CIEE in Shanghai, China

Course name: Political Development in Modern China
Course number: EAST 3006 SCGC / POLI 3001 SCGC
Programs offering course: Shanghai Accelerated Chinese Language, Shanghai Business, Language and Culture, Shanghai China in a Global Context
Language of instruction: English
U.S. Semester Credits: 3 semester/4.5 quarter hours
Contact Hours: 45
Term: Spring 2020

Course Description
The first half of this course will survey chronologically the major eras of modern China’s political change and development, from the Late Qing to the present day. The second half will focus on different aspects of Chinese political practice and development, including exploring the relationships between nationalism, Marxism and Confucianism; elite politics and Leninism; threats to Party rule; democratic development; constitutional developments and rule of law; the “China Model;” and “decentralized authoritarianism.”

Many questions will be raised in class discussion, such as: “Who and what have been and are the central political forces in China during the modern period and how might we understand them?”, “What were the central political conflicts between the Kuomintang and the CPC?”, “What are the fundamental similarities and differences between the Maoist and post-Maoist eras?”, “What are China’s prospects for democracy and the development of the rule of law?”, and “What is the “China Model” and what is “decentralized authoritarianism,” and how are these concepts if not practices shaping China and the world today?”

Learning Objectives
Students will begin to create or, more likely, substantially add to their knowledge and understanding of politics in China during its turbulent modern period as a means for better understanding China’s present and emerging future.

Course Prerequisites
No prerequisites

Methods of Instruction
The course will rely primarily on lecture, discussion, and assigned readings, and will include a midterm exam and final exam. Lectures will be complemented with PowerPoint and other contemporary instructional aides. Students are not expected to complete all of the readings—this would be unreasonable if not impossible—but instead, they are encouraged to sample each and focus on those that enrich the historical narratives they deem most compelling and interesting. The purpose of lecture and discussion is to bring these various narratives together in a sensible, student-driven, instructor-guided way.
Assessment and Final Grade

1. Class Participation  20%
2. Fieldtrip Report    20%
3. Current Affairs Report 10%
4. Midterm            20%
5. Final Exam         30%

Course Requirements

Class Participation
Students are expected to arrive prepared for each class, including the fieldtrip, to have completed the assigned readings in advance, and to remain for the entire duration of each class. Since class preparation and active participation in class are very important to an effective learning community, this will represent 20% of the final grade. Any student who due to unexcused absences misses more than four classes may receive a grade of F and lose credit for the course. Late submissions are not permitted. Active participation includes asking questions, participating in discussion, and helping to drive the course forward in a meaningful way. Each unexcused absence reduces the final course grade by 3 points.

Fieldtrip Report
Worth 20 points, i.e., 20% of the final grade, the Fieldtrip Report is based on two site visits conducted in Shanghai, one to the First Party Congress Museum, the other the Propaganda Poster Art Center. The report will follow standard academic formatting and consist of between 2000 and 3000 words. It should have three clearly marked parts with subheadings: 1) an introduction and overview of the two museums; 2) discuss their points in common and their differences; and 3) offer a critical discussion/reflection on the museums, their subjects and their points of view. The student should be prepared if asked to present the report in class. The report is due within two weeks sessions of the scheduled museum visits.

Current Affairs Report
Worth 10 points, i.e., 10% of the final grade, the Current Affairs Report ongoing/developing political events in China. The student chooses a current topic (e.g., political reforms, the anti-corruption drive, developments in the South China Sea, trade relations with the United States, the Chinese Dream campaign, etc.), and prepares a report following standard academic formatting and consisting of between 1000 and 1500 words. It should have two clearly marked parts with subheadings: 1) an introduction and overview of topic; 2) a discussion of how this topic relates to other developments, both contemporary and historical, and when relevant, within a global context. The student should be prepared if asked to present the report in class. On the first day of class, each student will be assigned an individual due date to facilitate potential presentation and discussion throughout the term.

Midterm Exam
Worth 20 points, i.e., 20% of the final grade, the midterm will consist of one question designed to cover material discussed in class.

Final Exam
Worth 30 points, i.e., 30% of the final grade, the final exam will consist of two questions, each worth 15 points. Questions will be sufficiently complex as to offer students the chance to illustrate at least eight aspects in each answer, and therefore potentially qualify for full credit. Partial credit is possible.

Weekly Schedule

Part I: A Survey of Major Political Developments from the Late Dynastic Period to the Present

Week 1  Introduction to Contemporary Chinese Politics
Current Affairs Report
Description: Provide an overview of the contemporary Chinese political system

Week 2  Before the Republic
Description: First half—Introduce course and provide a historical overview of key developments in Chinese history as a whole, with a focus on 19th century events leading up to the modern period.
Readings:
Dardess, Governing China, 52-102.
Fairbank and Goldman, China: A New History, 143-234.
Field trip to Propaganda Museum and the Site of the First CPC Congress.

Week 3  The 1911 Republic, the Kuomintang and the Rise of the CPC
Description: Review the history of the overthrow of the Qing Dynasty, the founding of the Republic of China, the rise of the Warlord Era, the May Fourth Era, Japanese Invasion, the successes and failures of the Kuomintang, and the rise of the Communist Party of China. Provide an overview of the political developments of the CPC during the War with Japan, the Chinese Civil War, and the founding of the People’s Republic of China.
Readings:
Lu, “Preface to Call to Arms” and “Diary of a Madman,” pp. 33-51.
Fieldtrip Report

Week 4  The Mao Era Before and After Liberation
Description: Focus on the Mao Era of Chinese political development.
Readings:
“Resolution on Certain Questions in the History of Our Party...,” 1-86.
Week 5  The Deng and Jiang Eras
Description: Focus on the Deng and Jiang Eras of Chinese political development.
Readings:
From Deng Xiaoping:
“Emancipate the Mind, Seek Truth From Facts and United as One Looking to the Future,” 150-163.
“We Should Make Use of Foreign Funds...,” 166-167.
“Excerpts from Talks Given in Wuchang, Shenzhen, Zhuhai and Shanghai,” 358-370.
“Address to the Officers at the Rank of General and Above...,” 294-299.
From Jiang Zemin:
“Speech at the Rally in Celebration of the 80th Anniversary of the Founding of the Communist Party of China.”
“Eulogy at Comrade Deng Xiaoping’s Memorial Ceremony,” 611-624.
“Order for the Hong Kong Garrison” and “The Handover of Hong Kong,” 633-635.

Week 6  The Hu and Xi Eras; Midterm
Description: Focus on the Hu and Xi Eras of Chinese political development
Readings:
Introduction to the Scientific Outlook on Development, Beijing, CCTP, 2006.
Hu Jintao, “Hold High the Great Banner of Socialism...,” 1-73.
Mahoney, “On the Chinese Dream.”

Current Affairs Report

Part II: Issue-Focused Histories

Week 7  The Roles of Nationalism, Marxism and Confucianism in Political Development
Description: Focus on major schools of thought, issues and trends that influence political development in the PRC.
Readings:
Week 8  **Elite Politics and Legitimacy**  
Description: Explain and discuss how elite politics and transfers of power work in China, from one generation to another.  
Readings:  
Bo, China’s Elite Politics: Governance and Democratization, 17-174.  
Miller, “The Case of Xi Jinping and the Mysterious Succession.”

Week 9  **Threats to Party Rule and National Integrity**  
Description: Focus on various challenges to CPC-rule and PRC national integrity.  
Readings:  
“On the Question of Stalin,” 1-23.  
Scobell, China’s Use of Military Force, 144-167.  
Ownby, Falun Gong and the Future of China, 229-235.  
Wan, Inequality and Growth in Modern China.  
Shirk, China: Fragile Superpower.

Week 10  **Democracy Development**  
Description: Focus on attempts to foster democracy in modern China.  
Readings:  
Kerry Brown, Ballot Box China, 5-29.  
Bo, China’s Elite Politics, 383-392.  
Yu, Democracy is a Good Thing, xvii-90.  
Cheng, “Intra-Party Democracy in China: Should We Take It Seriously?”

Week 11  **The “China Model,” “The Chinese Dream,” “De/Recentralized Authoritarianism”**  
Description: Provide a conclusion for the course with reference to theories and policies associated with recent political developments, followed by a brief exam review  
Readings:  
Mahoney, “What Should We Learn from China.”  
Landry, Decentralized Authoritarianism in China, 257-268.  
Mertha, “‘Fragmented Authoritarianism 2.0,” 995-1012.

Week 12  **Final Exam**

**Course Materials**

**Readings**
Restricted digital access will be provided for all readings.


---, “We Should Make Use of Foreign Funds and Let Former Capitalist Industrialists and Businessmen Play their Role in Developing the Economy” (1979), Selected Works of Deng Xiaoping, Vol. II, pp. 166-167. Digital.


