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PSCI 328.01: Politics of China

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PSCI 328: Chinese Politics Fall 2014

TR 9:40-11:00 Liberal Arts Rm 338

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Office hours: Mondays 11-2 or by appointment.

Course Description:

After a quick overview of some attributes of traditional Chinese rule and early 20th Century political contention/reform, this course will use a reading and discussion format to the evolving nature of Chinese Communist rule from 1949 to the present. This will include a detailed study of the evolution –and utter failure—of radical Maoism, the politics behind Deng Xiaoping’s epochal economic reform and opening, and the Chinese Communist Party’s successful effort to sustain power after the shocks created by the 1989 Tiananmen uprising and the collapse of the rest of the Communist world in the early 1990s. The latter will look at key aspects of Party control in the face of increasing protest fueled by decentralization, economic inequality, corruption, and environmental degradation. We will end by exploring the continued viability of Chinese Communist Party rule and the prospect for democratic –or at least more pluralistic- government in China. A previous course on China is helpful, but by no means mandatory.

What this course will help you understand:

- Aspects of traditional Chinese rule that continue to influence China
- Key reform trends that impacted China in the 20th Century
- Some of the reasons for the rise of Maoism
- The nature of Maoist rule, and the reasons for its collapse
- The complex nature of Dengist and post-Dengist economic reform and its impact on China’s domestic political scene and foreign policy
- How Tiananmen occurred, why it failed, and the huge impact it and the Soviet collapse had on the ruling strategy of the Chinese communist party (CCP)
- How the CCP controls China at a time of burgeoning growth of protest and social media
- The changing nature and impact of social protest
- The party’s control of the interpretation of history, and the growth of Chinese neo-nationalism
- China’s growing assertiveness in the Asia-Pacific, and its impact on the U.S.
- The challenges to sustained rule by the CCP
- The prospect for more pluralistic rule in China

Required Readings:

William Joseph, *Politics in China* (Oxford University Press, 2010), paperback

Richard McGregor, *The Party: The Secret World of China's Communist Leadership* (Harper Collins, 2012), paperback

Andrew Nathan et al (ed), *Will China Democratize?* (Johns Hopkins, 2013)

GRADING:

- **Attendance and class participation: one-third****
- **mid-term examination: one-third**
- **final take-home project: one-third**

Students must successfully complete *both* written assignments to receive a grade in the course.

****Despite an enrollment above “seminar” level, this class has been developed as having a very heavy “reading and discussion” format. This puts a heavy burden on all students not only do the reading but to come to class having thought about it and prepared to discuss it. In class participation thus represents a significant part of the class grade. PLEASE NOTE: As part of that grade, two students will be assigned responsibility to prepare discussion questions for each class. Those questions MUST be uploaded to Moodle no later than mid-day on the day BEFORE class.**

NOTE: Those taking the class for **graduate credit** must: 1) Give a presentation to the class based on research done that relates to the class, but is not otherwise covered, and 2) must submit a mid-term exam and final project that are more complex and sophisticated than those expected from undergraduates; 3) must provide discussion questions twice, rather than once.

Class Topics:

Aug. 26: Class Overview; The Traditional Chinese State and Its Collapse

Aug 28: May 4th/New Culture Movements; Basic Tenets of Marxist-Leninism

Sept. 2: The CCP's rise to power, Mao Zedong Thought, and early party-state relations

Sept. 4: Communist Mass campaigns: The Anti-Rightist Campaign and the Great Leap

Sept. 9: Communist Mass Campaigns II: The Cultural Revolution

Sept. 11: China Under Deng: The Structure and Dynamics of Power

Sept. 16: The Dengist Economic Reform

Sept. 18: Reform, the Legal System and Party Rule

Sept. 23: Tensions from Reform: The Tiananmen Movement and its suppression

Sept. 25: NO CLASS

Sept. 30: Return of Reform and New Approaches to Party Control

October 2: New Approaches to Party Control, part II

October 7: MID-TERM EXAM (Essay)

October 9: Economic Inequality, Decentralization and Corruption: Rural Protest

October 14: Case Study: Population and the One-Child Policy

October 16: Protest, continued

October 21: Media as a Protest Tool

October 23: Case Study II: Environment Issues and Their Political Impact

October 28: Tensions on China's Periphery: Tibet and Xinjiang

October 30: Foreign Economic Policy: From Peaceful Rise to Manic Economic Need

November 4: NO CLASS (Elections Day)

November 6: Strength, Weakness, and Foreign Policy: Chinese Assertiveness and the US 'Pivot'

November 11: NO CLASS (yet again) –Veterans Day

November 13: Foreign Policy II: Strength, Weakness, and China's Growing Assertiveness

November 18: Men in Black: China Under Xi Jinping

November 20: Is Party Rule Fragile or Resilient?

November 25: Is Party Rule Fragile or Resilient? part 2

November 27: NO CLASS—THANKSGIVING BREAK

December 2: The Future of Authoritarian Rule: Democracy or a new China Model?

December 4: Individual Appointments to Discuss Strategy for Final Project

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 10TH @ 5:00 PM: FINAL PROJECTS DUE
(Must be uploaded to Moodle)

Accessibility:

The University of Montana assures equal access to instruction by supporting collaboration between students with disabilities, instructors, and Disability Services for Students. If you have a disability that requires an accommodation, contact me at the beginning of the semester so that proper accommodations can be provided. Please contact Disability Services for Students <<http://life.umt.edu/dss/>> if you have questions, or call Disability Services for Students (DSS) for voice/text at 406.243.2243. You may also fax the Lommasson Center 154 for more information at 406.243.5330.