(1): 1-35.

December 1 - Contested Sovereignty in Hong Kong and Taiwan

- Veg, Sebastian. 2017. "The Rise of 'Localism' and Civic Identity in Post-handover Hong Kong: Questioning the Chinese Nation-State." *China Quarterly* 230: 323-347.

## Week 16: Outlook

December 6 - Foreign Policy

- Goldstein, Avery. 2020. "China's Grand Strategy under Xi Jinping: Reassurance, Reform, and Resistance." *International Security* 45(1): 164-201.

December 8 - Main Melodies and Undercurrents

- Xu, Zhangrun. 2018. "Imminent Fears, Immediate Hopes." Available at <http://chinaheritage.net/journal/imminent-fears-immediate-hopes-a-beijing-jeremiad/>
- (Recommended) "Charter 08" petition. Available at <http://www.chinafile.com/library/nyrb-china-archive/chinas-charter-08>.

**Take Home Final Exam - Due at Midnight on Monday, December 12th.**