

Chinese Government and Politics POL 588 Q Spring 2010

Class meets: T, R 12:30-1:45 PM

Classroom: MM 315

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Instructor: Prof. J. Dreyer

Office: 317 D Jenkins

Office Hours: TR, 11:45 AM-12:30 PM and by appointment

Objectives

This course will examine Chinese politics in theory and in practice; problems of modernization, political stability and conflict; the role of tradition, institutions, social, economic, and personality factors in shaping politics; China's view of its place in the world, and the strategy and tactics that follow therefrom.

Required Text (available at the UM bookstore)

June Teufel Dreyer, *China's Political System: Modernization and Tradition*, 7th edition, Pearson, Longman, 2010 (hereafter referred to as "text")

<p><u>Important:</u> Be sure that your email address is correctly registered with the information technology people. I will create a listserv for the course, and be in touch with you regularly. The required readings noted below will be regularly supplemented with newspaper articles, journal articles, and reports that have just been posted on the web. I will forward these to you over the listserv, and we will discuss them in class.</p>
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Other readings will be suggested for those who want to learn more about a given topic. Students are expected to keep themselves informed about current developments in China, which will be discussed in class. In order to do this, the regular reading of a newspaper of record, such as *The New York Times*, *The Christian Science Monitor* (Boston), *Financial Times* (London) and *The International Herald Tribune* (Paris) is strongly suggested. *The Economist* (London) weekly magazine has excellent China coverage. For certain units, documentary videos will be shown. These are to be considered integral parts of the class; if you do not watch them, it is the equivalent of skipping class.

Course Requirements : Since this course will be taught in the form of readings plus class discussions, regular attendance is absolutely necessary. Although I don't take attendance except at the beginning of the semester, so that I can learn your names, it will quickly become obvious who is present and who is not. There is a positive correlation between regular attendance and higher grades.

Writing Credit: If you need writing credit for this course, see me at your earliest convenience and we will tailor a project to your specific interests.

Exam Format and Grading

There will be two hour exams, to count 30% each of the final grade, plus one final exam, one and one-half hours in length, to count 40% of the final grade. A perfect score on each of the hour exams would be 30; for the final exam, a perfect score would be 40. Your final grade is calculated by adding these together: 30+ 30+ 40= 100. B- = 80-83.49; B = 83.5-86.99; B+ = 87-89.99, etc. Grades are not rounded up. Outlines have been prepared for each unit and are available on Blackboard, under the heading Course Documents. They will also appear on the symposium throughout the lecture. Many students find it convenient to bring up the outline on their laptops and type the lectures in between the points made on the outline. If you choose this

method, be sure you back up your files. Lap tops have been known to crash, especially right before exams. The outlines are also intended as study guides.

Both the hour exams and the final will be composed of (a) a longer-essay section and (b) a short-answer section. You will have some choice on these: three essay topics of which you are to choose two, and eight short-answer choices of which you are to answer five. On all exams, each essay has a maximum score of 10 points. On the hour exams, each of the five short answers is has a maximum score of two points. On the final, each has a maximum score of four points, so you will have the opportunity to add a bit more information. Do only the number of questions asked; if you accidentally do more, cross out the one/s you don't want graded. If not, the first five will be counted. The exams are not cumulative in that there will be no questions specifically based on material from the earlier exams, though of course you are expected to remember in a general sense what you learned earlier.

Please do not ask if you should do the readings or review the lectures or the outlines. Frankly, it is a bit insulting to think that I would ask you to buy a book, or spend my time compiling reading lists, outlines, and lectures that I didn't think were worth your time. You get out of a course what you put into it--no more, no less.

Extra Credit There will be two extra credit questions each at the end of each exam, worth ½ point apiece for each full question (some may have more than one part).. Hence, one can potentially supplement one's grade by three points. These will be based on late-breaking material sent to you via email and perhaps discussed in class as well. Do not expect these to be easy: extra credit is given for extra knowledge; it does not amount to free points. Retroactive extra credit for individuals has been deemed discriminatory, and therefore illegal, by the courts, and is not available.

Make-Up Exams Make-up exams will be given only to those who have serious emergencies and notify me prior to the exam. Medical excuses must be accompanied by a note from a physician or from the campus health service. If you are in an auto accident, you must provide a copy of the accident report. The hour exam make-up will be given immediately after the final exam. There will be no exceptions to this.

The Final Exam As stipulated in the UM fall course schedule, the final exam for section Q classes will be given on Thursday May 6 from 11 AM -1:30 PM. (final from 11-12:30; make-ups from 12:30-1:30 PM). This cannot be changed. Please check your calendars now. If your presence is necessary at a family occasion, you have already purchased a non-refundable air ticket, or there is any other reason why this date is inconvenient, you should drop this course and substitute another as soon as possible. Since no one ever plans on needing a make-up, do not schedule any other appointments for any portion of the 11-1:30 period until you've taken all the hour exams. The location is our regular classroom, MM 315.

Getting Your Final Grade: There are four ways

1. bring a stamped, self-addressed postcard or envelope with you to the final exam. I'll send it out to you, including your grade on the final exam, the same day I finish grading. This is the fastest way to get your grade, and generally the least trouble for you.
2. consult Blackboard, about the same time, Wednesday 19 May, that myUM releases your grade. All exams will be shown.
3. consult myUM (neither this nor method 4 will give you your grade on the final exam)
4. wait for the registrar to send you your grades.

If you choose option 3 or 4, it is assumed that you do not want to know your grade on the final, and they will not be given out. Your grade is your grade, and will be changed *only* if a mathematical error has been made. Under no circumstances will individual retroactive extra credit work be assigned. See above under Extra Credit heading. According to university policy, a grade of incomplete may be given *only* to students who are in passing status and who are unable to take an examination because of exceptional circumstances such as serious illness. This will be strictly adhered to.

Tentative Schedule

Jan 19-21 **Introduction:** review of reading materials and course requirements

Lecture: **Theories on the Analysis of Chinese Politics**

Reading: text, ch. 1

Jan 26-28 **The Traditional Chinese Political System: the Impact of the West**

Reading: text, ch. 2. For those who want to know more about this period, L. Carrington Goodrich's *A Short History of the Chinese People* (at Richter but not on reserve) is both pithy and readable. Goodrich's book is optional reading.

Feb 2-4 **The Republican Period and the Rise of Communism**

Reading: text, ch. 3-4.

Feb 9-11 **PRC Politics Under Mao**

Reading: text, ch. 5

Feb 16 **Hour Exam I:** chapters 1-5 and accompanying lectures and videos

Feb 18-23 **Chinese Politics Under Mao's Successors: Deng, Jiang, and Hu**

Reading: text, ch. 6

Feb 25-Mar 2 **The Politics of Economics**

Reading: text, ch. 7

An optional reading for those who want to know more about the Chinese economy is Barry Naughton's *The Chinese Economy*, MIT Press, 2007. It's a general overview with minimal jargon

Mar 4-9 **Crime, Punishment, and the Legal System**

Reading: text, ch. 8

optional for those who want to know more about the legal system: relevant hearings of the Congressional-Executive Commission on China, on www.cecc.gov

Mar 11-23 **The Political Role of the Military**

Reading: ch. 9

Mar 13-21 **Spring Vacation:** no class

Mar 23-25 **The Politics of Education**

Reading: ch. 10

Mar 30: **Hour Exam II** on ch. 6-10 plus accompanying lectures and videos

Apr 1 **Quality of Life Issues: Health, Demography, and the Environment**

Reading: ch. 11

Apr 8 **The Politics of Protest: Literature, Art, and Journalism**

Reading: ch. 12

Apr 15 **Ethnic Politics**

Reading: ch. 13

Apr 22 **Taiwan: the “Other China”?**

Reading: TBA

Apr 27 **The Future; Conclusions**

Readings:

- (a) ch. 15 (This chapter is quite brief but, since it ties together all the course material, should be read with special care)
- (b) Steve Tsang, “Consultative Leninism,” *Journal of Contemporary China*, November 2000, pp. 865-880. (on Blackboard, under Assignments)

May 2-5, Saturday-Tuesday **Reading Days**

May 6, Thursday, 11:00 AM-12:30 PM (1:30 PM if you have a make-up), **Final Exam** in MM 315, our regular classroom, covering education, quality of life issues, the politics of protest, ethnic politics, Taiwan, and the conclusions: chapters 9-13; 15. Make-ups to be given 12:30-1:30 PM, immediately after the final.

HAPPY SUMMER VACATION !!!