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PSCI 422.01: Revolution and Reform in Modern China

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PSCI 422/ History 449: Revolution and Reform in China
Fall 2012

9:40-11:00 am, Tues/Thurs; Room: LA 337

Professor: Terry M. Weidner

Office: LA 414

phone: x2281; e-mail: terry.weidner@umontana.edu

Office hours: 11-1 Wednesdays. You should also feel free to drop by or to email or call to make an appointment for other times @ either 243-2281

Course Description:

This goal of this course is to provide students with a sophisticated understanding of contemporary China and US-China relations. After a very 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 then 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 the post-Deng reform and their social and political impact, both good and bad. The course will also explore key aspects of China's new assertiveness in foreign relations, including its political, economic and trade relations with the U.S., diverse aspects of the Taiwan sovereignty issue, and China's changing strategic, economic and military posture. We will end by evaluating the forces that promote and constrain China's ability to be a global power, and how both China's new strength and key Chinese and U.S. domestic trends have affected bilateral relations, including trade and economic relations. 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, including economic policy
- How Tiananmen occurred, why it failed, and its residual impact
- Key aspects of contemporary Chinese culture and society
- China's emergence as an economic and political power
- Basic forces influencing U.S.-China economic, trade and political relations
- The complex challenges China faces in the 21st century
- Perspectives on China's potential as an economic and strategic rival (or threat) to the U.S.

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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)

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:

- **Class preparation, class participation, and grades on short writing assignments: 25%**
- **First Mid-term examination: 25%**
- **Second Mid-term examination: 25%**
- **Final take-home project: 25%**

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 needs not only show up for every class (particularly as we meet only once a week) but to come having done the reading and prepared to discuss it. **SPECIAL NOTE: Everyone in class must attend (and write a simple one-paragraph synopsis of) three events on East Asia that occur on campus during the semester as part of their course requirement, with extra credit given for any additional events attended and reported upon.** If special circumstances make it difficult for you to meet the outside attendance requirement, I am happy to propose an alternative assignment.

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 final project that is more complex and sophisticated than that expected from undergraduates

****I am happy to do what I can to accommodate learning disabilities. If you have special needs, please let me know at the beginning of the semester**

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Schedule of Class Topics:

August 28/30: Class expectation/goals; Quick background on 19th and early 20th Century reform; The Struggle between the Guomindang and Communist Parties and America's policy dilemma;

Assignment: Saich, p. 25-43,

September 4/6: The Maoist victory and the Soviet economic model; The Early Years and the Great Leap Forward;

Assignment: Start reading *Son of the Revolution*.

September 11/13: Recovery and the Cultural Revolution

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

September 18/20: Deng's rise to power and the nature and pace of early reform

Assignment: Saich, p. 57-64, skim chapters 4 and 5

September 25: **FIRST MID-TERM EXAMINATION**

September 27: Economic and political contradictions on the eve of Tiananmen

Assignment: Saich, p. 64-75, 213-267;

October 2/4: The Tiananmen movement and the backlash against reform

Assignment: Weidner article, "Protest and Suppression in China" (sent via email)

October 9/11: The return to wholesale reform; The Asian Financial Crisis and WTO –the "final solution" for reform.

Assignment: Saich, p. 75-90, skim 121-212; Bergsten, read chapter 1

October 16/18: Local power, Corruption, and the Impact of Protest in China.

Assignment: handouts, Bergsten, chapter 4 & 5; skim Saich, chapter 7

October 23/25: Jobs, Energy and the Environment; China and Climate Change

Assignment: Bergsten, chapters 6 & 7; start Gifford book

October 30/November 1: The Specter of Separatism: Two Case Studies (Taiwan, Xinjiang)

Assignment: Bergsten, chapter 8, handouts, TBA; continue Gifford book

November 6: No class –Election Day: VOTE!!

Assignment: keep reading Gifford book

November 8: **SECOND MID-TERM EXAM**

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November 13/15: Neo-Nationalism, Military Growth and China's assertive new foreign policy

Assignment: Bergsten, chapters 9 & 10; Finish and come ready to discuss Rob Gifford book;

November 20: Current Sources of Sino-U.S. Economic/Political Tension

Assignment: Saich, 268-304, and 329-347; handouts, TBA; start to formulate ideas for final project.

November 22: **Thanksgiving: No Class**

November 27/29: Future Challenges for China and Prospects for Sino-U.S. Relations

Assignment: Saich, chapter 12; Bergsten, chapter 11; handouts, TBA; work on final take home project

December 4/6: In-Class Debate: Is China a Threat to the US?

December 11: Review for Final Project

Dec17: Final Projects Due by 5:00pm