Political Science 345  
POLITICS OF CHINA, HONG KONG, AND TAIWAN  
University of Richmond  
Spring 2000  

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Office hours: MWF 11:15-12:00 am, MW 2:00-2:30 pm, or by appointment  

COURSE DESCRIPTION  

Many in or outside China have long argued 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.

This course studies the politics and government of contemporary Greater China, including 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 seeks to understand this important country (and civilization) in light of several central theoretical debates in social sciences and emphasize the interactions between Western social sciences and Chinese political realities. The first part reviews the historical legacy for twentieth-century Chinese politics. The second part examines the political history of the People’s Republic from 1949 through the present, and analyzes its political system. The third part studies Taiwan’s evolution as an alternative Chinese development model, and its implications for cross-Strait relations. The fourth part assesses Hong Kong’s transition and challenges to the mainland. We will cover key political, economic, and security issues, follow key events, and invite guest lecturers.

READING MATERIALS  

1. Books: The following books are required. They are available for purchase at the Bookstore.  
   - Bruce Bueno de Mesquita, David Newman, and Alvin Rabushka, Red Flag Over Hong Kong (Chatham, NJ: Chatham House, 1996)  
In addition, to increase your knowledge or interest, you may also want to read (some of) the following recommended books on your own. They are on reserve.  
   - The China Quarterly (Special Issue: Contemporary Taiwan), Vol. 148 (December 1996)  
2. Reserve articles: Other readings, including articles or book chapters, for the course are on reserve at the Circulation Desk of the Boatwright Memorial Library (BML) or the course webpage [http://www.richmond.edu/~vwang/ps345/S00-index.html](http://www.richmond.edu/~vwang/ps345/S00-index.html) (indicated in the syllabus). Occasionally handouts are distributed in class.

3. Periodicals: You are strongly encouraged to read periodicals to keep abreast of current events and scholarship. I recommend the *New York Times*, *Economist*, *Far Eastern Economic Review*, *Asian Wall Street Journal Weekly*, *China Quarterly*, *China Journal*, *Pacific Affairs*, *Asian Affairs*, *Beijing Review*, *Free China Review*, *Free China Journal*, etc. All these are in the Library. Some are also available on the Worldwide Web. In addition, my home page [http://www.richmond.edu/~vwang](http://www.richmond.edu/~vwang) (under “Useful Links”) has links to a several websites that provide English and Chinese news or materials (Note: some of these services require registration, special plug-ins, or tools for Chinese source codes. They are free.)

4. Films: The International Film Series this semester features three Chinese films. You are encouraged to watch them both for fun and to learn. Course-related films or videos can be checked out from the Media Resource Center (MRC). MRC also several other feature films that you can check out.

**PEDAGOGICAL APPROACHES**

This course employs reading (both texts and background materials), lecture, discussions, film / video presentations, and field trips / cultural activities. It emphasizes such essential academic skills as effective verbal and written expressions. You 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.

**REQUIREMENTS**

You are expected to complete all of the required readings before each class, show up in class regularly, and contribute to class discussions.

1. **Short Essays (60%)**: Four short essays are distributed throughout the semester (see schedule below). They are designed to summarize segments of the course and allow critical thinking and reflection. You will prepare answers to the question as a four to five-page short paper (typed, double-spaced), due exactly one week after it is distributed. Write this paper as a concise analytic paper, with clear and logical arguments, full references, and correct spelling and grammar. “How to Write a Good Paper in Political Science” [http://www.richmond.edu/~vwang/Paperwriting.html](http://www.richmond.edu/~vwang/Paperwriting.html) explains useful tips and my expectations. You can consult any material, but your work must be your own.

2. **Research Paper (20%)**: A ten-page paper (typed, double-spaced, with full references) on a topic relevant to this course is due on the last day of the class. I will work with each student in selecting topics, locating sources, and reading and critiquing drafts.

3. **Attendance and Participation (20%)**: Regular attendance and active yet constructive participation in the class is essential to the success of this class. This includes the video-viewing sessions in class or at MRC.

**COURSE POLICIES**
1. **Grading:** You will receive a letter grade for each submitted assignment. Your grades are based on your own work and self-improvement. There is no set quota on any grade. Grades are given based on students’ individual merits.

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. **Attendance and absences:** Regular attendance is an important part of success in this class. Please note that the College Deans can only request a student be excused for a class absence due to participation in a University-sponsored event, such as off-campus intercollegiate athletic events. They do not excuse students for illness, family emergencies, court dates, etc. Acceptance of any excuse presented by a student for such an absence is at the discretion of the instructor. Regardless of the circumstances, you are responsible for all the materials and assignments during your absence. If you miss many classes at any point in the semester, the Dean’s Office will be notified. Excessive absence will impair your grades.

4. **Honor code:** 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 student honor system. Any type of academic dishonesty, including plagiarism, will not be tolerated. You are required to include and sign the honor pledge as a part of any work. The pledge is “I pledge that I have neither given nor received unauthorized assistance during the completion of this work.” You are responsible for familiarizing yourself with the honor system. If you have any question, feel free to talk with me or the Honor Council.

We will basically adhere to the following schedule of classes. However, this schedule is subject to change, as pedagogical needs may so require.

**COURSE SCHEDULE**

**Part I: Historical Legacy**

**1/10** Introduction of Course

**1/12** Traditional China and the Collapse of the Imperial System  
**Guest Lecturer:** Dr. John Herman, History, Virginia Commonwealth University  
**Recommended:** Lieberthal, 3-26 [BML reserve]

**1/17** The Republican Era: The Abortive Revolution  
**Required:** Wang, 10-14; Dietrich, 17-26; Lieberthal, 27-39  
**Film:** Watch *Raise the Red Lantern* in class if time permits; otherwise on your own

**1/19** The Communist Rise to Power  
**Required:** Wang, 14-19; Dietrich, 26-49; Lieberthal, 39-56  
**Film:** Watch *China: The Long March* or *One Man’s Revolution: Mao Tse-tung* (MRC) on your own

**Part II: China Since 1949 – Accomplishments, Failures, and Challenges**
For this part, read “Communist China at 50” articles on the course webpage, in addition to session-specific readings.

1/24 The New Socialist Order
   Required: Wang, 19-26; Dietrich, 50-109
   Recommended: Kristof and WuDunn, Ch. 6

1/26 The Great Leap Forward: Origins of Developmentalism or One-Man’s Disaster?
   Required: Dietrich, 110-141; Wang, 37-70
   Film: Watch The Mao Years (part 1): Catch the Stars and Moon in class if time permits; otherwise on your own
   ***First Essay distributed (due 2/2)***

1/31~2/2 The Cultural Revolution: Origins, Madness, and the End of the Maoist Era
   Required: Wang, 26-36; Dietrich, 142-235
   Recommended: Heng Liang and Judith Shapiro, Son of Revolution; Nien Cheng, Life and Death in Shanghai; Lieberthal, Ch. 4
   Film: Watch The Mao Years (part 2): It’s Right to Rebel! in class if time permits; otherwise on your own

   February 5, 2000: The Chinese New Year, the Year of the Dragon – 4698

2/7~2/9 The Dengist Reform: Accomplishments and Failures
   Required: Wang, 293-372; Dietrich, 236-278
   Recommended: Maurice Meisner, The Deng Xiaoping Era (New York: Hill and Wang, 1996); Richard Baum, Burying Mao: Chinese Politics in the Age of Deng Xiaoping (Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 1996); Lieberthal, Ch. 5; Kristof and WuDunn, Ch. 11-12

2/14 Political System: Formal Structure of the Party-State
   Required: Wang, 71-108, 373-424; articles under “Political Development,” course webpage
   Recommended: Lieberthal, Ch. 6; Kristof and WuDunn, Ch. 7

2/16 Informal Political Dynamics: Elite Conflict, Factionalism, and the Succession Dilemma
   Required: Wang, 109-138, 228-262
   Recommended: Lieberthal, Ch. 7-8; Kristof and WuDunn, Ch. 5

2/21 The Politics of Modernization: Privatizing the State?
   Guest Lecturer: Dr. Elizabeth Freund, Political Science, Mary Washington College

   Required: Dietrich, 279-295; Wang, 263-292; articles under “Human Rights,” course webpage; James D. Seymour, “Human Rights, Repression, and ‘Stability,’” Current History (September


**Film:** *The Gate of Heavenly Peace* or *Moving the Mountain* (in class or on your own)

***Second Essay distributed on 2/23 (due 3/1)***

3/1 The Two Faces of China Today: More Freedoms but Little Democracy?

**Required:** Dietrich, 296-334; Wang, 139-159; articles under “Society and People,” course webpage

**Recommended:** Kristof and WuDunn, Ch. 8-9; Minxin Pei, “Is China Democratizing?” *Foreign Affairs* 77(1)(January/February 1998): 68-82; and many relevant articles in *The China Quarterly* 159 (September 1999) and *Current History* (September 1999)

**Film:** Watch *China’s Only Child* on your own

3/3–3/6 **Spring Break: No Classes 😎**

3/13–3/15 Taiwan’s Democratization and Third Wave Consolidation: An Overview

**Required:** Rigger, 1-33; Thomas B. Gold, “Taiwan”: Still Defying the Odds,” in *Consolidating the Third Wave Democracies*, eds. Larry Diamond et al, 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

**March 18, 2000:** Taiwan’s second direct popular presidential elections

3/20 Politics Until the 1970s: Democratizing the Leninist Party-State

**Required:** Rigger, 34-118

**Recommended:** Chao and Myers, Ch. 2-4

3/22 Politics of the 1980s: Crisis, Reform, and Elite Settlement

**Required:** Rigger, 118-147

**Recommended:** Chao and Myers, Ch. 5-9

3/27–3/29 Beyond the 1990s: Democratic Consolidation, Identity, and Cross-Strait Relations

**Required:** Rigger, 148-193; Ian Buruma, “Taiwan’s New Nationalists,” *Foreign Affairs* 75(4)(July/August 1996): 77-91; articles under “Taiwan,” course webpage

***Third Essay distributed on 3/27 (due 4/3)***

**Part IV: Hong Kong – “One Country, Two Systems”**
4/3 Background: History and Overview  
Required: Bueno de Mesquita et al., preface and Ch. 1-3

4/5 The Politics of Transition: “One Country, Two Systems” -- Hong Kong, Macao, …?  
Required: Bueno de Mesquita et al., Ch. 4; Wang, 189-227; articles under “Hong Kong and Macao,” course webpage  
The Basic Law of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region [BML Reserve]  
Video: Nightline series; and others

4/10 The Greater China: Collaboration and Discord?  
Guest Lecturer: Ralph Clough, SAIS, Johns Hopkins University  
Video: PBS NewsHour with Jim Lehrer, “Taiwan Tensions” (4 August 1999)

4/12 In-class viewing of Tug of War: The Story of Taiwan

4/17 Forecasting the Future: Eating Tea Leaves Through Scientific Models?  
Required: Bueno de Mesquita et al., Ch. 5-7  
***Fourth Paper distributed (due 4/24)***

4/19 Open Discussion: Hong Kong’s Future? Taiwan’s Future? China’s Future? World’s Future?  
***Research Paper due***