Global Collaborative 2019

**Course Title:** Politics and Foreign Policy of the People's Republic of China  
**Course Instructor:** Dandan(Danni) ZHU  
**Contact email:** ddz20@aliyun.com  
**Office Hour:** by appointments

**Course description:**
Ever China encountered the west since the mid-19th century, the leadership of this country had to face a tough and annoying question: to what extent should the Chinese resist the so-called “modern” elements from Europe and West; to what extent should the Chinese acquire or adapt the “western” historical/current experiences, ideas, civilizations, institutions, skills and technologies etc. without losing self-identity and the power of the Chinese state as a single-political unit?

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 the external actors over time and across regions.

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 “well-functioning” governance and politics 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 relevant to 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 choice
s 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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Course Readings:

**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.


**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 China in this period was socialist construction and why?

How to evaluate P.R. China's political, economic, social and foreign policies in this period?

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?

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?

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?

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

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- 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 From Revolutionary to Ruling: The Changing Role of the Party


week 3

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

- Huang, Yasheng, “Rethinking the Beijing Consensus” in Asia Policy, No. 11, January 2011, pp. 1-26.

Key Questions:

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

What are the distinctive features of the Beijing Consensus?

Can China’s development approach serve as a model to others?
Lecture 9 From "going-out" strategy to "Belt and Road" Initiative: continuities and discontinuities (late 1990s to present)


Key Question

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

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

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

- Jun Kun and Scott Rozelle, China’s Agriculture: Drivers of Changes and Implications to China and the Rest of the World, Presented at the 27th International Association of Agricultural Economists Conference Beijing, China, Aug., 2009 https://ageconsearch.umn.edu/bitstream/53207/2/Jikun%20China.pdf

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**

  
  Introduction
- Pan, Philip, "The Land That Failed to Fail," *New York Times*, November 18, 2018
  http://nationalinterest.org/feature/chinas-political-culture-paralyzing-its-economy-16019
- [https://chicagounbound.uchicago.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1102&context=law_and_economics](https://chicagounbound.uchicago.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1102&context=law_and_economics)

**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? 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?

**Lecture 10 Future Challenges and Their Global Consequences**

- Fallows, James, “Arab Spring, Chinese Winter” in Atlantic Magazine, September, 2011.
- Blackwill, Robert D. and Ashley J. Tellis, Revising U.S. Grand Strategy Toward China Pr
Key Questions:
What are the possible resources for a potential governance reform in China and what are the major constraints?
What are the major challenges in Chinese politics and foreign policy in the forthcoming decade?
What are the major challenges in the US-China Relationship?
How might mutual interests be pursued better?
Has the relationship reached a tipping point?

References:
Saich, Tony. Governance and Politics of China. 4th ed. Comparative Government and Politics (Palgrave (Firm)). Basingstoke, Hampshire [UK]; New York: Palgrave Ma
cmillan, 2015.