Many inside or outside China have predicted that the twenty-first century will be the Chinese century. The rise of China is already a fact. But questions remain: What kind of China? What kind of century? 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 what some economists call “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). The subject under study is the homes of one quarter of mankind, economic dynamos, and divergent political models whose choices entail profound implications for the Asia-Pacific region, the United States, and the world. China is the world’s most populous nation, a rapidly rising economic power, and one of the surviving communist states. Hong Kong is one of the world’s top financial centers which has traditionally served as a gateway to China. Taiwan is the first democracy in Chinese history (and the hitherto only democracy in the Sinophone world) and one of the most dynamic newly industrialized countries. Understanding them help raise important questions in economic development, political democratization, and cultural identity.

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.

Text Materials

The following required books are available for purchase at the Bookstore:


All other materials are on electronic reserve at the Library. You are responsible for these readings.

You are strongly encouraged to read periodicals that can help you keep abreast of current events and scholarship. I recommend the *New York Times, Economist, Far Eastern Economic Review, Asian Wall Street Journal, China Quarterly, China Journal, Asian Survey, Pacific Affairs, Asian Affairs, Beijing*
Review, South China Morning Post, Taipei Review, Taiwan 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.

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%)**: Five 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 “How to Write a Good Paper in Political Science” ([http://oncampus.richmond.edu/~vwang/Paperwriting.html](http://oncampus.richmond.edu/~vwang/Paperwriting.html)) for more information on the expectations on the papers. Although you can consult any material, your work must be your own. You should feel free to have the Writing Center review your paper in advance.

2. **Book Review (20%)**: You will choose one book from the following list and write a 10-page book review – due March 21. You should introduce the main contents of the book, highlight the book’s essential points or novel findings, and critique its strengths and weaknesses. Please consult “Guidelines for Book Reviews” ([http://oncampus.richmond.edu/~vwang/Bookreview](http://oncampus.richmond.edu/~vwang/Bookreview)), or talk with the instructor or the reference librarian. These books are on reserve at the Library. Those marked with * are available for purchase from the Bookstore’s Book Service as recommended books.

- Nicholas Kristof and Sheryl WuDunn, *China Wakes* (Vintage, 1994)
- Jung Chang and Jon Holliday, *Mao: The Unknown Story* (Knopf, 2005)*
- James C. Hsiung, ed., *Hong Kong the Super Paradox* (St. Martin’s, 2000)
- Shih-shan Henry Tsai, *Lee Teng-hui and Taiwan’s Quest for Identity* (Palgrave, 2005)
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**

1/17  Introduction to the Course and Romanization of Chinese Names of Persons and Places  
Syllabus; Lieberthal, xxv-xxvii; Ogden, 179-184; Simon Montlake, “In Asia, English is Useful but Mandarin is Rising,” *The Christian Science Monitor* (12 January 2006): 1  

Part I: Historical Legacy

1/19  Historical Determinants of Modern Chinese Politics  
Watch: *China in Revolution, 1911-1949*  
Write: one-page response paper (due 1/24): “To what extent the ‘Century of Humiliation’ and a tumultuous history of revolution and war shape how Communist China conducted its domestic politics and foreign policy?”

1/24  Traditional China: Legacy of Empires and Dynasties  

1/26  The Collapse of the Imperial System & Commemorating the Chinese New Year (of the Dog)  
Lieberthal, 19-26; Ogden, 4

1/31  The Republican Era and the Communist Rise to Power  
Lieberthal, 27-56; Ogden, 4-7; Dietrich, 17-49  

***Paper 1 distributed (due 2/7)***
2/2 Film: *China: The Long March or One Man’s Revolution: Mao Tse-tung*

Part II: China Since 1949 – Accomplishments, Failures, and Challenges


2/7 Mao Zedong: Ideology and Governing
Lieberthal, ch. 3

2/9 The New Socialist Order
Dietrich, Ch. 2, 3; Lieberthal, 86-99; Ogden, 7-8

2/14 The Great Leap Forward: Origins of Developmentalist Ideology or One-Man’s Disaster?
Dietrich, Ch. 4, 5; Lieberthal, 99-109
Film: *The Mao Years (part 1): Catch the Stars and Moon* in class if time permits; otherwise watch it on your own at MRC

2/16 The Cultural Revolution: Origins, Madness, and the End of the Maoist Era
Dietrich, Ch. 6, 7; Lieberthal, 109-22; Ogden, 8-10; David Barboza, “Yao Wenyuan, 74, Member of Gang of 4,” New York Times (7 January 2006): 14
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

2/21 The Reform Era: Deng, Jiang, and Beyond, Accomplishments and Failures
Dietrich, Ch. 8; Lieberthal, ch. 5; Ogden, 10-11

2/23 Film: *Born Under the Red Flag*

***Paper 2 distributed (due 3/2)***

Part III: Governing China: Challenges to Political System

2/28 Political System: Formal Structure of the Party-State
Lieberthal, ch. 6; Ogden, 30-33

3/2 Informal Political Dynamics: Elite Conflict, Factionalism, Military, and the Succession Dilemma
Lieberthal, ch. 7

3/7 & 3/9 Spring Break: No Classes 😎

3/14 Reforming the Socialist Legal System
Ogden, 28-29; *The New York Times* Series: Rule by Law
• “In Worker's Death, View of China's Harsh Justice,” The New York Times (December 31, 2005): A1, 2036 words, By JIM YARDLEY
• “When Chinese Sue the State, Cases Are Often Smothered,” The New York Times (December 28, 2005): A1, 2349 words, By JOSEPH KAHN
• “Seeking a Public Voice on China's 'Angry River',” The New York Times (December 26, 2005): A1, 2830 words, By JIM YARDLEY
• “Legal Gadfly Bites Hard, and Beijing Slaps Him,” The New York Times (December 13, 2005): A1, 1,2792 words, By JOSEPH KAHN
• “A Judge Tests China's Courts, Making History,” The New York Times (November 28, 2005): A1, 1,2751 words, By JIM YARDLEY
• “Dispute Leaves U.S. Executive In Chinese Legal Netherworld,” The New York Times (November 1, 2005): A1; 3418 words, By JOSEPH KAHN

3/16 Economic Development: Market Leninism or Authoritarian Developmentalism?
Lieberthal, ch. 8; Ogden, 21-8, 104-7
Film: The Giant Awakes: The Path of Chinese Privatization

3/21 Environmental Degradation and Energy Quest
Lieberthal, ch. 9; Ogden, 131-40
***Book Review Due***

3/23 State and Society: Population, Human Rights, Gender Relations, Dissent and Control
Lieberthal, ch. 10; Dietrich, ch. 9-10; Ogden, 114-27; Ian Johnson, “Deadly Exercise: Practicing Falun Gong Was a Right, Ms. Chen Said, to Her Last Day,” Wall Street Journal (20 April 2000): A1
Film: China’s Only Child or Moving the Mountain
***Paper 3 distributed (due 3/30)***

3/28 China Faces Future Challenges
Lieberthal, ch. 11; Ogden, 158-68, 189-96; Minxin Pei, “China’s Governing Crisis,” Foreign Affairs 81(5)(Sep/Oct 2002): 96-

Film: Dangerous Straits

Part IV: Hong Kong – Fallen Angel or the Trojan Horse?

4/4 From British Crown Jewel to Chinese SAR
Ogden, 46-68

4/6 “One Country, Two Systems”: Politics of Transition

***Paper 4 distributed (due 4/13)***

4/11 Film: ABC *Nightline* series

Part V: Taiwan – Nation-State or Province?

For this part, read Ogden, 70-93

4/13 Early Encounters: The Dutch, the Chinese, the Japanese
Roy, Introduction, ch 1-2
Film: *Tug of War: The Story of Taiwan*

4/18 A “Model Province”: Taiwan Under Nationalist Rule
Roy, ch. 3-5; Michael E. Brown and Sumit Ganguly, eds., *Fighting Words: Language Policy and Ethnic Relations in Asia* (MIT Press, 2003), 385-409

4/20 Democratization and Nativization: Republic of China on Taiwan
Roy, ch. 6-7

***Paper 5 distributed (due 4/27)***

4/25 Identity Politics: Consolidating Democracy and Building a Nation

4/27 Open Discussion: Taiwan’s Future, Hong Kong’s Future, China’s Future, and Our Future
Readings: TBA