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Fall 9-1-2003

PSC 328.01: Politics of China

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Texts: June Dreyer, China's Political System 4th ed

Neil Hughes, China's Economic Challenge

Course Requirements:

The study of government and politics in China requires an approach different from that taken with most countries. It is difficult, and not always rewarding, to focus on description of institutions and processes. Hence, the orientation of this course is toward analysis and interpretation of China's modern political experience with particular emphasis upon the distinctive stages of transformation from a classical monarchy to a modern state. This effort will focus on the influences, both internal and external, that have shaped China's experience.

There will be two one-hour exams. The first will be on October 6 and the second on November 10. Each exam counts for 20% of the final grade. A two-hour comprehensive final exam is scheduled for December 19 from 8:00-10:00. The final exam counts for 30% of the final grade. NO EARLY FINALS WILL BE GIVEN! Exams will consist mainly of essay type questions but there will also be some short identification questions.

While attendance is not mandatory, nor is it a factor in determining the course grade, absences will necessarily affect the quality of exam performance.

In order to make the experience of this course as congenial as possible for all concerned, you are asked to observe the following rules. Do not come to class late or depart early. Do not use class time to read, write letters, chat with your neighbors or engage in other activities not related to the course.

TOPIC OUTLINE

READING ASSIGNMENT

I. Foundations of Chinese Politics

Introduction

Dreyer, Ch. 1

The Imperial System

Dreyer, Ch. 2

Impact of the West

II. The Chinese Revolution: Part I

The Republican Era	Dreyer, Ch. 3
Civil War	Dreyer, Ch. 4

III. The Chinese Revolution: Part II

Marxism-Leninism-Mao Zedong Thought

The Maoist Era	Dreyer, Ch. 5
The Post-Mao Era	Dreyer, Ch. 6

First Exam -- October 5

IV. The Institutional Context

Market Socialism	Dreyer, Ch. 7 Hughes, 1-3
The Legal System	Dreyer, Ch. 8
The Military	Dreyer, Ch. 9
Education	Dreyer, Ch. 10

Second Exam-- November 9

V. Policy Matters

Quality of Life Issues	Dreyer, Ch. 11 Hughes, 4-5
Intellectual Freedom	Dreyer, Ch. 12
Social Relations	Dreyer, Ch. 13

VI. Foreign Relations

China and Its Neighbors	Dreyer, Ch. 14
China and the US	Dreyer, Ch. 15
China in the 21 st century economy	Hughes, 6-7

Final Exam-- December 19 (8:00-10:00)

Note: September 22 is the last day to drop classes or change grading option.