

1-2013

HSTR 449.01A: Revolution and Reform in China

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**PSCI 422/ History 449: Revolution and Reform in China
Spring 2013**

9:10-12:00 pm Friday; Room: Gallagher 222

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Office hours: Wednesday 10-12, Friday 12:30-2:00 or by appointment.

Course Description:

After a quick overview of key trends affecting China before Mao Zedong came to power, this course will use a lecture and discussion format to examine the Maoist revolution and the Dengist and post-Deng reforms that virtually destroyed it. The material on Mao's rule will largely involve study of China's departure from a Soviet style model of economic development in favor of a Maoist revolutionary model that produced the disastrous Great Leap and Cultural Revolution. The subsequent examination of post-Mao China will focus in large part on Deng Xiaoping's epochal economic reform, and its social and political impact (good and bad). The course will also explore how both China's new strength and its domestic problems are linked to a more assertive strategic, economic and military posture that has fed Sino-U.S. bilateral tensions and seems to threaten America's longstanding dominance in the Asia-Pacific. A previous course on China is helpful, but by no means mandatory.

What this course will help you understand:

- Key historical 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 its residual impact
- Key aspects of contemporary Chinese culture and society
- Basic forces influencing Chinese foreign relations in general and U.S.-China political and economic relations in particular
- China's emergence as an economic and strategic power
- The complex challenges China faces in the 21st century
- China's potential as a rival or threat to the U.S.

Required Readings:

Liang Heng and Judith Shapiro, *Son of the Revolution*. Random House, 1984 (paperback)

Tony Saich, *Governance and Politics in China*. Palgrave Macmillan, 2004 (paperback)

C. Fred Bergsten et al., *China's Rise: Challenges and Opportunities*, 2009 (paperback)

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Rob Gifford, *China Road: A Journey Into the Future of a Rising Power*, Random House, 2007 (hardback)

Plus a number of current media articles on contemporary issues

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.

You will note that a relatively high percentage of the grade in this course depends on class preparation and participation. That means one need not only show up for every class (particularly as we meet only once a week) but to come having done the reading and demonstrate s/he is prepared to discuss it. **SPECIAL**

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

Schedule of Class Topics:

Feb 1: 20th Century reform; the Struggle between the Guomindang and Communist Parties and America's policy dilemma;

Assignment: Saich, p. 25-43,

Feb 8: The Maoist victory and the Soviet economic model; The Early Years and the Great Leap Forward

Assignment: begin reading *Son of the Revolution*.

Feb 15: Recovery and the Cultural Revolution

Assignment: Read Saich, p. 43-56; continue reading *Son of the Revolution* for

Feb 22: Deng's rise to power and the nature and pace of early reform

Assignment: Saich, p. 57-64, skim chapters 4 and 5; finish and come ready to discuss *Son of the Revolution*

March 1: Changes in China's Foreign Policy

Assignment: skim Saich, chapter 5 & 6; read Saich, chapter 11

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March 8: Economic and political contradictions on the eve of Tiananmen; the Tiananmen Movement: Origins and the Reason for its Suppression
Assignment: Saich, p. 64-75, 213-267; Weidner article, "Protest and Suppression in China" (on Moodle)

March 15: Backlash and Deng's last gasp; the return to wholesale reform
Assignment: Saich, p. 75-90, skim 121-179

March 22: **MID-TERM EXAMINATION**
Assignment: Prepare for exam

March 29: "The Final Solution" for Reform: The Asian Financial Crisis and WTO; China's use of trade and investment to advance its interests.
Assignment: skim Saich, p. 155-212; Bergsten, read chapter 1

April 5: NO CLASS –SPRING BREAK

April 12: The Price of Reform: The Income gap, Corruption, and Environmental degradation
Assignment: handouts, Bergsten, chapter 4 & 5; skim Saich, chapter 11

April 19: PRC Domestic Problems and their influence on US-China Relations
Assignment: Weidner paper; start Gifford Book

April 26: The Specter of Separatism: Two Case Studies (Taiwan, Xinjiang)
Assignment: Bergsten, chapter 8, continue reading Gifford book

May 3: Nationalism and China's Assertive New Strategic posture
Assignment: Handouts, TBA; finish and come ready to discuss Gifford book; begin thinking about final project

May 10: Wrap Up and Discussion: Is China a Threat to the US?
Assignment: Work on final project

May 15th (5:00pm) FINAL PROJECTS DUE