



昆山杜克大学
DUKE KUNSHAN
UNIVERSITY

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

Required reading. *Governance and Politics of China*, 3rd edition, by Tony Saich (New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2011) is basic textbook for course—so students should buy this book. Supplementary required reading materials in electronic form accessible on course Sakai website.

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.

Weight of the Past

2: Imperial Legacies

Elizabeth Perry, "Chinese Conceptions of 'Rights': From Mencius to Mao—and Now," *Perspectives on Politics* 6, no. 1 (2008): 37–50.

Tianjian Shi and Jie Lu, "The Shadow of Confucianism," *Journal of Democracy* 21, no. 4 (2010): 123–130.

3: Winning Power

Kenneth Lieberthal, *Governing China: From Revolution through Reform*, 2nd edition (New York: Norton, 2004), 27–56.

4: Maoist-Era Development and Utopia

Saich, *Governance and Politics of China*, 34–66.

"Resolution on Certain Questions in the History of Our Party Since the Founding of the People's Republic of China," Sixth Plenary Session of the Eleventh Central Committee of the Communist Party of China, June 27, 1981 (excerpts).

5: Post-Mao New Deal

Saich, *Governance and Politics of China*, 67–107, 262–296.

Political Elites and Elite Politics

6: Ideology

Robert A. Dahl, *Democracy and Its Critics* (New Haven, Conn.: Yale University Press, 1989), 52–64.

Yu Keping, "Democracy Is a Good Thing," in *Democracy Is a Good Thing: Essays on Politics, Society, and Culture in Contemporary China* (Washington, D.C.: Brookings, 2006), 3–5.

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

Bruce J. Dickson, "Who Wants to Be a Communist? Career Incentives and Mobilized Loyalty in Contemporary China," *China Quarterly*, no. 217 (2014): 42–68.

10: Corruption

Melanie Manion, "The Challenge of Corruption," in *China's Challenges: The Road Ahead*, edited by Avery Goldstein and Jacques de Lisle (Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2014), 125–138.

Melanie Manion, "Taking China's Anticorruption Campaign Seriously," *Economic and Political Studies*, vol. 4, no. 1 (2016): 3–18.

IN-CLASS MIDTERM EXAM

Managing Society: Fundamentals

Saich, *Governance and Politics of China*, 241–261.

11: Laws, Rights, Obligations

Robert Weatherley, "The Evolution of Chinese Thinking on Human Rights in the Post-Mao Era," *Journal of Communist Studies and Transition Politics*, vol. 17, no. 2 (2001), 19–42.

12: Stability Maintenance

Bruce J. Dickson, "No 'Jasmine' for China," *Current History*, vol. 110, no. 737 (2011): 211–216.

Yuhua Wang, "Coercive Capacity and the Durability of the Chinese Communist State," *Communist and Post-Communist Studies*, vol. 47, no. 1 (2014): 13–25.

13: Information Revolution, Information Management

Jonathan Hassid, "Controlling the Chinese Media: An Uncertain Business," *Asian Survey*, vol. 48, no. 3 (2008): 414–30.

Yuezhi Zhou, "Watchdogs on Party Leashes? Contexts and Implications of Investigative Journalism in Post-Deng China," *Journalism Studies*, vol. 1, no. 4 (2000): online.

14: "Acceptable" Channels of Interest Articulation

Lianjiang Li, "The Empowering Effect of Village Elections in China," *Asian Survey*, vol. 43, no. 4 (2003): 648–662.

Melanie Manion, "Authoritarian Parochialism: Local Congressional Representation in China," *China Quarterly*, no. 218 (2014): 311–338.

Managing Society: Issues

15: Political Dissidence and Everyday Protest

Andrew J. Nathan, *Chinese Democracy* (Berkeley and Los Angeles: University of California Press, 1985), 3–44.

<http://www.tsquare.tv/film/gateExcerpts.php#5>. Clip from “Gate of Heavenly Peace” documentary.

At <http://www.rjgeib.com/thoughts/china/jingshen.html>, read and compare Wei Jingsheng’s 1978 manifesto on the “fifth modernization” with the 2008 manifesto, Charter 08, at <http://www.charter08.com/charter08.php>.

16: Population Planning

Tyrene White, “Domination, Resistance, and Accommodation in China’s One-Child Campaign,” in Elizabeth Perry and Mark Seldon, eds., *Chinese Society: Change, Conflict and Resistance*, 3rd edition (London: Routledge Curzon, 2010), 171–196.

17: Inequality

Saich, *Governance and Politics of China*, 297–335, 364–391.

Martin King Whyte, “China’s Post-Socialist Inequality,” *Current History*, vol. 111, no. 746 (2012): 229–234.

18: Religion and New Spiritual Movements

David Ownby, “Qigong, Falun Gong, and the Body Politic in Contemporary China,” in Lionel M. Jensen and Timothy B. Weston, eds., *China’s Transformations: The Stories Beyond the Headlines* (Lanham, Md.: Rowman and Littlefield, 2007), 90–111

Wrapping Up, Moving Forward

19: Sino-U.S. Relations

Peter Hays Gries, “Tears of Rage: Chinese Nationalist Reactions to the Belgrade Embassy,” *China Journal*, no. 46 (2001): 25–43.

Susan L. Shirk, *China: Fragile Superpower* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2007), 212–254.

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

FINAL EXAM

version for Reisinger committee 13 October 2016