

# MODERN POLITICS OF CHINA

This is a course designed for American Students' Study in China Program only.

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American Students' Study in China Program, **MODERN POLITICS**

## **Content of the course:**

It is an introduction to and a thorough review of modern Chinese politics from the late Qing Dynasty to Deng Xiaoping's reform. We will examine the legacies of Imperial China, early modern politics of China, Marxist-Leninist influence and Communist rise, the territorial layers of state administration, the *danwei* system and corruption, the succession politics in China, Deng Xiaoping's reform trends and globalization. While we'll focus on the political issues, we'll discuss them against the historical background and against the international background of that time.

Students who take part in this course are required to know not only essential elements of the major historical events and social changes in modern China, but also their impacts on Chinese politics. Beginning with the study of the legacies of Imperial China, esp. those of the Late Qing, students are expected to understand gradually why and how China has changed against the world situation. Students should also understand how the failures of modern Chinese revolutions, as the result of interaction between national and international unrests, finally resulted in the Communist rise to power and in the Communist reform later.

With the understanding mentioned above, students should go into more details of how modern Chinese politics evolved with the failures of Kuomintang and Maoist political strategies and how the Communist government under Deng's leadership eventually took the economic reform policies that are profoundly shaping the Chinese society today. In short, this course is meant to help students understand the 20<sup>th</sup> c.

China in its social-political structures and situations from a historical perspective within, which can vividly complement the perspective of outside observation. Finally, students are welcomed in this course to judge and criticize independently and freely.

**Prerequisite:** college-level English

**Textbook:**

*Governing China----From Revolution Through Reform* by Kenneth Lieberthal, W.W. Norton & Company, Inc. New York. © 1995.

**Readings:**

1. *Understanding Contemporary China(2<sup>nd</sup> Edition)* by Robert E. Gamer, © 2003 by Lynne Rienner Publishers, Inc. USA.
2. *China's Political System-----Modernization & Tradition* by June Teufel Dreyer, © Paragon House 1993, Allyn and Bacon 1996. USA.
3. Governance and Politics of China by Tony Saich;
4. The Politics of China: the Eras of Mao and Deng by Roderick Macfarquhar;
5. China's Unresolved Issues by Suzanne Ogden.

**Periodicals:** Students are encouraged to peruse the relevant periodicals in Sichuan University Library for further materials relevant to the course and essay topics. The principal journals are as follows:

1. The China Quarterly;
2. The China Journal;
3. Asian Survey.

Tentative Schedule for 13 weeks of classes with three class hours each week on Thursdays:

**Time Duration:** 3:00-5:40 p.m. Every Thursday, except public holidays, From September, 2007 to December, 2007.

**Venue:** Classroom near the Overseas Students' Dorm of Sichuan University

Week	Lecture No.	Contents	Remarks
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No.			
1	I	Introduction	<b>Topic:</b> The legacies of Imperial China <b>Focus on:</b> Late Qing, Confucianism, hierarchical society, Western influence <b>Understand:</b> Pre-modern politics of China
2	I	Late Qing politics	
3	I	Western influence	
4-5	II	The early Republican Era	<b>Topic:</b> Early modern politics of China <b>Focus on:</b> 1911 Revolution, the Warlordism, the Guomindang <b>Understand:</b> China's paths to modern politics
	III	The Guomindang rise to power	
6	IV	The Communist rise to power	<b>Topic:</b> Marxist-Leninist influence and Communist rise <b>Focus on:</b> Maoism and Russian influence <b>Understand:</b> The Communist politics
7			<b>Mid-Test:</b> All the questions(wh- questions, filling in blanks, multiple choices) in the test are about the key points of what you have learned in May.
8	Mid-Test		
9	V	Formal organizational structure	<b>Topic:</b> Territorial layers of state administration <b>Focus on:</b> Party organization at the center <b>Understand:</b> Organization of the Chinese government after 1949
	V	Party leadership	
10	VI	The <i>danwei</i> system and the cadre system	<b>Topic:</b> The <i>danwei</i> system and corruption <b>Focus on:</b> The <i>danwei</i> system and the cadre system <b>Understand:</b> Maoist State and Chinese society 1946-1978
11	VI	The power system	
12	VII	Succession at the top and succession strategy	<b>Topic:</b> Succession politics in China and Deng's reform <b>Focus on:</b> Systemic succession and reform trends <b>Understand:</b> The succession issue in China and its future
13	VII		
		The influence of	

	VII	Deng's reform on succession	
	<b>Homework</b>	Final Written Exam	Paper-writing based on the topics given by the instructor

**Performance Evaluation and Grading Scales:**

Class Attendance & Participation	20 %	Above 80% attendance & participation in class
Mid-Test	30 %	Wh-questions, filling in blanks and multiple choices
Final Exam	50 %	Paper-writing