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PSC 328.01: Politics of China

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Political Science 328
Politics of China

Autumn 1997
Office Hours: 10:00-11:00 MWF
or by appointment
Office: LA 349

Text: June Dreyer, China's Political System 2nd ed

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 20th century political experience with particular emphasis upon the distinctive stages of transformation from a classical monarchy to a modern state.

There will be two one-hour exams. The first will be on October 3 and the second on November 7. Each exam counts for 20% of the final grade. A two-hour comprehensive final exam is scheduled for December 16 from 8:00-10:00. The final exam counts for 40% 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.

Additional work consists of a short paper (5 to 10 pages) and a presentation which address some aspect of contemporary Chinese politics (contemporary means post-World War II.) The presentation should be approximately 10 minutes long. The material of the presentation is a summary of the paper. The paper includes a bibliography of ten items pertinent to the topic. Notes and bibliography style of the paper must follow the Turabian manual of style. Papers which fail to conform to Turabian will be returned for correction. The presentations will take place during the last two weeks of the semester. All papers are due December 1. The presentation and/paper together count for 20% of the final grade. LATE PAPERS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED FOR ANY REASON INCLUDING PROBLEMS ASSOCIATED WITH COMPUTERS AND WORD PROCESSORS. THEREFORE IT IS A GOOD IDEA TO COMPLETE THIS ASSIGNMENT BEFORE THE DEADLINE. Early papers are welcome.

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 the Kaimin, 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 3

IV. The Institutional Context

Market Socialism	Dreyer, Ch. 7
The Legal System	Dreyer, Ch. 8
The Military	Dreyer, Ch. 9
Education	Dreyer, Ch. 10

Second Exam-- November 7

V. Policy Matters

Quality of Life Issues	Dreyer, Ch. 11
Intellectual Freedom	Dreyer, Ch. 12
Social Relations	Dreyer, Ch. 13

VI. Foreign Relations

China and Its Neighbors

Dreyer, Ch. 14

China and the US

Final Exam-- December 16 (8:00-10:00)

Note: October 13 is the last day to drop classes or change grading option.