

Fall 9-1-2008

## PSC 395.01: Revolution and Reform in China

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**History/ POLS/AS/MANS 395: Revolution and Reform in China**  
**Fall 2008**

2:10-5:00 pm Mondays; Room: Liberal Arts Room 138

Professor: Terry M. Weidner

Office: Mansfield Center, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor, Mansfield Library

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

Office hours: 2-4 Tuesday. You should also feel free to drop by or to email or call to make an appointment for other times @ either x2281 (my direct line) or x2988

**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 reform 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 key aspects of China's new assertiveness in foreign relations, including its political and trade relations with the U.S., diverse aspects of the Taiwan sovereignty issue, and a new global strategic initiative that is reflected in China playing a much stronger role in Asia and has it using trade and investment to expand Chinese influence in Africa, Latin America, and Central Asia. 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. 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 20<sup>th</sup> 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 U.S.-China political and economic relations
- China's emergence as an economic and political power
- The complex challenges China faces in the 21<sup>st</sup> century

**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)

**Weidner: China Since Mao – 2**

Ian Johnson, *Wild Grass: Three Stories of Change in Modern China*, Random House, 2004 (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 attendance at East Asia-related UM events: 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 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: Please note that 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.** I strongly urge you to include attendance of at least one session of the 24th annual Mansfield Conference (Sept. 24-25<sup>th</sup>) on the political and strategic impact of global climate change in Asia, if you are able to do so. If special circumstances make it difficult for you to meet the outside attendance requirement, I am happy to propose an alternative assignment.

**Schedule of Class Topics:**

August 25: Deep background on 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> Century reform; The Struggle between the Guomindang and Communist Parties and America's policy dilemma;

**Assignment:** Saich, p. 25-43,

September 1: Labor Day – No Class

**Assignment:** begin reading *Son of the Revolution*

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

**Assignment:** continue reading *Son of the Revolution*.

September 15: Recovery and the Cultural Revolution

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

**Weidner: China Since Mao -3**

- September 22: Deng's rise to power and the nature and pace of early reform  
**Assignment:** Saich, p. 57-64, skim chapters 4 and 5
- September 29: Politics & Power: party structure; economic and political contradictions on the eve of Tiananmen  
**Assignment:** Saich, p. 64-75, chapter 6, p. 213-267.
- October 6: The Tiananmen Movement: Origins and the Reason for its Suppression  
**Assignment:** Saich, chapter 7; Weidner article, "Protest and Suppression in China" (sent via email)
- October 13: Backlash and Deng's last gasp; Party rule in China. Part of Video "Gate of Heavenly Peace."  
**Assignment:** Saich, p. 75-80, skim 121-179; 192-212
- October 20: **MID-TERM EXAMINATION**  
**Assignment:** prepare for exam
- October 27: "The Final Solution" for Reform: The Asian Financial Crisis and WTO; Trade, and other issues in U.S.- China Relations  
**Assignment:** Saich, p. 155-212; Start *Leaves of Grass*; handouts, TBA
- November 3: Corruption, Protest and the Dispossessed in China; View video: "The Blood of Yinzhou District."  
**Assignment** handouts, TBA; Finish Start *Leaves of Grass* and come ready to discuss
- November 10: Corruption, Protest and the Dispossessed, part 2: Case Study on China's Muslim Uighur Minority. Video: "The Concrete Revolution"  
**Assignment:** handouts, TBA
- November 17: Issues in U.S.-China Relations: Human Rights; Neo-Nationalism and China's assertive new foreign policy: Taiwan, Central Asia, and beyond  
**Assignment:** Saich, p. 305-328; Begin Rob Gifford book.
- November 24: Internal Constraints on Chinese power;  
**Assignment:** Saich, p. 80-90, 268-304, and 329-347; Finish and come ready to discuss Rob Gifford book; handouts, TBA;
- December 1: Future Chinese Challenges and the Future of Sino-U.S. Relations  
**Assignment:** handouts, TBA; begin working on Final Take Home Project
- December 10: **Take Home project due electronically**