

Chinese Politics and Economy (Fall 2025)

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Office hour: by appointment

Aims and Objectives

This course explores the domestic politics of the People's Republic of China (PRC) since the revolution in 1949, including the dominant ideology, mass-elite relations, policy processes, political institutions, economic reform and development strategies, and the historical antecedents of the revolution. We will focus significant attention on the reforms of the post-Mao period and consider the prospects for further political and economic liberalization in the PRC.

Assessment

Group project and presentation	25%
Discussion leading and participation	25%
Mid-term exam	25%
Final exam	25%

Essential Readings

June Teufel Dreyer, *China's Political System: Modernization and Tradition*, 8th edition (New York: Pearson Longman, 2012)

Ho-Fung Hung, *China Boom: Why China Will Not Rule the World* (New York: Columbia University Press, 2016)

<https://research.ebsco.com/c/akl6ox/search/details/6s4n4jqsw5?db=nlebk>

Useful links

New York Times, Sinosphere, <http://sinosphere.blogs.nytimes.com>

South China Morning Post, www.scmp.com

Financial Times, www.ft.com

BBC World News, <http://www.bbc.com/news/world/asia/china/>

Sept 1 Introduction

How to approach China? What do we study?

Part I: The Maoist Revolution and its antecedents

Sept 3/8 Pre-history of the Chinese Revolution

Dreyer, "The Chinese Tradition," in *China's Political System: Modernization and Tradition*, pp. 1-8, 25-46

Dreyer, "Reformers, Worlords, and Communists," in *China's Political System: Modernization and Tradition*, pp. 47-65

Sept 10 Group Discussion

Sept 15 Social Revolution of 1949

Dreyer, "Communist Road to Power," *China's Political System: Modernization and Tradition*, pp. 66-84

Sept 17 Group Discussion

Part II: Post-revolutionary Chinese State: 1949-76

Sept 22 PRC Politics under Mao, 1949-1957

Dreyer, "PRC Politics under Mao," *China's Political System: Modernization and Tradition*, pp. 85-97

Sept 24 Group Discussion

Sept 29 Great Leap Forward

Dreyer, "PRC Politics under Mao," *China's Political System: Modernization and Tradition*, pp. 97-104

Oct 1 Group Discussion

Oct 6/8 NO Class (Holidays)

Oct 13 A Maoist Model?

Mao Zedong, "Talk at an Enlarged Central Work Conference," in Stuart Schram, *Chairman Mao Talks to the People*, pp. 158-187 (Prof. will provide later)

Oct 15 Group Discussion

Oct 20 Mid-term exam (in class)

Oct 22 NO CLASS (exam period)

Oct 27 Cultural Revolution I

Dreyer, "PRC Politics under Mao," *China's Political System: Modernization and Tradition*, pp. 104-112.

Oct 29 Cultural Revolution II

Film: "Morning Sun"

Part III: PRC Politics and Economy in the post-Mao

Nov 3 **Post-Mao Politics and Tiananmen Massacre, 1976-1989**

Dreyer, *China's Political System: Modernization and Tradition*, pp. 113-133

Nov 5 **Group Discussion: Tiananmen Massacre, 1989**

Nov 10 **Reform in Agriculture**

Dreyer, “Politics of the Economy” *China's Political System: Modernization and Tradition*

Nov 12 **Group Discussion**

Nov 17 **Reform in Industry and SOEs**

Dreyer, “Politics of the Economy” *China's Political System: Modernization and Tradition*

Nov 19 **Group Discussion**

Nov 24 **China's Legal System and Reform**

June Teufel Dreyer, “Crime and Punishment: Legal System of the PRC” *China's Political System: Modernization and Tradition*, chap. 8.

Nov 26 **Group Discussion**

Dec 1 **Media, Internet, and inequality**

Richard Baum, chapter on media and internet

Michael Pettis, “Winner and Loser in China's next decade” (June 2013)

Dec 3 **Growing Ethnic Tension**

June Teufel Dreyer, Chap. On Ethnic Tension

Dec 8/10 **Student presentation**

Dec 15 **FINAL EXAM**