Course Description: This course will serve as an introduction to Chinese politics in two ways: it will introduce the key individuals and events in the People's Republic of China; and it will introduce the main issues that have concerned China's leaders and citizens and the processes by which they have been resolved.

We will concentrate on the post-1949 period of Chinese domestic and foreign policies, looking at issues of elite politics, policy making, political participation, political change, and the causes and consequences of China's increasing integration into the international community. We will consider changes and continuities between the Maoist era (1949-1976) and the post-Mao era of reform, but will emphasize the more recent period.

Course Prerequisite: PSC 1001, Introduction to Comparative Politics, is a prerequisite for this class.

Readings: Several books have been ordered through the book store, and are also on reserve at Gelman Library:


Specific readings for each class are identified on this syllabus. Readings marked with a * will be available on Blackboard. Students are required to do the readings for each session and be prepared to discuss them in class.

Learning Objectives: During the semester, students will:

- Become familiar with the key issues, institutions, and individual leaders of modern Chinese politics;
- Become familiar with the scholarly debates on Chinese politics;
- Become familiar with different research methods and approaches and evaluate the pros and cons of them;
- Learn how to design and implement an original research paper.
Assignments: The class will include both a midterm based on domestic politics and a final exam based on foreign relations. These will be in-class exams. Make-ups will only be allowed for students who have a documented medical or family emergency.

In addition, students will do several other assignments: clicker questions in each class, in-class discussions and writing assignments, and a research paper (15-20 pages).

The topic for the research paper must be submitted to me for approval by Tuesday, February 14, and the paper itself is due by 12 noon on Friday, May 5. The paper must be (1) uploaded into SafeAssign on Blackboard (under “Assignments”), and (2) a hard copy turned in to me. Late papers will be marked down 1/3 of a grade (for example, from A to A- or B+ to B) per day, starting 12 noon on May 5.

Grading: Final grades will be based on several criteria, with the following weights:

- Quizzes, in-class assignments, and participation: 20%
- Midterm: 25%
- Research paper: 25%
- Final exam: 30%

Credit Hour Policy: You should expect to spend twice as much time outside of class doing the reading assignments, reviewing for exams, and researching and writing the research paper as you spend in class. Because this class meets for 2.5 hours per week (2 meetings @ 75 minutes), you should spend on average at least 5 hours per week on your own doing homework and prep.

Academic Integrity: I personally support the GW Code of Academic Integrity, and all students are also expected to abide by it. It states: “Academic dishonesty is defined as cheating of any kind, including misrepresenting one's own work, taking credit for the work of others without crediting them and without appropriate authorization, and the fabrication of information.” For the remainder of the code, see: http://www.gwu.edu/~ntegrity/code.html

Class Policies: Besides the policies for make-up exams and later papers described above, there is one other important policy: no electronic devices may be used in class. That includes laptops, tablets, cell phones, PDAs, etc. Exceptions will be made for those with accommodations through DSS or those who use the Turning Point app on their phones.
1. January 17 — Introduction

I. DOMESTIC POLITICS

2. January 19: Overview of Institutions and Issues


Recommended:


3. January 24: Politics in the Maoist Era


Recommended:


4. January 26: Politics in the Reform Era


5. **January 31: Economic Reform Strategies**


6. **February 2: Political Reforms**

Dickson, *Dictator’s Dilemma*, pp. 96-123.

7. **February 7: Civil Society**

Dickson, *Dictator’s Dilemma*, pp. 123-163.

8. **February 9: Urban Governance**

Dickson, *Dictator’s Dilemma*, pp. 164-213.

**Recommended:**


9. **February 14: Rural Governance**


***RESEARCH TOPIC DUE***
10. **February 16: Political Protest (I): 1989 Tiananmen Protests**


11. **February 21: Political Protest (II): Urban Unrest**


    Dickson, *Dictator’s Dilemma*, pp. 31-52, 60-73.

12. **February 23: Political Protest (III): Rural Unrest**


13. **February 28: Population Control Policies**

    Dickson, *Dictator’s Dilemma*, pp. 73-83.


14. **March 2: Ethnic Politics**

    Dickson, *Dictator’s Dilemma*, pp. 53-60.


15. **March 7: Popular Support**

    Dickson, *Dictator’s Dilemma*, chap. 5.

Dickson, *Dictator’s Dilemma*, chap. 6.

*** SPRING BREAK ***

17. March 21: Prospects for Regime Change

Dickson, *Dictator’s Dilemma*, chap. 7.


18. March 23: MIDTERM EXAM

II. CHINA’S FOREIGN RELATIONS

19. March 28: China’s Foreign Policy Strategies

Shambaugh, *China Goes Global*, chaps. 2 (also skim chap. 1)


20. March 30: China’s Foreign Policy Process


21. **April 4: US-China Relations**

Shambaugh, *China Goes Global*, pp. 73-78.


22. **April 6: Relations in Asia**

Shambaugh, *China Goes Global*, pp. 95-105.


* Mira Rapp-Hooper, “Parting the South China Sea: How to Uphold the Rule of Law,” *Foreign Affairs* (September-October 2016), pp. 76-82.

23. **April 11: Cross-Strait Relations**


24. **April 13: Nationalism**


25. **April 18: Foreign Relations Outside Asia**
   Shambaugh, *China Goes Global*, pp. 78-95, 105-120.

26. **April 20: China’s Role in International Institutions**

27. **April 25: China’s Foreign Economic Relations**

28. **April 27: Security Policy**

*** Friday May 5 @ 12 noon: Research Papers Due ***

TBA: FINAL EXAM