Overview

This course provides an introduction to the major institutions, actors, and ideas that shape contemporary Chinese politics. Through an examination of texts from the social sciences as well as historical and contemporary narratives and film, we will analyze the development of the current party-state, the relationship between the state and society, policy challenges, and prospects for further reform. First, we examine the political history of the Peoples Republic, including the Republican period, foreign occupation, and Civil War preceding the Maoist period, the Mao era, and the transition to market reforms. Next, we will interrogate the relations between various social groups and the state, through an analysis of contentious politics in China including the ways in which the party-state seeks to maintain social and political stability. Finally, we will examine the major policy challenges in contemporary China including growing inequality, environmental degradation, waning economic growth, and foreign policy conflicts.

Assignments and Grading

The final grade will be based on the following:

- Participation in online discussion: 5%
- Six quizzes or critical reading responses: 50%
- Policy Memo, due at the end of class: 20%
- Peer evaluation of policy memo: 5%
- Final exam: 20%
- Extra Credit: 5%

In order to receive a passing grade, students must complete all assignments (i.e. not turning in a paper, or skipping an exam will lead to a failing grade).

Once per Module (and twice in Module IV), there will be a quiz, or a short critical essay based on that week’s reading. Each one counts for 10% of your final grade; the lowest score will be dropped. The quizzes and essays are open note, and open book but will be timed, and so should not be attempted until that module’s material has been covered. The quizzes and essays are designed to take 25 minutes (you will have 30 minutes to complete them). In addition to the Module quizzes and short writing assignments, there will
be one final exam due by the last day of class. The final exam will consist of 3 integrative essay questions, 4-5 pages each. The essay questions will be available from the beginning of the final week of the course.

There is a 8-10 page research-based policy memo, due at the end of the class. Students should begin discussing their topics with me in the first week of class. The first draft is due in the middle of the fourth week of class for a peer review. Each student will read a classmate’s paper and provide feedback and suggestions on the content. The final paper is worth 20% of the final grade, and your peer evaluation is worth 5%.

Students who wish to receive extra credit may write a 1-3 response paper that links the contents of one of the films to course content, for up to 5% additional credit.

Please take note of all due dates and make plans around them. Except in extraordinary and unavoidable circumstances, extensions will not be offered. Late assignments will be penalized one third of a letter grade (i.e. from a B to a B-) for each day or fraction of a day late. Any requests for accommodations must be made at least one week in advance to be considered.

If you feel that any assignment has been graded incorrectly, you may request that it be regraded. You must provide a cover letter indicating the reason for your concern, and I will regrade the entire assignment in question (meaning the revised grade may be higher or lower than what you originally received).

**Course Resources and Readings**

There are three books for this course:


The books are available online and at the UMaine bookstore. Additional readings and resources will be posted on the course site. In addition to readings, there are also films to watch, which are listed below in the Course Schedule. Links are also provided in the appropriate folders.

**Academic Integrity**

I have zero tolerance for any instances of cheating on exams, plagiarism on papers, or other academic misconduct. Information on the University Maine academic integrity pol-
icy, and on what constitutes academic misconduct, can be found at:

http://umaine.edu/judicialaffairs/academic-integrity/academic-dishonest-policy/

Expect violations of these rules to result in the maximum consequences.

Inclusiveness

I will make every effort to enable full participation in this course by all students. Students needing special accommodations should contact me as early as possible (within the first three weeks of the semester, or as soon as those needs arise) to discuss how they can be met within the structure of the course. Every effort will be made to maintain the confidentiality of personal information. You may also wish to contact the contact Disability Services in East Annex, 581-2319 (http://umaine.edu/disability/accommodations/), as early as possible in the term if you have questions about campus policies and services.

Sexual Discrimination Reporting

The University of Maine is committed to making campus a safe place for students. Because of this commitment, if you tell a teacher about an experience of sexual assault, sexual harassment, stalking, relationship abuse (dating violence and domestic violence), sexual misconduct or any form of gender discrimination involving members of the campus, your teacher is required to report this information to the campus Office of Sexual Assault & Violence Prevention or the Office of Equal Opportunity.

If you want to talk in confidence to someone about an experience of sexual discrimination, please contact these resources:

- For confidential resources on campus: Counseling Center: 207-581-1392 or Cutler Health Center: at 207-581-4000.

- For confidential resources off campus: Rape Response Services: 1-800-310-0000 or Spruce Run: 1-800-863-9909.

Other resources: The resources listed below can offer support but may have to report the incident to others who can help:

For support services on campus: Office of Sexual Assault & Violence Prevention: 207-581-1406, Office of Community Standards: 207-581-1409, University of Maine Police: 207-581-4040 or 911. Or see the OSAVP website for a complete list of services at http://www.umaine.edu/osavp/
Course Schedule

Lesson I: Course Introduction and Overview

Module I: Historical Background

Film for Modules 1 and 2: To Live

Lesson 2: Republican China and Foreign Occupation
  • Lieberthal, Chapter 1: The Legacies of Imperial China, pp. 3-26

Lesson 3: The Chinese Civil War
  • Lieberthal, Chapter 2: The Republican Era: pp. 27-56

Lesson 4: Socialism under Mao
  • Lieberthal, Chapter 3: The Maoist System: Ideas and Governance, pp. 59-83

Lesson 5: Politics of Mass Movements - Great Leap Forward
  • Lieberthal, Chapter 4: The Maoist Era: pp. 84-111

Lesson 6: Politics of Mass Movements - Cultural Revolution
  • Lieberthal, Chapter 4: The Maoist Era: pp. 112-122

Lesson 7: Economic Reforms - What Is Socialist about China after 1978?

Module III: Structures of Governance

Lesson 8: Structures of Governance
  • Lieberthal, Chapter 6: The Organization of Political Power from the Outside, pp. 171-205

Lesson 9: Relationships of Authority
  • Lieberthal, Chapter 7: The Organization of Political Power from the Inside, pp. 206-242
Lesson 10: Policy Processes


Lesson 11: Fragmented and Resilient Authoritarianism

- Zhou Qi and Andrew Nathan, “Political Systems, Rights, and Values”, chapter 3 in Hachigian, *Debating China*.

Module IV: Managed Representation

Lesson 12: Political Economy after Reform

- Lieberthal, Chapter 8: Economic Development, pp. 245-272

Lesson 13: Chinese Elections


Lesson 14: Social Organizations, NGOs, and GONGOs


Lesson 15: Workers and Capitalists

Module V: Social Stability and Instability

Two Films for Module V: Last Train Home and Under the Dome

Lesson 16: Religion and New Spiritual Movements


Lesson 17: Minority Nationalities


Lesson 18: Population Planning


Lesson 19: Economic Inequality

- Lieberthal, Governing China, chapter 10.


Lesson 20: Rural Unrest and Urban Protests


Lesson 21: Corruption and Anticorruption Reform


Lesson 22: Environmental Degradation

• Kelly Sims Gallagher and Qi Ye, “Climate and Clean Energy”, chapter 6 in in Hachigian, Debating China.


Lesson 23: Public Opinion, Mass Media, and the Internet


Lesson 24: Patriotism’s Double-Edged Sword


Module VI: China in the World

Film for Module VI:
Lesson 25: China’s Security Dilemmas

• Yuan Peng and Nina Hachigian, “Global Roles and Responsibilities”. chapter 5 in in Hachigian, Debating China.

• Wu Xinbo and Michael Green, “Regional Security Roles and Challenges”. chapter 10 in in Hachigian, Debating China.

Lesson 26: China’s Territorial Integrity - the Taiwan Issue
• Jia Qingguo and Alan Romberg, “Taiwan and Tibet”. chapter 9 in in Hachigian, *Debating China*.


Lesson 27: China-Japan Relations


Lesson 28: South China Sea


Lesson 29: China’s Search for Resources


• Elizabeth Economy and Zha Daojiong, “Global Development and Investment”, chapter 7 in in Hachigian, *Debating China*.

Lesson 30: Reading China’s Future

• Zhang, Yongjin. ”‘China Anxiety’: Discourse and Intellectual Challenges.” *Development and Change* 44.6 (2013): 1407-1425.