Political Science 314
Chinese Politics and Foreign Policy
Spring 2017

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Office: Bolton 636
Office hours: Monday, 6:40-7:40 p.m., Wednesday, 4:00-5:00 p.m.
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Online Course Information
Online Access: This course is offered entirely online. All course materials except for the textbook will be accessible online for reading and viewing. All assignments will be completed and graded online.

Contacting Me: Please contact me via email: shale@uwm.edu. I check email every day during the week (though often not on weekends). If you send an email, please use “Polsci 314” as your subject header. Also, you are always welcome to come in during my office hours. If you cannot make it to the university during office hours, email me a phone number and I will call you. I urge you all to come in to office hours as often as possible, both to go over any material that is unclear to you and to discuss any material that is of particular interest to you.

Computer Skills Needed for the Course: You will need basic word processing skills; the ability to send and receive email; and a simple understanding of how to access and browse Web sites, including our course Web site on Desire2Learn (D2L). You will have to be able to receive email via your UWM email account, but of course you can also forward your UWM email to a private account. Checking your email and our course website regularly is very important.

Computer Resources Needed for the Course: You will need routine access either to a computer that has a broadband connection, or to a campus network connection to the Web. If you don’t have your own computer, you will need to use one of the campus lab computers, or perhaps a computer in a public library. Be sure not to use an unreliable wireless connection when taking exams. The computer you use must have a basic word processing program such as Microsoft Word. You will also need Adobe Acrobat Reader to view Adobe PDF files.

Keeping Up with the Course: If you do not keep up with the readings, it is easy to fall behind in online courses. Be careful to organize your time effectively so as to be able to complete the coursework.

Course Description
This course provides an introduction to China’s politics in the modern period. We will focus on top leaders, political institutions, and policies under Chinese Communist Party (CCP) rule.

We begin by reviewing the historical background, from the late Qing Dynasty, through Nationalist Party rule, civil wars, and the Japanese invasion, to the CCP takeover in 1949. In the area of foreign relations, this period is often called China’s “century of humiliation.”
We then analyze the main stages in the history of CCP rule: the Mao Zedong period, 1949-1976; the Deng Xiaoping period, 1977-1994; and the rule of the so-called third-, fourth-, and fifth-generation leaders, Jiang Zemin, 1995-2002, Hu Jintao, 2002-2012, and Xi Jinping, 2012-present. How did political institutions and government policies evolve through these successive periods? We will concentrate on three main policy areas: economic development policies; society, culture and civil liberties; and ethnic minority relations and foreign policies. This will include detailed coverage of watershed events, such as the CCP takeover of China’s state and society in the years after 1949; the Korean War of 1950-1953; the “Great Leap Forward” Famine of 1958-1962; the “Cultural Revolution” of 1966-1976; Deng Xiaoping’s market reforms, starting in 1979; and the Tiananmen Square Uprising of 1989.

There are a number of important factors that explain policy developments over time: the ideologies and preferences of China’s top leaders; CCP and state political institutions; the size and structural characteristics of China’s society and economy; the interests of important factions or interest groups, such as regional CCP leadership networks, the People’s Liberation Army (PLA), large state enterprises, and more recently, public opinion as well as private or “quasi-private” businesses; and the international environment, including relations with great powers such as the United States and the Soviet Union, regional developments in East Asia, and trends in the international economy. Our goal is to assess the interaction and the relative importance of these factors in determining policy developments over time.

We will also discuss important current issues, such as China’s present and future economic performance; the prospects for democratization and improved human rights; conditions in restive regions such as Tibet, Xinjiang, and Hong Kong; and China’s rise to superpower status, and its changing relations with the United States, Japan, India, Taiwan and other countries.

All along, we will be trying to assess how well general theories of comparative politics help to understand Chinese politics.

Grades
There will be five short exams consisting of multiple-choice questions, and one short (five- to seven-page) research paper. The short exam with the lowest grade will be dropped. Each of the four remaining short exams will count for 20% of the course grade, and the short research paper will count for the remaining 20% of the course grade.

Short exams: The five short exams will consist of multiple-choice questions, covering course material from the previous two to four weeks. Short exams must be taken online between 7:00 am in the morning and 3:00 am at night (a 20-hour time window), as follows:

- Friday, February 10, 7:00 a.m.-Saturday, February 11, 3:00 a.m., covering material from Weeks 1-3
- Friday, March 10, 7:00 a.m.-Saturday, March 11, 3:00 a.m., covering material from Weeks 4-7
- Wednesday, March 29, 7:00 a.m.-Thursday, March 30, 3:00 a.m., covering material from March 13-29 (Weeks 8-9)
- Friday, April 14, 7:00 a.m.-Saturday, April 15, 3:00 a.m., covering material from March 30-April 14 (Weeks 9-11)
• Thursday, May 11, 7:00 a.m.-Friday, May 12, 3:00 a.m., covering material from Weeks 12-15

No make-up exams will be given. If there is a medical emergency, documented by a written excuse from a health care provider, an exam may be dropped. In this case, the grade will be calculated based on the other four exams taken.

You will take the exams online in a timed format. You will have a set amount of time—usually 30 minutes—to take an exam. You must complete the exam in that amount of time. Late exams may still be submitted, but will receive significantly lower grades. Once you start an exam, you must finish it—there is no starting an exam, exiting, and coming back to it at another time. Each exam may only be taken one time. Again, all five short exams will consist of multiple-choice questions. Be sure to click on the relevant D2L icons to save your work and then to submit your exam.

D2L shows the short exam grades as a percentage score out of 100. However, these percentage scores do not equate directly to grades. Exam grades will be based on a curve, which takes account of how well the class does on any given exam. I will send around an email with the curve after each exam.

Research paper: The research paper will analyze alternative explanations or causes for a watershed event during the Mao Zedong period (1949-1976). Students may choose to write on one of the following three events: China’s decision to intervene in the Korean War; the origin or onset of the Great Leap Forward; or the origin or onset of the Cultural Revolution. In each case, why did Mao Zedong make the decision to initiate the event—to enter the Korean War or to launch the Great Leap Forward or the Cultural Revolution?

Students will analyze and evaluate the following four types of explanations or causes: 1) leadership ideology (beliefs about the most important goals for China, and about the best or most appropriate means of achieving those goals); 2) the leader’s desire to maintain or increase their political power; 3) internal influences, pressures, or threats, whether emanating from within the CCP regime, from organized interest groups, or from public opinion; and 4) foreign influences, pressures, or threats. For each potential cause, how would it be expected to influence Mao Zedong’s decision? Reason logically. Don’t bend the theories to fit the facts. In formulating your theory of how each cause would be expected to influence Mao’s decision, reason in a purely hypothetical manner. If a given cause seems likely to explain Mao’s decision, explain why and how. If a given cause seems unlikely to explain Mao’s decision, explain why and how.

Apart from the introduction and conclusion, papers should have the following two main sections: a theory section, which explains the logic of each of the four causes, and discusses how each is expected to influence the watershed event; and an evidence section, in which each explanation or cause is evaluated by looking for historical evidence of whether it influenced the watershed event in the way predicted by the theory associated with each cause. The introduction should state which events you are explaining, briefly introduce the four potential causes, and give a roadmap of how the rest of the paper is organized. The conclusion should briefly summarize the findings about the impact of each of the four causes; assess the relative importance of the four causes and how well they fit together to explain Mao’s decision; and, given any limitations or weaknesses of your research, suggest how your research might be improved. (In actually writing the paper, it is usually easiest to write the introduction last. The introduction is the framing or
marketing of the paper, so it is difficult to know what to emphasize before the rest of the paper is finished.)

Reminder: You are explaining the origins or onset of one of the three watershed events. Don’t get bogged down in the details of what happened after the events began. These are reasonably well covered in the assigned readings and lecture notes. What happened as the events unfolded is only relevant insofar as it provides evidence about their origins.

For evidence, students may consult and cite the assigned course readings and lecture notes, as well as other sources. Academic journal articles can be found using the following search engines available on the UWM libraries website: Historical Abstracts; History Reference Center; or, usually most usefully, Worldwide Political Science Abstracts. Search by specifying both the watershed event and names or phrases related to explanations or causes. Many books on the three events are also available in Golda Meir Library. Limit searches to UWM holdings (“Books & Media (UWM)”).

Papers should be five to seven pages long, including citations of sources. In total, students should cite at least five sources that are either published books or academic journal articles. (Any standard format of citation is acceptable.) Students must also summarize their research questions, theories, and evidence or findings using Powerpoint (five to eight slides total—two slides to cover the four causes and their associated theories, and the remainder on evidence, findings, and conclusions). A good approach is to write up the Powerpoint slides at the beginning, and then use them as an outline for the paper. After the paper is finished, the slides can be modified as necessary to fit more closely with the final form of the paper. Both the research paper and the summary Powerpoint slides must be uploaded (in two separate files) to the D2L Dropbox by March 17 at 5:00 p.m.

If you will need accommodations in order to meet any of the requirements of this course, please contact me as soon as possible. Students are responsible for completing and representing their work honestly, for citing sources appropriately, and for respecting others’ academic endeavors.

Readings
The following textbook is available from online booksellers and from UWM’s online bookstore <http://uwm.ecampus.com/>:


Other, shorter readings listed below are available on the course D2L site. References are listed in full at the end of the syllabus.

Course Schedule
The following schedule is subject to modification. Try to finish each day’s reading before class.

Reading: Joseph, chapters 1-2; Fukuyama.
Suggested reading: CIA World Factbook on China
Recommended fiction: Buck; Lu.
Recommended movie: “The Last Emperor.”

Short Exam #1 online: Friday, February 10, 7:00 a.m.-Saturday, February 11, 3:00 a.m., covering material from Weeks 1-3.

Reading: Joseph, chapter 3, and pp. 149-174, 192-203, 254-257, 260-261; Chang and Halliday, chapters 39-41, 44, 47-48, 50; Yang 2012, pp. 23-68.
Suggested reading: Browse further in Chang and Halliday; Dikötter, chapter 28; Chang.
Recommended fiction: Link.
Recommended movie: “To Live.”

Short Exam #2 online: Friday, March 10, 7:00 a.m.-Saturday, March 11, 3:00 a.m., covering material from Weeks 4-7.

Reading: Joseph, chapter 4, pp. 174-188, 203-221; Beja; Zhao 1998; Li.
Suggested reading: Bo; Zheng and Chen; Dotson.

Short Research Paper and summary Powerpoint slides due: March 17, 5:00 p.m., in D2L Dropbox.
“Spring” Break: No class meetings (March 20-24).

Short Exam #3 online: Wednesday, March 29, 7:00 a.m.-Thursday, March 30, 3:00 a.m., covering material from March 13-29.

Reading: Joseph, chapter 8; Yang 1997, chapters 17-18.
Suggested reading: Naughton.

Reading: Joseph, chapters 9-14.

Short Exam #4 online: Friday, April 14, 7:00 a.m.-Saturday, April 15, 3:00 a.m., covering material from March 30-April 14.

Weeks 12-15 (April 17-May 11). Tibet and Xinjiang. Hong Kong and Taiwan. China’s Foreign Policy and International Relations.
Reading: Joseph, chapters 15-18; Horowitz and Yu; Horowitz and Tan; Garnaut; Zhao 2013.
Suggested reading: Chan.
Short Exam #5 online: Thursday, May 11, 7:00 a.m.-Friday, May 12, 3:00 a.m., covering material from Weeks 12-15.

Required and Suggested Readings Available on the Course D2L Site

Recommended Literature Available in Golda Meir Library
Buck, Pearl S. (1958) The Good Earth. New York: Washington Square Press. (Published in many different editions, all fine.)