Modern Chinese Politics

POSC 409-910 | Summer 2008

INSTRUCTOR: **Matthew Davis**
TIME: **Mon – Fri (Daily) 1:15-2:45**
ROOM: **Sharp Lab 105**

OFFICE HOURS: **_____ (TBA)**

OFFICE: **_____ (TBA)**
CONTACT: **davism@udel.edu / (302) 753-1233**

Course Description and Objectives

China's astoundingly rapid ascent over the last two decades is almost unique in the modern experience. The People's Republic of China has experienced rapid growth both in its economy (with growth rates often exceeding 10% a year or more) and in its international influence. This, combined with China's increasing integration into the world's economic and political systems, has placed China in the position of being perhaps the first newly rising super power of the 21st century. Yet, for all its importance, Chinese culture and politics are often poorly understood by both the the businesses and politicians who are attempting to benefit from China's ascent and peacefully integrate a rising China into the international order.

This course is designed to provide a solid background for your understanding of modern Chinese politics. As politics does not exist in a vacuum – it is situated in culture and often bound by history – we will begin by briefly surveying the historical origins of the modern Chinese political order. The course will survey the major events of 20th century Chinese politics, focusing on the modernization efforts of Mao Zedong and Deng Xiaoping, and the legacies of these two defining leaders. Throughout, we examine the ways that these historical experiences, combined with Chinese culture, contribute to and shape modern Chinese politics. We will conclude the course with a consideration of the challenges facing China's leaders today and into the future, focusing on the tensions between dualities such as openness/control and reform/retrenchment.

Required Texts:

Governing China: From Revolution Through Reform, Second Edition
by Kenneth Lieberthal (Author)
* Publisher: W. W. Norton; 2 edition (December 19, 2003)
* ISBN-10: 0393924920

China's Deep Reform: Domestic Politics in Transition
by Lowell Dittmer (Editor), Guoli Liu (Editor)
* Publisher: Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, Inc. (April 28, 2006)
* ISBN-10: 0742539318

The Search for Modern China
by Jonathan D. Spence (Author)
* Publisher: W. W. Norton & Company; 2 Sub edition (January 1999)
* ISBN-10: 0393973514

Chinese Politics in the Hu Jintao Era: New Leaders, New Challenges
by Willy Wo-Lap Lam (Author)
* Publisher: M.E. Sharpe (September 30, 2006)
* ISBN-10: 0765617749

Wild Swans: Three Daughters of China
by Jung Chang (Author)
* Publisher: Touchstone (August 5, 2003)
* ISBN-10: 0743246985

Wild Grass: Three Portraits of Change in Modern China
by Ian Johnson (Author)
* Publisher: Vintage (March 8, 2005)
* ISBN-10: 0375719199

Optional Text For Final Book Review:

China's New Nationalism: Pride, Politics, and Diplomacy
by Peter Hays Gries
* Publisher: University of California Press; 1 edition (July 5, 2005)
* ISBN-10: 0520244826

E-mail:

I will regularly use the UD POBox system to send e-mails to the class, including important e-mails such as updates to the syllabus, last minute schedule changes, etc. Therefore, it is imperative that you have an activated UD account that you check regularly (or have your UD e-mail forwarded to an account that you check regularly).

Grading:

Your grade in this class will be based on class participation, essays, and exams. There will be two grading options – one for those who prefer to take exams, and one for those who prefer to write essays.

Option 1:	**Option 2:**
20% Mid-Term Exam	20% Mid-Term Exam
20% Final Exam	20% Book Review #1
20% Book Review #1	20% Book Review #2
20% Book Review #2	20% Book Review #3
20% Class Participation	20% Class Participation

Students choosing "option 1" will only have to write the first two book reviews, but will have to take the final exam. Students choosing "option 2" will have to write all three book reviews, but will not have to take the final exam. **You must notify me by Friday, July 18th of which grading option you will pursue**. If you do not notify me, I will assume that you are pursuing option 1.

Grading Scale:

A	93-100
A-	90-93
B+	87-89
B	84-86
B-	80-83
C+	77-79
C	74-76
C-	70-73
D	65-69
F	64 and below

Exams: Two exams will be offered – a mid-term and a final. The final exam will not be intentionally cumulative, but some questions may draw on concepts discussed in the first part of the semester. Exams will be "blue book" style, given in-class, and may consist of definitions, short answer, and essay questions.

Book Reviews: In this class you will be required to write two or three (depending on which grading option you choose) mid-length (5-6 pages, typed, double spaced, 1" margins) essays based on the books *Wild Grass*, *Wild Swans*, and/or *China's New Nationalism*. Essays should respond to the book under review, but also tie in to our other readings and class discussion. See the hand-out sheet on book reviews for more information.

Class Participation: Since this is a small class, your participation is crucial. Class will alternate between lecture and seminar formats, and I expect that you will be prepared to discuss the readings each day that class is held. You will be graded on class participation, and students who are consistently unprepared for discussion or do not do the readings will find this is reflected in their final participation grade.

Extra Credit: Throughout the course there will be four days (each Friday) set aside specifically for class discussion. On those days you may write a 2-page paper in which you lay out your thoughts on the subject to be discussed. Each discussion paper completed will be worth up to 1% of your grade, so a student who completes all four discussion papers in a satisfactory manner will receive +4%, or approximately one-half of a letter grade (i.e. if you have a B- for the course you would raise it to a B+, and so on).

Requirements & Administrative Notes:

Daily attendance is required for this course, and excessive absences will be reflected in your participation grade. If you must arrive late, please be as unobtrusive as possible and sit near the back of the room.

Since we are discussing political issues, class debates during discussion may at times become heated. Please be polite to your peers and respect their different opinions. Students who are rude or disrespectful during class discussion may be asked to leave. Anyone disrupting lecture will be asked to leave. Please turn of your cell phones before coming to class, and mute your laptop if you are using one to take notes. **Do not send text messages during class**. If I see you doing so, you will be asked to leave.

You are expected to complete the assigned readings for the day by the beginning of that day's class (i.e. if I have assigned chapter 5 for Thursday, read it before Thursday's class and be prepared to discuss it). Our schedule is compact and we are covering quite a bit of material, but I have tried as much as possible to limit the amount of required reading and to be give you some flexibility in when assignments will be due.

Book reviews should be turned in on the dates due, as indicated on the syllabus Late work will be penalized by one-half a letter grade for each day that it is late. Extra credit papers **may not** be turned in late.

Academic Integrity:
Cheating and/or plagiarism **will not be tolerated.** Anyone caught cheating or submitting work that is not their own **will be reported to the Judicial System as outlined in the Student Guide to University Policies.**

Illnesses & Extenuating Circumstances:
If you cannot fulfill the course requirements due to a legitimate extenuating circumstance (illness, death in the family, emergency, etc.) please contact the Office of Campus Life (http://www.udel.edu/campuslife/). The staff there will help you with the necessary documentation and notify your professors as needed.

Important Dates:

Book Review 1 Due: Wednesday, July 23rd
Mid-Term Exam: Monday, July 28th
Book Review 2 Due: Wednesday, August 6th
Book Review 3 Due: Friday, August 15th
Final Exam: Friday, August 15th

Schedule and Assigned Readings:

Week 1:	**Imperial China, Republican China, and the Chinese Civil War**
Mon July 14:	Introductions, Discuss Syllabus, Etc.
Tue July 15:	Qing Dynasty & Late Imperial China – Lieberthal Chapter 1, skim Spence Chapters 7-11 (optional but recommended)
Wed July 16:	Republican China, Warlordism, & War – Spence Chapter 12 (pgs 275-299), Chapter 13 (pgs 305-325), & Chapter 14 (pgs 334-354).
Thu July 17:	Movie: "The Last Emperor"
Fri July 18:	Mao Takes Charge: World War II & Civil War – Spence Chapter 14 (pgs 354-360), Chapter 15 (pgs 370-379), Chapter 16 (pgs 403-424), Chapter 17 (pgs 456-483), Chapter 18 (pgs 491-498, pgs 504-513). **Discussion #1: Was the communist revolution inevitable? (Extra Credit Paper #1 Due)**
Week 2:	**Mao Zedong & Deng Xiaoping: Revolution, Reform & Retrenchment**
Mon July 21:	Legacies of the Civil War & The Early Mao Years – Lieberthal Chapter 2 (skim pgs 27-53 for review (optional), read 53-56 (required)), Chapters 3 & 4 (pgs 59-103)
Tue July 22:	The Later Mao Years – Spence Chapter 21 (pgs 574-617), Lieberthal Chapter 4 (pgs 103-122)
Wed July 23:	**BOOK REVIEW 1 DUE & DISCUSS** Deng Xiaoping and Reform – Spence Chapters 23, 24 & 25 (pgs 653-666, 675-682, 690-711, 712-737)
Thu July 24:	Tienanmen 1989 and After – Disaster, Retrenchment, Reopening – Spence Chapter 25 (pgs 738-747) & Craig Deitrich *The People's China: A Brief History* Chapter 10 (Handout).
Fri July 25:	Tienanmen Discussion – read Andrew Nathan, "The Tienanmen Papers" in *Foreign Affairs* (January-February 2001). **Discussion #2: Could Tienanmen have been avoided? (Extra Credit Paper #2 Due)**
Week 3:	**Modern Chinese Politics Part 1: How the System Works**
Mon July 28:	**MID-TERM EXAM**

Tue July 29:	The Formal & Informal Political System – Lieberthal Chapter 6 (pgs 171-205) and Chapter 7 (pgs 206-242).
Wed July 30:	Succession Politics & Power Sharing - Lieberthal Chapter 5 (pgs 157-167), Dittmer and Liu Chapter 3 (81-118), and Joseph Fewsmith, "China in 2007: The Politics of Leadership Transition," *Asian Survey* 48:1 (February 2008): 82-96.
Thu July 31:	Corruption and the Rule of Law – Dittmer and Liu Chapter 7 (pgs 191-219) and Chapter 17 (pgs 451-466)
Fri Aug 1:	Civil-Military Relations & The Police State – Andrew Scobell, "China's Evolving Civil Military Relations": http://afs.sagepub.com/cgi/content/abstract/31/2/227 Jason Fallows, "The Connection Has Been Reset": http://www.theatlantic.com/doc/200803/chinese-firewall Naomi Klein, "China's All Seeing Eye": http://www.rollingstone.com/politics/story/20797485/chinas_all seeing_eye/print Michael Bristow, "Stories China's Media Could Not Write": http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/asia-pacific/7171648.stm **Discussion #3: Can China's authoritarian system provide effective governance? (Extra Credit Paper #3 Due)**
Week 4:	**Modern Chinese Politics Part 2: Topical Concerns**
Mon Aug 4:	State-Society Relations – Dittmer and Liu Chapter 10 (pgs 285-298) and Chapter 11 (pgs 303-314). Maureen Fan (2008). "Citizens Groups Step Up in China." *Washington Post* (29 May 2008): A1.
Tue Aug 5:	Pollution & The Environment – Joseph Kahn and James Yardley. "As China Roars, Pollution Reaches Deadly Extremes." *New York Times* (26 August 2007). Jim Yardley. "Beneath Booming Cities, China's Future is Drying Up." *New York Times* (28 September 2007). Joseph Kahn and Mark Landler. "China Grabs West's Smoke-Spewing Factories." *New York Times* (21 December 2007).
Wed Aug 6:	**BOOK REVIEW 2 DUE & DISCUSS** The Gender Divide – Dittmer and Liu Chapter 16 (pgs 431-446) Lee and Feng, "Can China Afford to Continue Its One Child Policy?" http://www.eastwestcenter.org/fileadmin/stored/pdfs/api077.pdf "China to Act On Gender Imbalance" *BBC* http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/asia-pacific/6963445.stm

Thu Aug 7:	Economic Reform – Dittmer and Liu Chapter 8 (pgs 228-249) and Chapter 15 (pgs 405-423)
Fri Aug 8:	The Rural / Urban, Rich / Poor Divide – Lam Chapter 3 (pgs 63-106) Peter Goodman (2006). "Natives Feel Left Out of China's New West." *Washington Post* (June 5): A1. **Discussion #4: What is China's most pressing concern moving into the 21st century? (Extra Credit Paper #4 Due)**
Week 5:	**Modern Chinese Politics Part 3: Old Concerns, New Challenges (Or, Where Do We Go From Here?)**
Mon Aug 11:	Hu Jintao & the Fourth Generation – Lam Chapter 1 (pgs 3-33)
Tue Aug 12:	Village Elections & Political Reform – Dittmer and Liu Chapter 14 (pgs 381-397) and Lam Chapter 4 (pgs 107-156)
Wed Aug 13:	Regime Legitimacy – Dittmer and Liu Chapter 5 (pgs 147-170) and Lam Chapter 2 (pgs 34-62).
Thu Aug 14:	Looking Ahead / Final Discussion – Dittmer and Liu Conclusion (pgs 493-505), Lieberthal Chapter 11 (315-336)
Fri Aug 15:	**FINAL EXAM / BOOK REVIEW #3 DUE**