

**College of Charleston**  
**POLI 345.01 Politics of China**

**Dr. Guoli Liu**

**Fall 2016**

**Maybank Hall 307, Tuesday and Thursday 10:50 am-12:05 pm**

**Office: 114 Wentworth Street, Room 103**

**Office Hours: Tuesday 3-4:30 pm, Wednesday 9-11:30 am, and by appointment**

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**COURSE OBJECTIVES**

This course examines contemporary Chinese politics (1949-present) with an emphasis on the era of reform and opening since 1978. What are the crucial problems in Chinese politics? How have the Chinese people and political leaders confronted them? We begin with an introduction of China's tradition and revolutionary transformation. The main focus of the course is on political reform and socioeconomic change in the post-Mao era. China's politics from Deng Xiaoping's "four modernizations" and *xiaokang shihui* (well to do society) to Hu Jintao's harmonious society, and now Xi Jinping's "Chinese dream" has been focusing on achieving modernity. After four decades of hard work and rapid growth, China is approaching modernity. In addition to having a rapidly growing economy, China is experiencing profound sociopolitical changes. We shall examine whether the Chinese can build a dynamic market economy in an increasingly globalized world economy, create social harmony in a society with growing tensions, and maintain political stability while avoiding stagnation and decay. What we face is a most challenging prospect that will affect not only the fate of 1.37 billion Chinese people but also the future of world politics. We are going to study China in comparative perspectives.

This course will help students understand, analyze, and evaluate major issues in Chinese politics, including: The basic methodological and theoretical controversies in the study of Chinese politics; the main dimensions, structures, processes, functions, characteristics of the Chinese political system; the impact of power, ideology, and organizations on different spheres of Chinese society; and the structure, process, and factors in Chinese domestic and foreign policy making. In examining both empirical and normative questions, students will develop a better understanding of China in a rapidly changing world.

**COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES**

This course strives to reach the following learning outcomes. 1. Demonstrate knowledge of political systems including their institutions, processes, laws and constitutions and the relations between and among nations; 2. Distinguish their own views from those of others and can defend their own perspective; Demonstrate understanding of readings, analyze texts critically, and effectively write papers; 3. Apply theories and concepts to explain Chinese politics, social interactions, and political

institutions; 4. Understand contending theoretical and methodological approaches to studying comparative politics and apply appropriate approaches in your independent research. The following course requirements are designed to achieve these learning outcomes.

## FOREIGN LANGUAGE ALTERNATIVE

This course has been approved to satisfy Category 3 of the Foreign Language Alternative program. Upon completion of this course, students will contextualize and analyze artifacts, practices, and perspectives from cultures in Asia (program learning outcome 3).

## COURSE REQUIREMENT AND GRADING POLICY

You are expected to (1) complete and study carefully all required reading; (2) address significant questions and articulate well-informed positions on key issues, (3) complete a research paper, and (4) follow current events and news analysis.

You will be evaluated on the basis of your performance of one midterm exam (30%), class participation including two participation reports (20%), a 10-12 page research paper (20%), a presentation of the paper (10%), and two quizzes on the key readings (20%). Class participation is graded based on the quality, quantity, substance, and relevance of your contribution to the class, as well as the courtesy and professionalism you show to other students. Detailed guidelines for papers and exams will be provided. No late paper or exam will be accepted without prior written permission.

As the lectures and classroom discussions are an essential part of the course, attendance is mandatory. A class sign-up sheet will be distributed at the beginning of each class. You are allowed a maximum of **two unexcused absences** during the semester; additional absences, unless you can clearly prove personal emergencies or illnesses, will result in a loss of 2 points for each absence.

|                       |    |        |    |          |
|-----------------------|----|--------|----|----------|
| <u>Grading Scale:</u> | A  | 93-100 | A- | 90-92    |
|                       | B+ | 88-89  | B  | 83-87    |
|                       | B- | 80-82  | C+ | 78-79    |
|                       | C  | 73-77  | C- | 70-72    |
|                       | D+ | 68-69  | D  | 63-67    |
|                       | D- | 60-62  | F: | Below 60 |

Any student with a diagnosed learning or psychological disability which impedes your carrying out required course work, or which requires accommodations such as extended time on examinations, should advise me during the first two weeks of the course so we can review possible arrangements for reasonable accommodations.

Academic honesty is very important! When you enrolled in the College of Charleston, you signed the Honor Code. I expect you to abide to the code and it is the only way to maintain the integrity and value of your degree. You will fail this course if you have found to have cheated on an exam or plagiarized any portion of your paper. I will turn the case of Honor Code violation to the Honor Board and vigorously pursue further disciplinary action. Everyone must highly value academic integrity and abide to the Honor Code.

**Center for Student Learning:** I encourage you to utilize the Center for Student Learning's (CSL) academic support services for assistance in study strategies, speaking & writing skills, and course content. They offer tutoring, Supplemental Instruction, study skills appointments, and workshops. Students of all abilities have become more successful using these programs throughout their academic career and the services are available to you at no additional cost. For more information regarding these services please visit the CSL website at <http://csl.cofc.edu> or call (843)953-5635.

### **REQUIRED TEXTS**

1. Sujian Guo, *Chinese Politics and Government: Power, Ideology, and Organization*. New York: Routledge, 2013.
2. Robert S. Ross and Jo Inge Bekkevold eds., *China in the Era of Xi Jinping: Domestic and Foreign Policy Challenges*. Washington, DC: Georgetown University Press, 2016.
3. David Shambaugh, *China's Future*. Malden, MA: Polity. 2016.
4. Kenneth Lieberthal, Cheng Li, and Yu Keping eds., *China's Political Development: Chinese and American Perspectives*. Washington, DC: Brookings Institution Press, 2014.
5. The World Bank, *China 2030: Building a Modern, Harmonious, and Creative High-Income Society*. Washington, DC: The World Bank, 2012.
6. Confucius, *The Analects*. <http://classics.mit.edu/Confucius/analects.html>.
7. Lao-tzu, *The Tao-te Ching*. <http://classics.mit.edu/Lao/taote.html>.

### **RECOMMENDED TEXTS**

8. Joseph Fewsmith, *The Logic and Limits of Political Reform in China*. New York: Cambridge University Press, 2013.
9. Cheng Li ed., *China's Changing Political Landscape: Prospects for Democracy*. Washington DC: Brookings Institution, 2008.

10. Lowell Dittmer and Guoli Liu, *China's Deep Reform: Domestic Politics in Transition*. Lanham: Rowman & Littlefield, 2006.
11. State Council Information Office of the PRC, *Interpretation on New Philosophy of Chinese Diplomacy*. Beijing: China Intercontinental Press, 2014.
12. June Teufel Dreyer, *China's Political System: Modernization and Tradition*. Eighth edition. New York: Pearson Longman, 2012.
13. Peter Hays Gries and Stanley Rosen, *Chinese Politics: State, Society, and the Market*. New York: Routledge, 2010.
14. Marc Blecher, *China Against the Tides: Restructuring Through Revolution, Radicalism and Reform*. 3<sup>rd</sup> edition. New York: Continuum, 2010.
15. C. Fred Bergsten, Charles Freeman, Nicholas R. Lardy and Derek J. Mitchell, *China's Rise: Challenges and Opportunities*. Washington, DC: Peter G. Peterson Institute for International Economics, 2008.
16. Joseph Fewsmith, *China since Tiananmen: From Deng Xiaoping to Hu Jintao*. Second edition. New York: Cambridge University Press, 2008.
17. John King Fairbank and Merle Goldman, *China: A New History*. Second enlarged edition. Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 2006.
18. Daniel A. Bell, *The China Model: Political Meritocracy and the Limits of Democracy*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2015.
19. Tony Saich, *Governance and Politics of China*. Fourth edition. New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2015.
20. Randall Peerenboom, *China Modernizes: Threat to the West or Model for the Rest?* New York: Oxford University Press, 2008.
21. *Selected Works of Deng Xiaoping*. Especially Volume III (1982-1992). Edited by People's Daily online. Available at <http://english.peopledaily.com.cn/dengxp/>.
22. Elizabeth J. Perry and Merle Goldman eds., *Grassroots Political Reform in Contemporary China*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 2007.
23. He Li, *Political Thought and China's Transformation: Ideas Shaping Reform in Post-Mao China*. New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2015.
24. Ezra F. Vogel, *Deng Xiaoping and the Transformation of China*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 2011.

25. Richard McGregor, *The Party: The Secret World of China's Communist Rulers*. New York: Harper, 2010.
26. David Shambaugh, *China's Communist Party: Atrophy and Adaptation*. Washington DC: Woodrow Wilson Center Press, 2008.

## **COURSE OUTLINE AND READING ASSIGNMENTS**

1. China in Comparative Perspectives  
Ross and Bekkevold, Introduction.  
Guo, Chapters 1-3.  
Lieberthal, Li, and Yu, Preface and Introduction.  
Shambaugh, Preface and Chapter 1.  
**(Deadline for completing the readings, August 25)**
2. Tradition and Modernization  
Guo, Chapter 4.  
Confucius, *The Analects*.  
Lao-tzu, *The Tao-te Ching*.  
(September 1)
3. From Reform to Revolution  
Guo, Chapter 5.  
(September 8)
4. Politics under Mao Zedong  
Guo, Chapters 6-7.  
Lieberthal, Li, and Yu, Chapter 1.  
(September 15)

### **Research paper proposal due on September 13**

5. Challenges of Political Reform  
Ross and Bekkevold, Chapter 1.  
Guo, Chapters 8-9.  
Lieberthal, Li, and Yu, Chapters 2, 7-9.  
Deng Xiaoping, "Emancipate the Mind, Seek Truth from Facts and Unite as One in Looking to the Future."  
<http://english.peopledaily.com.cn/dengxp/vol2/text/b1260.html>  
(September 22)
6. Governance and the Politics of Transition  
Ross and Bekkevold, Chapter 2.  
Guo, Chapter 10.  
Lieberthal, Li, and Yu, Chapters 4, 10-12.

Shambaugh, Chapter 4.  
(September 30)

**Midterm Exam: Tuesday, October 4, 2016**

**Research proposal with annotated bibliography is due by October 6**

7. The Chinese Legal and Legislative System  
Guo, Chapters 11-12.  
Lieberthal, Li, and Yu, Chapter 3.  
(October 11)

**First participation report due on October 11**

8. The Politics of Economic Reform  
Ross and Bekkevold, Chapters 3 and 8.  
Guo, Chapters 15-16.  
Shambaugh, Chapter 2.  
(October 18)

9. State-Society Relations  
Ross and Bekkevold, Chapter 4.  
Guo, Chapters 13-14.  
Shambaugh, Chapter 3.  
Lieberthal, Li, and Yu, Chapters 5-6.  
(October 25)

**Draft research paper due on Thursday, October 27**

10. Research Paper Presentation  
(November 1-15)

**Second participation report due on November 15**

11. Grand Strategy and Domestic Actors  
Ross and Bekkevold, Chapters 5-6.  
(November 17)
12. China and the World  
Guo, Chapters 17-18.  
Ross and Bekkevold, Chapters 7 and 9.  
(November 22)

**November 23-27, Thanksgiving Holiday**

14. The Future of Chinese Politics  
Shambaugh, Chapter 5.  
Ross and Bekkevold, Conclusion.  
The World Bank, *China 2030*.  
(December 1)

**Final research paper due on Thursday, December 1, 2016.**

### **Suggestions for Your Research Paper**

This is an exciting opportunity for you to complete an independent research project. You can apply the research and writing skills you have developed as political science student to examine a critical issue related to Chinese politics. You must go beyond what other researchers have done and conduct an original analysis. The research paper should be a serious, substantial piece of independent research (10-12 pages, double-spaced). The topic is to be chosen by you, and you are encouraged to use this opportunity to investigate an issue in which you have substantial interest. You can come see me, or email me, as often as necessary to formulate a topic and discuss the progress of your research. The proposal should indicate what question you intend to address, why the question is significant or interesting, and how you intend to answer it. The preliminary list of sources should be a fairly comprehensive bibliography.

The paper is expected to be a scholarly paper, with all that the phrase entails: footnotes, bibliography, a coherent structure, and familiarity with relevant literature. It is important to cite all of your sources accurately. For all of your paper references and citations, please carefully study and follow the “Department of Political Science Citation Guide” (available at <http://polisci.cofc.edu>).

Although this paper is due at the end of the semester, you will need to begin working on it immediately. Thus, there are a series of benchmarks throughout the semester to insure that you make adequate progress. **A one-page research paper proposal with a tentative title and key research questions is due by Thursday, September 13. A research proposal with annotated bibliography is due by Thursday, October 6.** By that point in the semester you should have located most of the materials you will be using. **The draft paper is due on Thursday, October 27.** Research presentation will begin on **Tuesday, November 1. The final version of the paper is due in class on Thursday, December 1.** Please plan well in advance, work hard, and complete your paper on time. Late paper will be graded down one full letter grade for each day that it is late.

**Participation Report Assignment**

**Fall 2016**

Active class participation by everyone is very important for the success of our class. The participation report is designed to encourage you to actively and constructively contribute to our joint academic endeavor. You are required to submit two written reports. The first report is due in class on October 11, 2015. The second report is due on November 15, 2016. Please limit each report to 3 pages. The participation report is a summary of your contribution to the class. Please include the following in your report:

1. Comments and questions about the required readings;
2. A summary of your comments and questions in class;
3. Concise discussion of relevant academic issues and current events;
4. Additional readings that you have done for the class;
5. Additional comments and suggestions about the class;
6. Anything else that is significant for the progress of our class.
7. Do you have perfect attendance? If not, why?
8. **What are the strengths and weaknesses of our textbooks?** Please comment on all main textbooks that you have read. Please answer this question in details in your second participation report.