

**POLS 4328/ASIA 3350: Politics of China, Spring 2023**

Tuesdays & Thursdays 1:30 – 2:50 pm  
Location: LART 211

Instructor: Dr. Joseph Yingnan Zhou  
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Office Hours: by appointment only

**Course Description**

China is an important country to students of politics. It is one of the largest country in terms of population, economic power, and military power. It is a radically-changing society which went through at least four major transformations in the last century. It also poses many puzzles that are intellectually charming. How did the communist regime survive the Third Wave of democratization, which wiped two dozen communist countries off the world map? How did the country not merely survive but prosper? Will the “China Model” work elsewhere? What are the challenges China faces? How likely is democratization? What was the US-China relation like and what will it be? In this course, you will gain a background to understand and answer these questions. You will also develop the general skills to make informed and sound arguments and to conduct comparative research.

**Required Text**

- William Joseph (editor), Politics in China: An Introduction, 3rd edition (Oxford University Press, 2019), ISBN: 978-0-19-087071-3 (paperback).
- Other readings will be posted on Blackboard

**Learning Objectives**

- Obtain knowledge of contemporary Chinese politics [**EDGE Experience: global awareness**]
- Understand key issues in political science
- Sharpen critical thinking skills [**EDGE Experience: critical thinking**]
- Develop research skills [**EDGE Experience: problem-solving**]
- Improve writing skills

**Grading**

Attendance	5%
In-class participation	5%
Two reaction essays	15%
Film discussion	10%
Pop quizzes	10%
Debate	5%
Mid-term exam	25%
Final exam	25%

Letter Grades will be assigned as follows:

Final Score	Final Grade
90-100%	A
80-89%	B
65-79%	C
50-64%	D
Below 50%	F

#### Attendance (5%)

Attendance is the foundation of success in this class. I will take attendance in each class, including the ones when movies are shown. If you have to miss a class for health or other university-approved reasons, please let me know in advance. You may lose attendance points for arriving late or leaving early.

#### In-class Participation (5%)

In-class participation includes being prepared before lecture and being active during lecture. Good participation reflects adequate preparation and accurate comprehension of class materials. You may lose points for being unprepared.

#### Reaction Essays (15%)

You are required to write two essays in response to two designated readings. *The essays are due on Blackboard at 11:59 pm on those two days. A guideline for essay writing will be posted on Blackboard.* Your essay should respond to all the readings assigned for that day. Each day of late submission will result in a 5% penalty. *I will not accept papers one week after the due date.*

#### Pop Quizzes (10%)

Pop quizzes will be given during class to encourage adequate preparation. I will design the quizzes so that if you have read the materials, it'll be hard to miss any point, but if you have not read the materials, it'll be hard to get any point. Because I will reveal the answers right away, pop quizzes cannot be made up.

#### Film Discussion (10%)

You are going to watch four films throughout the semester. After each, you will have a discussion on Blackboard. You are required to submit at least two posts in each discussion, one that shares your thoughts or questions about the film and one in response to others' posts. The first post is due at 11:59 pm the day after the film is shown and the second post is due at 11:59 pm two days after the film is shown. We do not skip Saturdays and Sundays when counting. Good grades will be given for posts that reflect deep understanding of the film and of class materials. Heated discussion is desired but civility must be preserved.

### Debate (5%)

You will have a debate during class on Thursday April 27 on the pros and cons of China's one-child policy. There are two debaters on each side and the rest of you are audience voters. If more than four students volunteer for being the debaters, a lottery will be drawn. The debaters will be graded on their performance in the debate, and the audience voters will be graded on their written explanations of their votes. A detailed instruction of the debate is posted on Blackboard.

### Exams (50%)

There will be a midterm exam (25%) and a final exam (25%). Both are open-book and taken on Blackboard. Open-book means you can use assigned readings, lecture notes, and other materials I provide on Blackboard during exam but you are prohibited from collaborating with one another during exam or searching the Internet. Violations will be easily detected and handled as academic misconduct. I will provide study guides and conduct Q&A sessions before each exam. Please refer to the timetable for specific dates.

### **Keeping Up with News about China**

Following news about China helps you digest class materials. As you will soon find, there are a variety of sources and the sources may differ in focus and angle. Pay attention to these differences and contemplate their causes. Here are some famous news sources. The Guardian, <http://www.guardian.co.uk/>. The New York Times, <http://www.nytimes.com/>, and the Christian Science Monitor <http://www.csmonitor.com/>. The following are some official sources in China. China Internet Information Center, <http://www.china.org.cn>, or the Xinhua News Agency site, <http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/home.htm>. Some English-language papers from Taiwan, Hong Kong, and Singapore also cover China extensively.

### **Academic Integrity**

Academic misconduct, such as cheating and plagiarism, will not be tolerated. Check the university definition of academic misconduct and make every effort to avoid it (<https://www.utep.edu/student-affairs/osccr/student-conduct/academic-integrity.html>).

### **Students with Disabilities**

If you have a disability and need classroom accommodations, or otherwise seek additional information, please contact **The Center for Accommodations and Support Services (CASS)** at 747-5148, or by email to [cass@utep.edu](mailto:cass@utep.edu), or visit their office located in Union East, Room 106. You are responsible for presenting to me any CASS accommodation letters and instructions before arrangements need to be made for exams, quizzes, or other needs.

## Resources in Challenging Times

Times can be challenging and you are not alone. UTEP is dedicated to students' mental health. Here is a list of on-and-off campus resources that you may find helpful.

<https://www.utep.edu/student-affairs/resources/Mental-Health-Resources-for-UTEP-Students>.

## **PART 1: HISTORY AND PRE-REFORM ERA**

1/17 Tuesday—Course Introduction

1/19 Thursday—A Snapshot into Chinese Politics

- *Politics in China*. Chapter 1 (pp. 3-28).

1/24 Tuesday—Confucianism

- Chan, Wing-Tsit. 1963. "The Humanism of Confucius." *Source Book in Chinese Philosophy*, Chapter 4.
- Page, Jeremy. 2015. "Why China is Turning Back to Confucius." *Wall Street Journal*, Sep 20,
- Confucius, *The Analects*. [link](#) (optional)

1/26 Thursday—Chinese Imperial History

- *Politics in China*. Chapter 2 (pp.45-56).

1/31 Tuesday—Film on imperial China

2/2 Thursday—Film on imperial China, continued

2/7 Tuesday—the Republican Revolution and the May Fourth Movement

- *Politics in China*. Chapter 2 (pp.56-73).
- Karl Marx and Frederick Engels, *Manifesto of the Communist Party*. [link](#) (optional)

2/9 Thursday—the Republican Revolution and the May Fourth Movement, continued

2/14 Tuesday—the Mao Era before the Cultural Revolution

- *Politics in China*. Chapter 3 (pp. 76-100)
- Li Zhisui. 1994. *The private life of Chairman Mao: The memoirs of Mao's personal physician* (pp. 114-136).

- Mao Zedong, *Quotations from Chairman Mao Zedong*. [link](#) (optional)

2/16 Thursday—the Cultural Revolution

- *Politics in China*. Chapter 3 (pp. 100-123)
- Ramzy, Austin. 2016. “China’s Cultural Revolution, Explained”. *New York Times*.

2/21 Tuesday—Deng Xiaoping & “Reform and Opening”

- *Politics in China*. Chapter 4 (pp. 124-133).
- “Resolution on Certain Questions in the History of Our Party.” CCP. 1981. ([link](#), optional)

2/23 Thursday—Deng Xiaoping & “Reform and Opening”, continued

2/28 Tuesday—film on the Mao years

## **PART 2: POLITICS OF THE REFORM ERA**

3/2 Thursday—the Tiananmen Protests

- *Politics in China*. Chapter 4 (pp. 133-153)
- “The Tiananmen Papers,” *Foreign Affairs* 80.1 (Jan/Feb 2001). ([link](#), optional)

3/7 Tuesday—film on the Tiananmen Protests

3/9 Thursday—midterm exam Q&A

3/14, 3/16 Spring break, no class

3/21 Tuesday—midterm exam on Blackboard from noon to 11:59 pm

3/23 Thursday—the emergence of a “Socialist Market Economy” **[reaction essay]**

- *Politics in China*. Chapter 4 (pp. 134-153).
- Tang, Min. 2011. "The Political Behavior of the Chinese Middle Class." *Journal of Chinese Political Science* 16 (4):373.

3/28 Tuesday—The “Drive for Economic Modernization” and the Role of the Government

- *Politics in China*. Chapter 8

3/30 Thursday—structure of the party state

- *Politics in China*. Chapter 6
- Tang, Wenfang. 2014 “Same Bed, Different Dreams: The Bifurcation of the Chinese Communist Party,” Shan and Yang eds., *The Rising Civil Society and State-Society Relations in China* (pp. 1-30).

### PART 3: SPECIFIC ISSUES

4/4 Tuesday—China's legal system

- *Politics in China*. Chapter 7
- Wang, Yuhua. 2015. *Tying the Autocrat's Hands*. New York: Cambridge University Press (pp. 16-49).

4/6 Thursday—film on China's legal system

4/11 Tuesday—the survival strategy of the CCP [**reaction essay**]

- Dickson, Bruce. 2004. "Dilemmas of Party Adaptation: the CCP's Strategies for Survival." Gries and Rosen eds. *Chinese Politics* (pp. 22-40).
- Nathan, Andrew J. 2003. "Authoritarian Resilience." *Journal of Democracy* 14 (1):6-17.

4/13 Thursday—China's COVID's response

- Readings to be announced

4/18 Tuesday— Protests and Resistance

- Tang, Wenfang. 2016, "Regime-Inspired Contentious Politics (Chapter 6)" in *Populist Authoritarianism: Chinese Political Culture and Regime Stability*.

4/20 Thursday—Rural and Urban China

- *Politics in China*. Chapter 9-10

4/25 Tuesday—film on China's population policy

4/27 Thursday—Debate: On balance, was the one-child policy a good policy?

- *Politics in China*. Chapter 14

5/2 Tuesday—Corruption

- Rock, Michael T. "Corruption and democracy." *Journal of Development Studies* 45, no. 1 (2009): 55-75.
- Quah, Jon ST. "Combating corruption in Singapore: What Can be Learned?" *Journal of Contingencies and Crisis Management* 9, no. 1 (2001): 29-35.

5/4 Thursday— Final exam Q&A

5/11 Thursday—Final exam on Blackboard from noon to 11:59 pm