Course Title: Politics and Foreign Policy of the People's Republic of China
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Office Hour: by appointments

Course description:
This course deals with the new stage of modern China that was reached in the endeavors of successive Chinese elites to meet domestic problems inherited from the late imperialist era and to respond to the century-old challenge posed by the industrialized western world, from 1949 to present. It carries a guiding assumption that the complex, often bewildering events at home and abroad of the contemporary China are always evolving out of the Chinese state's continuing efforts to pursue for independence, modernity, rejuvenation and the complex relations between P.R. China and other international actors around the world. The foreign model of revolution and nation-building fitted the Chinese situation sometimes superficially, sometimes more fundamentally. The Chinese state domestic and foreign behaviors in their contemporary guise are end products of a largely separated evolution, comparable but not at all identical with that of the West. By the end of this course, students will be able to identify the key stages of Chinese political, economic and social developments since 1949 and their implications on world politics and economy; to interpret landmark Chinese domestic and foreign behaviors in the political and cultural context of its period; to apply their established knowledge about modernization theories to contemporary China studies; to evaluate, in light of the context, whether the Chinese leadership did the right thing (and for whom); to assess the future trends and challenges that P.R. China face in a world full of uncertainty and ambiguity.

Course structure
The course is divided into two broad sections: lectures and seminars. Lectures examine the key political patterns and contexts that give deeper meaning to the swiftly moving events with and outside China today. Another section of case study is included in seminars, a deliberate choice in order to invite students to get as close as they can to the Chinese modern state practice, and to ask themselves the questions about both the reasons for action and the costs/prices (also wisdoms) of those choices with the benefit of hindsight.
Course Requirements

Class participation is an essential component of this course. Students are expected to read the assigned readings, do researches & give presentations on their selected seminar topic and participate intelligently in class discussions.

Participation: 10%

Seminar Presentation: 30%

Final paper: 60%

Course Schedule

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<th>Week 1</th>
<th>Topics</th>
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| Lecture 1 | Introduction to China's Searching for Modernity:  
Historical stages & their major characteristics, problems |
| Part I | A new stage of modern China: a Revolutionary P. R. China  
(late 1940s to late 1970s) |
| Lecture 2 | Mao’s "Socialist-communist" state in the making:  
Its objectives, achievements and problems  
(late 1940s to 1955) |
| Lecture 3 | China and the dual crises in the socialist and communist world:  
a short-lived policy adjustments at home and abroad  
(1956 to 1957) |
| Lecture 4 | A Continuous Revolution:  
domestic and foreign policy implementations & consequences  
(late 1950s to late 1970s) |
| Seminar 1 | How to understand, explain and evaluate the revolutionary China? |

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<th>Week 2</th>
<th>Topics</th>
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<td>Part II</td>
<td>A new stage of modern China: P. R. China after Mao</td>
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| Lecture 5 | the rise of China’s leadership under Deng with Mao’s legacy  
|          | (late 1970s to 1982) |
| Lecture 6 | China’s economic reform and opening-door policy:  
|          | pursuing economic growth & international recognition  
|          | without regime change (1982 - late 1980s) |
| seminar 2 | What we have learned from China’s transition? |
| seminar 3 | Assessing the pros and cons of China’s policy reforms and foreign relations in the 1980s with a case study |
| Lecture 7 | Exam paper writing instruction:  
|          | how to write an essay about modern China’s politics  
|          | and foreign policy? |
| Week3 | Topics |
| Part III | A continuing search for modernity:  
|          | China towards a more reformist or more conservative direction?  
|          | (1990s up to present) |
| Lecture 8 | dilemma of globalization and governance (late 1990s to present) |
| Lecture 9 | From "going-out" strategy to "Belt and Road" Initiative":  
|          | continuities and discontinuities  
|          | (late 1990s to present) |
| Seminar 4 | China’s economic growth and world politics and economy |
| Seminar 5 | Challenges of Today and Prospects For The Future  
|          | 1. |
Course Readings:

students should read through the materials listed below as background for the classes. Most of the materials are available online, a few need to get access through school's library link and some are available in digital version from this instructor, which will be delivered before classes begin.

Week 1

Lecture I: Introduction to China's Searching for Modernity: Historical stages & their major characteristics, problems

Introduction to the Course: Students should be prepared to introduce themselves, and discuss what they hope to get from the course. We shall set up the historical pattern and context for the Chinese Communist leadership under Mao to significantly strengthen their faith in a teleological conception of history promising unprecedented levels of abundance and happiness for China and the world.

- Immanuel Chung-yueh Hsü, The Rise of Modern China, Oxford University Press, 2000, chap. 1

Part I A new stage of modern China: a Revolutionary P. R. China (late 1940s to late 1970s)

Lecture 2: Mao's "Socialist-communist" state in the making:

Its objectives, achievements and problems (late 1940s to 1956)

- Dandan ZHU, 1956: Mao's China and the Hungarian Crisis, Ithaca: Cornell East Asia Series, 2013, Chapter 1 (digital version available)

Key Questions:

What factors influenced CCP's state-building and foreign strategy in this period?

What is socialism? what is international communism? Do you think what happened in Chi
Lecture 3: China and the dual crises in the socialist and communist world:

a short-lived policy adjustments at home and abroad (1956 to 1957)


Key Questions:

In what ways has this policy adjustment process in China been constrained by its formulating political structures and historical legacies?

What if the policy prescription of reforming the Maoist state-building pattern were applied? any correlation between this adjustment of policy in the late 1950s and the CCP policy reforms in the early 1980s? if so, why and how?

Lecture 4: A Continuous Revolution: domestic and foreign policy implementations & consequences (late 1950s to late 1970s)


Key Questions:

How do you understand the objectives of Mao's continuous revolution?

How do you explain and evaluate the consequences of the revolution?

Seminar 1: How to understand, explain and evaluate the revolutionary China?

- Satya Gabriel et al., "State Capitalism versus Communism: What Happened
in the USSR and the PRC?" , *Critical Sociology* 34(4)2008, 539-556.


**Key Questions:**

*How to pursue a critical analysis of Mao's search for a "Chinese Road" to the end-point of humanity's socio-cultural evolution and the final form of human government?*

*What particular political, economic, or social system, in your opinion, would constitute the end-point of humanity's socio-cultural evolution and the final form of human government, or the end of history?*

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**Week 2**

**Lecture 5: the transition years and an end of Maoism:**

*the rise of China's leadership under Deng with Mao's legacy (late 1970s to 1982)*


**Key Questions:**

*How do you understand the CCP's final decision to protect Mao, stressing that Mao's achievements outweighed his mistakes and the necessity of establishing the historical place of Mao Zedong Thought? Do you think that the Maoist revolution could revive in current P.R.China under Xi's leadership?*

*Do you think Mao was personally responsible for most of what transpired in China from late 1940s to late 1970s?*

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**lecture 6 China’s economic reform and opening-door policy: pursuing economic growth & international recognition without regime change (1982 - late 1980s)**

- Chenggang Xu, "The fundamental institutions of China’s reforms and development", *Journal Of Economic Literature*, 2011, v. 49 n. 4, pp. 1076-1151
  https://hub.hku.hk/bitstream/10722/153452/2/Content.pdf?accept=1
Key Questions:

What were the major achievements and problems of China's economic reform and opening-door policy in this period?

In what ways has reform in China been shaped and constrained by its existing political structures and historical legacies?

Seminar 2: What we have learned from China's Economic Reform?


Key Question

How essential is privatization for economic development?

What role has the Chinese state played in fostering development, and how should we understand the role of the state in market systems more generally?

Seminar 3: Assessing the pros and cons of China's policy reforms by the late 1980s


Lecture 7 essay topic-selection & essay writing instruction

Week 3

Lecture 8 dilemma of globalization and governance (late 1990s to present)

- Roderick MacFarquhar, The Politics of China: Sixty Years of The People's Republic

Key Questions:

How has international integration impacted upon domestic change in China, and what will be required for China to foster globally competitive firms?

Lecture 9 From "going-out" strategy to "Belt and Road" Initiative": continuities and discontinuities (late 1990s to present)

- YingHui, Lee" Xi’s One Belt One Road: A Plan Too Big to Fail?”, December 08, 2017, the Diplomat, https://thediplomat.com/2017/12/xis-one-belt-one-road-a-plan-too-big-to-fail/ (digital version available)

Key Question

What are the key challenges facing the new leadership under Xi?

What does Chairman Xi Jinping dream about? are there any continuities between his China rejuvenation strategy and Mao’s search for modernity?

seminar 4 China's economic growth and world politics and economy


Key Questions:  
how do you understand the implications of China’s economic growth and political-social stability to China and the rest of the world?  
can we co-exist peacefully with a pro-capitalist China holding a different set of political patterns?

seminar 5 Challenges of Today and Prospects For The Future


**Key Questions:**

what is democracy? how do you define the key features of democratization?

Modernization theory's expectation that economic development generates inescapable pressures for democratization, so why China's economic developments did not lead Chinese politics to wards that direction? What are the consequences if China does not democratize?

Observers of China today frequently point to the need for effective governance and "rule of law," but what exactly do these terms mean, and what do they have to do with economic development?

**References:**


