POLITICS OF CHINA, HONG KONG, AND TAIWAN
Political Science 345

Professor Vincent Wei-cheng Wang

University of Richmond
Fall 2001

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Course Description

Many inside or outside China have predicted that the twenty-first century will be the Chinese century. Is it? What kind of China? What kind of century? As the new millennium dawns and the Cold War fading away, China wakes and arises. Given its economic boom, political authoritarianism, and nationalistic yearnings, China will become the center of scholarly interest and policy debates for years to come.

This course examines the politics and government of contemporary Greater China, which includes the People’s Republic of China (PRC), the Republic of China on Taiwan (ROC), and the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR). By adopting a comparative social scientific approach, this course studies this important country (and civilization) in light of several central theoretical debates in social sciences, and emphasizes the interactions between Western social sciences and Chinese political realities. The first part of the course discusses the historical legacy for twentieth-century Chinese politics. The second part reviews the political history of the People’s Republic from 1949 through the present, and analyzes its political system. The third part assesses Hong Kong’s transition and challenges to the mainland. The fourth part examines contemporary Taiwan as an alternative Chinese development model, and addresses the cross-Strait issue. Key political, economic, and security issues will be discussed. Guest lecturers will be invited.

Text Materials

You are expected to purchase the following books at the Bookstore.

Shelley Rigger, Politics in Taiwan: Voting for Democracy (Routledge, 1999)
Warren I. Cohen and Li Zhao, eds., Hong Kong Under Chinese Rule: The Economic and Political Implications of Reversion (Cambridge University Press, 1997)

All other materials will be made available as handouts or links to articles on the course web site (see below). You are responsible for these readings. To help defray the cost of photocopies, each student shall pay $8 to the Department Secretary.

Free China Review, Free China Journal, etc. All these are in the Library. Some are also available on the Worldwide Web. In addition, a few web sites provide English and Chinese news or materials that bring you up to date.

The course web site (http://www.richmond.edu/~vwang/ps345/F01-index.html) contains a course syllabus, assignments, announcements, articles, links, and other useful information related to the course. A password is needed (give in class) to access some articles.

Pedagogical Approaches

This course employs reading (both texts and background materials), lecture, discussions, and film/video presentations. It emphasizes several essential academic skills, such as effective verbal and written expressions. The students are expected to command basic facts and history, form critical analysis, keep abreast of current developments, and develop some appreciation for the people, culture, and language.

Grading and Requirements

Your grades are based on your own work and self-improvement. There is no set quota on any grade. Grades are based on students’ individual merits. “A” grades are for truly excellent work, “B” grades are for good or very good work, “C” grades are for average work, “D” grades are for below average work, and "F" for failure or no credit. The final grade is based on the following requirements:

1. Short Papers (60%): Four short papers will be distributed throughout the semester (see schedule below), intended to summarize segments of the course and allow critical thinking/reflection. You will prepare answers to the question in the form of a 5-page short paper (typed, double-spaced) that is due exactly one week later. Write this paper as a concise analytic paper, with clear and logical arguments, full references, and correct spelling and grammar. Please consult the course web site for more information on the expectations on the papers. Although you can consult any material, your work must be your own.

2. Book Review (20%): You will choose one book from a list of books (to be provided) to write a 10-page book review. Please consult “How to write book reviews” on the course web site.

3. Attendance and Participation (20%): Regular attendance and active yet constructive participation in the class are essential to the success of this class. You are expected to complete all assigned readings before each class, show up in class regularly, and contribute to class discussions. Ten times throughout the semester, an unannounced roll will be taken, and you will be awarded one point each time you are physically present. This includes the video-viewing sessions. Class participation is graded based on the quality, quantity, substance, and relevance of your contribution to the class, as well as the courtesy and professionalism you show to other students and me.

Policies

1. Attendance and absences: Regular attendance is an important component in this course. The Dean’s Office excuses only student participating in a University-sponsored event. Excuse of absence due to any other reasons is at my discretion. Regardless of the circumstances, you are responsible for all the materials and assignments during your absence. If you miss a significant number of classes at any point in the semester, the Dean’s Office will be notified. Excessive absence will impair your grades.

2. Late works: All assignments are due on the days specified in the syllabus, at the beginning of the class. Late works will result in penalties as follows: one full letter grade deduction (e.g., from A to B) per 24 hours, until 72 hours after they are due – at that point, a failing grade (F) will be given for that assignment.
3. **Honor Pledge:** I believe that the most important measure of a student’s education is what is learned rather than grades received, and there is real value in integrity. Consequently, this course adopts and enforces the University’s honor system. Any type of academic dishonesty, including plagiarism, is prohibited. You are required to include and sign the honor pledge, as a part of any work: “I pledge that I have neither given nor received unauthorized assistance during the completion of this work.”

**Course Schedule**

8/27  An Introduction to the Course and Romanization of Chinese Names of Persons and Places  
Wang, xi-xvi; Ogden, 179-184

Part I: Historical Legacy

8/29  Traditional China and the Collapse of the Imperial System  
Ogden, 131-150; Dietrich, xiii-xv, 3-16; Wang, 1-10

9/3  Film: *The Giant Awakes: Chinese Capitalism*  
Assignment distributed in class (due 9/10)

9/5  Film: *The Giant Awakes: Human Rights in China*  
Assignment distributed in class (due 9/10)

9/10  The Abortive Republican Revolution and the Communist Rise to Power  
Wang, 10-19; Dietrich, 17-49

9/12  Film: *China: The Long March or One Man’s Revolution: Mao Tse-tung*  
Part II: China Since 1949 – Accomplishments, Failures, and Challenges

For this part, read Ogden, 5-49 and China at 50 web sites

9/17  The New Socialist Order  
Wang, 19-26; Dietrich, Ch. 2, 3

9/19  The Great Leap Forward: Origins of Developmental Ideology or One-Man’s Disaster?  
Dietrich, Ch. 4, 5  
Film: *The Mao Years (part 1): Catch the Stars and Moon* in class if time permits; otherwise watch it on your own at MRC

***Paper 1 distributed (due 9/26)***

9/24  The Cultural Revolution: Origins, Madness, and the End of the Maoist Era  
Wang, 26-36; Dietrich, Ch. 6, 7  
Recommended: Heng Liang and Judith Shapiro, *Son of Revolution*; Nien Cheng, *Life and Death in Shanghai*  
Film: *The Mao Years (part 2): It’s Right to Rebel!* in class if time permits; otherwise watch it on your own at MRC

9/26  Deng, Jiang, and Beyond: Accomplishments and Failures  
Ogden, 104-117; Wang, Ch. 3; Dietrich, Ch. 8

10/1 Political System: Formal Structure of the Party-State
Wang, Ch. 4, Appendices A, B, A-1, and B-1

10/3 Informal Political Dynamics: Elite Conflict, Factionalism, Military, and the Succession Dilemma
Wang, Ch. 5, 9

10/8 Reforming the Socialist Legal System
Wang, Ch. 6

10/10 The Politics of Modernization
Wang, Ch. 11, 12
Film: *The Giant Awakes: The Path of Chinese Privatization*

10/15 FALL BREAK

10/17 Democracy, Dissent, and Tiananmen: Human Rights and “Asian Values”
Film: *Moving the Mountains or The Gate of Heavenly Peace*


10/22 Relationships with the Periphery
Wang, Ch. 7, 8; Ogden, 128-131, 171-174, 177-179

***Book Review Due***

10/24 The Two Faces of Today’s China: So Much Freedom but So Little Democracy
Dietrich, Ch. 10; Ogden, 123-128, 151-171, 174-177
Film: *China’s Only Child*

***Paper 2 distributed (due 10/31)***

Part III: Hong Kong – Fallen Angel or the Trojan Horse?
For this part, read Ogden, 76-99

10/29 Historical Context
Cohen and Li, 1-7, Ch. 1, 11; Ogden, 195-199
Film: Nightline series
10/31 Legal and Political Challenges
Cohen and Li, Ch. 2, 3, 7; Ogden, 199-202; others TBA
Recommended: The Basic Law of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region
Film: Nightline series

11/5 Economic Issues
Cohen and Li, Ch. 4, 5, 6

11/7 Strategic and International Implications
Cohen and Li, 8, 9, 10

***Paper 3 distributed (due 11/14)***

Part IV: Taiwan – Nation-State or Province?

For this part, read Ogden, 52-75

11/12 Historical Overview
Film: Tug of War: The Story of Taiwan

11/14 Taiwan’s Democratization and Third Wave Consolidation: An Overview
Rigger, Ch. 1; Thomas B. Gold, “Taiwan”: Still Defying the Odds,” in Consolidating the Third Wave Democracies, eds. Larry Diamond, Marc F. Plattner, Yun-han Chu, and Hung-mao Tien, pp. 162-191 (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1997)
Recommended: Linda Chao and Ramon H. Myers, The First Chinese Democracy (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1998), 1-18

11/19 Politics Until the 1970s: Democratizing the Leninist Party-State
Rigger, 34-118
Recommended: Chao and Myers, Ch. 2-4

11/21 THANKSGIVING BREAK

11/26 Politics of the 1980s: Crisis, Reform, Democratization, and Elite Settlement
Rigger, 118-147
Recommended: Chao and Myers, Ch. 5-9

11/28 Politics in the 1990s: Democratic Consolidation and New Identity
Rigger, Ch. 7; Ian Buruma, “Taiwan’s New Nationalists,” Foreign Affairs 75(4)(July/August 1996): 77-91

12/3 Significance of the 2000 Presidential Election
Rigger, Ch. 8; Ogden, 187-192; other TBA

***Paper 4 distributed (due 12/10, 2 pm)***

12/5 Open Discussion: Hong Kong’s Future? Taiwan’s Future? China’s Future?
Ogden, 187-192, 192-194; others TBA