

CHINESE POLITICS

Political Science 3352, Fall 2021
Tu 6:30–9:20pm, Dallas Hall 115
Web page: <http://canvas.smu.edu>

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Office hours: Tu 1:30–4:30pm

I am not a conventional professor, and I don't intend to be.

Live as if you were to die tomorrow. Learn as if you were to live forever. — Mahatma Gandhi

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 in-person 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 **reading memo on Canvas** to the instructor by 9:30pm of Mondays.*

Every unexcused absence will adversely affect your course grade, as will being present but unprepared to participate, participating without being prepared, or attending class online via Zoom. 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 two unexcused absences, I may 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—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 reading 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 approximately 2,500 words 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. 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 approximately 5,000 words 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:

Topic / question	Sep. 1
Progress report	Oct. 6
First draft	Nov. 10
Final draft	Dec. 8

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 at least 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. 28 and **due Dec. 12 at 9:30pm on Canvas.** It will cover material from the entire semester but mainly from Part III. The exam is open book and open notes and will require approximately 2,500 words 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

Students who need academic accommodations for a disability must first register with Disability Accommodations & Success Strategies (DASS). Students can call 214-768-1470 or visit smu.edu/DASS to begin the process. Once they are registered and approved, students then submit a DASS Accommodation Letter through the electronic portal, *DASS Link*, and then communicate directly with each of their instructors to make appropriate arrangements. Please note that accommodations are not retroactive, but rather require advance notice in order to implement.

Sexual Harassment

All forms of sexual harassment, including sexual assault, dating violence, domestic violence, and stalking, are violations of SMU's Title IX Sexual Harassment Policy and may also violate Texas law. Students who wish to file a complaint or to receive more information about the grievance process may contact Samantha Thomas, SMU's Title IX Coordinator, at accessequity@smu.edu or 214-768-3601. Please note that faculty and staff are mandatory reporters. If students notify faculty or staff of sexual harassment, they must report it to the Title IX Coordinator. For more information about sexual harassment, including resources available to assist students, please visit smu.edu/sexualmisconduct.

Pregnant and Parenting Students

Under Title IX, students who are pregnant or parenting may request academic adjustments by contacting the Office of Student Advocacy and Support by calling 214-768-4564. Students seeking assistance must schedule an appointment with their professors as early as possible,

present a letter from the Office of the Dean of Students, and make appropriate arrangements. Please note that academic adjustments are not retroactive and, when feasible, 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. Click [here](#) for a list of holidays.

Medical-Related Absences

To ensure academic continuity and avoid any course penalties, students should follow procedures described by their instructors in order to be provided with appropriate modifications to assignments, deadlines, and exams.

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 that were missed as a result of their participation. It is the responsibility of the student to make arrangements for make-up work with the instructor prior to any missed scheduled examinations or other missed assignments. (See current [Catalog](#) under heading of “Academic Records/Excused Absences.”)

Academic Dishonesty

Students are expected to embrace and uphold the [SMU Honor Code](#). Violations of the Honor Code will be acted upon in accordance with the policies and procedures outlined in the [Mustang Student Handbook](#).

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 who would like support for subject-specific tutoring or success strategies should contact SASP, Loyd All Sports Center, Suite 202; 214-768-3648; smu.edu/sasp.

Caring Community Connections (CCC) Program

CCC is a resource for anyone in the SMU community to refer students of concern to the Office of the Dean of Students. The online referral form can be found at smu.edu/deanofstudentsccc. After a referral form is submitted, students will be contacted to discuss the concern, strategize options, and be connected to appropriate resources. Anyone who is unclear about what steps to take if they have concerns about students should contact the Office of the Dean of Students at 214-768-4564.

Mental Health Resources: On-Call and Ongoing Counseling Services

Throughout the academic year, students may encounter different stressors or go through life experiences which impact their mental health and academic performance. Students who are in distress or have concerns about their mental health can schedule a same-day or next-day

appointment to speak with a counselor by calling [Counseling Services](#). Counselors are available at any time, day or night for students in crisis at this number: 214-768-2277 (then select option 2). They will be connected with a counselor immediately. Students seeking ongoing counseling should call the same number (214-768-2277, then select option 1) during normal business hours to schedule an initial appointment.

Campus Carry Law

In accordance with Texas Senate Bill 11, also known as the ‘campus carry’ law, and following consultation with entire University community, SMU chooses to remain a weapons-free campus. Specifically, SMU prohibits possession of weapons (either openly or in a concealed manner) on campus. For more information, please see smu.edu/campuscarrylaw.

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 Party and the People: Chinese Politics in the 21st Century* (Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 2021).

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

Susan L. Shirk, *Overreach: How China Derailed Its Peaceful Rise* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2023).

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. Introduction (Aug. 22)

Naughton, chapters 1–3 (pp. 1–64)

Required 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 YouTube, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I5cl0GjPjy4>).

Reading memo assignment 1 due Aug. 21, 9:30pm on Canvas.

I. Politics and Economics in the Maoist Era

2. Communist Revolution and Socialist Transformation (Aug. 29)

Naughton, chapter 4 (pp. 65–93)

Walder, chapters 1–6 (pp. 1–122)

Required 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>).

Reading memo assignment 2 due Aug. 28, 9:30pm on Canvas.

Research paper topic & question due Sep. 1, 9:30pm on Canvas.

3. Great Leap Forward and Early Cultural Revolution (Sep. 5)

Walder, chapters 7–10 (pp. 123–230)

Required film – *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>).

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

Reading memo assignment 3 due Sep. 4, 9:30pm on Canvas.

4. Late Cultural Revolution and Mao's Legacies (Sep. 12)

Walder, chapters 11–14 (pp. 231–344)

Required 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>).

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

Reading memo assignment 4 due Sep. 11, 9:30pm on Canvas.

5. Film, *To Live* (Sep. 19)

The first take-home midterm distributed Sep. 12 and due Sep. 18, 9:30pm on Canvas.

II. Post-Mao Economic Reform

6. Patterns of Growth and Development (Sep. 26)

Naughton, chapters 5–8 (pp. 95–208)

Reading memo assignment 5 due Sep. 25, 9:30pm on Canvas.

7. Economic Reform and Development (Oct. 3)

Naughton, chapters 11 & 13–15 (pp. 259–278 & 307–394)

Recommended films – *Not One Less* (available at the Hamon Arts Library AV Collection: call number IDD 00304); *Shower* (available at the Hamon Arts Library AV Collection: call number IDD 01526).

Reading memo assignment 6 due Oct. 2, 9:30pm on Canvas.

Research paper progress report due Oct. 6, 9:30pm on Canvas.

8. China, the World Economy, and Its Future (Oct. 17)

Naughton, chapters 16–17 & 21 (pp. 397–449 & 543–569)

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)

Recommended videos – SMU Tower Center Sun & Star Webinar: “The Belt, Road, and Beyond: Domestic Motivations and Implications for the World” (with Min Ye), November 5, 2020: <https://blog.smu.edu/towercenter/2020/11/18/sun-star-the-belt-road-and-beyond-domestic-motivations-and-implications-for-the-world/>; SMU Tower Center Sun & Star Webinar: “The Emperor’s New Road: China and the Project of the Century” (with Jonathan Hillman), February 25, 2021: <https://blog.smu.edu/towercenter/2021/02/25/sun-star-webinar-series-the-emperors-new-road-china-and-the-project-of-the-century/>; SMU Tower Center Sun & Star Webinar: “Integrating Air Pollution and Climate Policy in Asia” (with Eric Zusman), October 8, 2020: <https://blog.smu.edu/towercenter/2020/10/20/integrating-air-pollution-and-climate-change-policy-in-asia/>.

Reading memo assignment 7 due Oct. 16, 9:30pm on Canvas.

9. Discussion (Oct. 24)

The second midterm distributed Oct. 17 and due Oct. 23, 9:30pm on Canvas.

III. Post-Mao Political Reform

10. Domestic Politics of Chinese Foreign Policy (1): Before 2012 (Oct. 31)

Shirk, prologue & chapters 1–5 (pp. 1–155)

Reading memo assignment 8 due Oct. 30, 9:30pm on Canvas.

11. Domestic Politics of Chinese Foreign Policy (2): After 2012 (Nov. 7)

Shirk, chapters 6–10 & conclusion (pp. 156–318)

Reading Memo assignment 9 due Nov. 6, 9:30pm on Canvas.

Research paper first draft due Nov. 10, 9:30pm on Canvas.

12. Elite Politics and the Chinese Communist Party (Nov. 14)

Dickson, introduction & chapters 1–3 (pp. 1–98)

Reading Memo assignment 10 due Nov. 13, 9:30pm on Canvas.

13. NO CLASS (Nov. 21)

14. Political Participation and Public Response (Nov. 28)

Dickson, chapters 5–8 (pp. 126–254)

Reading Memo assignment 11 due Nov. 27, 9:30pm on Canvas.

Research paper final draft due Dec. 8, 9:30pm on Canvas.

Take-home final distributed Nov. 28 and due Dec. 12, 9:30pm on Canvas.