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PSC 395.02: Contemporary Chinese Politics

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Course Description:

This course will try to help you understand the current political situations and system of China. By starting with the political legacy of China, this course will firstly explore the political power structure of contemporary China. It will also examine the political institutions and major political forces, such as interest groups, in contemporary China. This course then will discuss the policy making and implementation process. The relationship between central and local government is also of great importance to understand contemporary Chinese politics. Finally this course will also help you further your understanding of Chinese politics by examining the rural and urban politics in China.

What this course will help you to understand are:
- What kind of Chinese political system today is
- The political institutions and forces in contemporary Chinese politics
- The policy making and implementation process in Chinese government
- The relationship between central and local governments in Chinese politics
- The importance of rural and urban politics in China
- The challenges to Chinese in the political reformation

Required Readings:


Other readings are also going to be available.

Grading:

1. Class preparation, class participation, and attendance: one-third
2. Mid-term examination (essay exam): one-third (three-page paper)
3. Final examination paper: one-third (five-page paper)

Class topics:

1. Introduction: Historical and Cultural Perspectives
Readings:
Wang, *Contemporary Chinese Politics*, chapter 1; 

2. The Structure of Political Power in Contemporary China
Readings:
Lieberthal, *Governing China*, chapter 6, 7; 

3. The Political Institution of the Party-State
Readings:
Saich, *Governance and Politics of China*, Chapter 4;

4. Major Social Interest Groups
Readings:
Lieberthal, *Governing China*, chapter 11; 
Saich, *Governance and Politics of China*, Chapter 8; 

5. Political Communication in Chinese Politics
Readings:

Readings:
Lieberthal, *Governing China*, chapter 9, 10.

7. MID-TERM EXAMINATION: prepare for exam

8. Policy Implementation in Chinese Government
Readings:
Saich, *Governance and Politics of China*, chapter 9, 10, 11.

Readings:

10. Central-Local Government Relations (I)
Readings:
Saich, 
11. Central-Local Government Relations (II)
Readings:

12. Rural Politics in China
Readings:
Wang, *Contemporary Chinese Politics*, chapter 11.

13. Urban Politics in China
Readings:
Wang, *Contemporary Chinese Politics*, chapter 11.

14. Future trends and preparation for final exam

**Selected Websites:**
- American Chamber of Commerce in Shanghai. [http://www.amcham-shanghai.org](http://www.amcham-shanghai.org)
- American Chamber of Commerce in Hong Kong. [http://www.amcham.org.hk](http://www.amcham.org.hk)
- Center for Nonproliferation Studies, China Database. [www.nti.org/db/china](http://www.nti.org/db/china)
- Central Asia-Caucasus Institute. [www.cacianalyst.org](http://www.cacianalyst.org)
- China Data Center (University of Michigan). [www.umich.edu/~iinet/chinadata](http://www.umich.edu/~iinet/chinadata)
- Chinese Military Power. [www.comw.org/emp](http://www.comw.org/emp)
- Chinalnfo. [www.chinainfo.gov.cn](http://www.chinainfo.gov.cn)
- China Documentation Center at George Washington University's Gelman Library. [www.gwu.edu/gelman/secarr/educ](http://www.gwu.edu/gelman/secarr/educ)
- CIA. [www.cia.gov](http://www.cia.gov)
- Council on Foreign Relations. [www.cfr.org](http://www.cfr.org)
- CSIS Pacific Forum. [www.csis.org/pacfor](http://www.csis.org/pacfor)
- Hong Kong Trade Development Council. [www.tdc.org.hk](http://www.tdc.org.hk)
- Human Rights in China. [www.hrichina.org](http://www.hrichina.org)
- Human Rights Watch. [www.hrw.org](http://www.hrw.org)
National Committee on U.S.-China Relations. www.ncuscr.org
National Security Archive. www.gwu.edu/~nsarchiv
www.nautilus.org/napsnet/dr/index.html
NDU Center for Chinese Military Studies. www.ndu.edu/inss/China_Center/CSCMA_frames.htm
RAND Corporation. rand.org
Research Resources for Asian and Chinese Politics.
www.jhunix.hcf.jhu.edu/Hctsai/researchasiachina.htm
Republic of China (Taiwan) foreign ministry. www.mofa.gov.tw/emofa/econtain.htm
Taiwan Security Research. www.taiwansecurity.org
UNDP. www.undp.org
U.S. State Department. www.state.gov
U.S. Trade Representative. www.ustr.gov
World News Connection (FBIS). Access through
www.columbia.edu/cu/lweb/eresources/databases