POLSCI 389K
Politics and Policy in Contemporary China
Spring 2018

Dates/contact hours: 300 minutes per week for 7 weeks
Academic Credit: 1 course
Course format: lecture + classroom discussion

Instructor’s Information

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Prerequisite(s), if applicable
No prerequisites

Course Description

Inquiry into politics and policy in contemporary China from the perspective of major American scholars. Equal focus on political fundamentals and management of major new policy challenges. Political fundamentals include elite politics, policy process, political culture, legal reform, representation, interest groups, interest articulation, collective action. Policy challenges include economic growth, socioeconomic inequality, corruption, social media, population planning, environmental degradation, minority nationalities, China as global player. Although the course focuses on China, there will be a strong comparative aspect with most topics—ancient, colonial, and modern China, pre-Mao and post-Mao China, et cetera.

Course Goals / Objectives

Course aims to build knowledge and capacity in four areas:
1. Knowledge of major features of Chinese politics and policy that are (or are not) distinctive, ability to explain sources of successful policy performance, nuanced understanding of core political and policy challenges.
2. Understanding of major questions of consensus and disagreement in China field and assessment of evidence and methods underlying how we know what we think we know.
3. Ability to engage in critical thinking and to formulate and support well-reasoned arguments using reliable, appropriate evidence.
4. Familiarity with key sources to make further progress, after the course is completed, in acquiring expertise on public affairs of contemporary China.
## Required Text(s)/Resources


## Recommended Text(s)/Resources

Accessible on course Sakai website.

## Additional Materials (optional)

## Course Requirements/Key Evidences

Reading required course materials, keeping up to date with current public affairs, quizzes, writing assignments, exams, optional term paper

## Technology Considerations, if applicable

Students may use laptops to take notes in lectures and discussions. Course will show several clips of documentaries on Chinese politics, with optional viewing of longer selections (e.g., entire films) outside of class time.

## Assessment Information/Grading Procedures

Performance evaluated with scheduled in-class quizzes, participation, two writing assignments, and two examinations. Distribution of grade: quizzes 10 percent, participation 15 percent, two writing assignments 10 percent each, exams 25 percent and 30 percent.

I will discuss reading and writing skills with the EFL professors to coordinate instruction in these areas. Quantity of reading per week may be challenging for EFL students but should not be overwhelming. Reading assignments may be adjusted based on feedback from first two or three sessions of class.

## Diversity and Intercultural Learning (see Principles of DKU Liberal Arts Education)

Course will be of interest to students of various backgrounds. Each may come with her or his own personal interests and objectives but course fosters deep exchanges among students to help them consider the history, politics, economics, and sociology of China’s place in today’s world. Guidance on group work and class participation to be provided for students unaccustomed to open-discussion style of teaching and learning. EFL students to be encouraged to consult with writing and oral communications instructors for strategies on reading, writing, listening, and presenting in English.

## Course Policies and Guidelines

## Course Policies
Instructors’ expectations for all assignments and activities will be made as explicitly as possible, given the likelihood of a wide range of background conventions and habits among the students. The Duke Kunshan University Community Standard will be discussed and adhered to.

**Academic Integrity**
Each student is bound by the academic honesty standard of the Duke Kunshan University. Its Community Standard states: “Duke Kunshan University is a community composed of individuals of diverse cultures and backgrounds. We are dedicated to scholarship, leadership, and service and to the principles of honesty, fairness, respect, and accountability. Members of this community commit to reflect upon and uphold these principles in all academic and non-academic endeavors, and to protect and promote a culture of integrity.” Violations of the DKU academic honesty standard will not be tolerated. Cheating, lying, falsification, or plagiarism in any practice will be considered as an inexcusable behavior and will result in zero points for the activity.

**Attendance**
Students are responsible for all the information presented in class. As indicated above, class attendance and participation are important components of the grade.

**Make-up work**
Students are allowed to make up work only if missed as a result of illness or other unanticipated circumstances warranting a medical excuse, consistent with DKU policy. You must notify the instructor in advance if you will miss an exam or project deadline. Documentation from a health care provider is required upon your return to class. Project extensions requested for medical reasons must be negotiated at the time of illness.

**Appropriate or inappropriate use of cell phone, laptop, or other technology during class**
Students are allowed to use their laptops, iPads, and smart phones to access course-related web materials during class.

**Tentative Course Outline or Schedule**

1: **Introduction**
Saich, *Governance and Politics of China*, 1–33.

2: **Weight of the Past**

2: Imperial Legacies

3: **Winning Power**

4: **Maoist-Era Development and Utopia**

5: **Post-Mao New Deal**
Political Elites and Elite Politics

6: Ideology

7: Communist Party Organization
Saich, Governance and Politics of China, 108–141.

8: Leaders, Governance, Policy Processes
Saich, Governance and Politics of China, 142–178.
Melanie Manion, Chinese Political Structures, Chinese Policy Process (figures).

9: Getting Along and Ahead in Chinese Politics

10: Corruption

IN-CLASS MIDTERM EXAM

Managing Society: Fundamentals

11: Laws, Rights, Obligations

12: Stability Maintenance

13: Information Revolution, Information Management

14: “Acceptable” Channels of Interest Articulation
Managing Society: Issues

15: Political Dissidence and Everyday Protest

16: Population Planning

17: Inequality

18: Religion and New Spiritual Movements

Wrapping Up, Moving Forward

19: Sino-U.S. Relations

20: Studying China: How Do We Know What We Know?

FINAL EXAM

version for Reisinger committee 13 October 2016