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%), a critical analysis paper and presentation (10%), class participation including two participation reports (10%), 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.

Grading Scale:  

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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](http://csl.cofc.edu) or call (843)953-5635.

**REQUIRED TEXTS**


RECOMMENDED TEXTS


15. Elizabeth J. Perry and Merle Goldman eds., *Grassroots Political Reform in*


COURSE OUTLINE AND READING ASSIGNMENTS

1. China in Comparative Perspectives
   Heilmann, Preface.
   Rudolph and Szonyi, Introduction.
   Economy, Preface.
   Ross and Bekkevold, Introduction.
   Lieberthal, Li, and Yu, Preface and Introduction.
   Shambaugh, Preface and Chapter 1.
   (Deadline for completing the readings, August 23)

2. Culture and History
   Rudolph and Szonyi, Chapters 28-36.
   Confucius, The Analects.
   Lao-tzu, The Tao-te Ching.
   (August 30)

3. Analyzing Chinese Politics
   Heilmann, Chapter 1.
   Rudolph and Szonyi, Chapters 1-7.
   Economy, Chapters 1-2.
   (September 6)

4. The CCP and State Institutions
   Heilmann, Chapter 2.
   Lieberthal, Li, and Yu, Chapter 1.
   (September 13)

   Research paper proposal due on September 13, 2018

5. Political Leadership
   Heilmann, Chapter 3.
Ross and Bekkevold, Chapter 1.
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.”
(September 20)

6. Governing China’s Economy
   Heilmann, Chapter 4.
   Rudolph and Szonyi, Chapters 14-19.
   Economy, Chapters 3-4.
   Ross and Bekkevold, Chapters 3 and 8.
   Shambaugh, Chapter 2.
(September 27)

**Midterm Exam: Tuesday, October 2, 2018**

Research proposal with annotated bibliography is due by October 4

7. Governing China’s Society
   Heilmann, Chapter 5.
   Rudolph and Szonyi, Chapters 22-27.
   Economy, Chapters 5-6.
   Ross and Bekkevold, Chapter 4.
   Shambaugh, Chapter 3.
   Lieberthal, Li, and Yu, Chapters 5-6.
(October 9)

**First participation report due on October 9**

8. Policymaking: Process and Outcomes
   Heilmann, Chapter 6
(October 16)

9. Perspectives on China’s Political Development
   Heilmann, Chapter 7.
(October 23)

**Draft research paper due on Thursday, October 25**

10. Research Paper Presentation
(October 30, November 1, 8)

**Fall Break: November 5-6, 2018.**

**Second participation report due on November 15**
12. China and the World
Rudolph and Szonyi, Chapters 8-13.
Ross and Bekkevold, Chapters 5-7 and 9.
Economy, Chapter 7.
(November 15)

**November 21-25, Thanksgiving Holiday**

14. The Future of Chinese Politics
Rudolph and Szonyi, Chapters 20-21.
Economy, Chapter 8.
Shambaugh, Chapter 5.
Ross and Bekkevold, Conclusion.
The World Bank, *China 2030*.
(November 27)

**Final research paper due on Thursday, November 29, 2018.**
Critical Analysis Paper Assignment

This assignment provides you with an opportunity to (a) enhance your ability to evaluate the key perspectives on a critical issue of statecraft and develop a position of your own, (b) use a variety of sources as evidence in support of an argument, and (c) further develop your effective writing skills.

You can choose one of the topics from *The China Questions: Critical Insights Into a Rising Power*. You should start with the reading for your topic and summarize the key arguments. After a critical evaluation of the competing perspectives, you must develop your own position on the issue under review. Beyond the materials for this class, you need to use at least six additional library sources. All papers must include a complete list of references in a standard format. Please make sure that you give full credit to the authors of source materials. For your references and citations, please carefully study and follow the “Department of Political Science Citation Guide” (available at http://polisci.cofc.edu).

Please select your topic no later than Tuesday, September 4, 2018. No more than two people can have the same topic. The paper should be typed, double spaced, between 6-8 pages. The paper is due in class by **Tuesday, September 18, 2018**.
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 a 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 ensure 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 4. 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 25. Research presentation will begin on Tuesday, October 30. The final version of the paper is due in class on Thursday, November 29, 2018. 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.
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 9. The second report is due on November 15, 2018. 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.