

GOV312L: GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS OF CHINA (37995)

Spring 2023

Instructor: Siyun Jiang
Time: T/Th 12:30 – 14 pm, Classroom: PAR 201
Email: gov37995sp23@austin.utexas.edu
Office Hours: T/Th 10 – 11:30 am

Course Pages:

<https://utexas.instructure.com/courses/1355189>

Course Description and Objectives:

China's rise on the world stage is the most important geopolitical event of this century. How did a relatively poor nation become prosperous? How does the authoritarian regime maintain stable and resilient? What implications does China's increasing global power have for the rest of the world? This course seeks to answer these questions and serves as a broad introduction to government and politics of post-1978 China for upper-level undergraduates with a good background in political/social science, but no knowledge of China or Chinese is assumed.

We will start the course by introducing the history and formal political institutions of China. We then will detail how the elites and ordinary citizens participate in policy-making and react to the government's actions. Finally, we will examine the consequences of China's rise for the rest of the world. Along the course, we will examine a variety of topics including elite politics, corruption, inequality, mass participation, technology, censorship, and foreign policy.

Course Materials:

The readings for this course are based on book chapters and articles. All the readings can be accessed through the Canvas website for this class.

- Joseph, William A. 2019. Politics in China: An Introduction, Third Edition. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Course Requirements:

Assignments	Weights	Due Dates
8 Quizzes	20%	Weekly
Midterm Exam 1	25%	February 23
Midterm Exam 2	25%	April 20
Final Essay	30%	Release, March 23; Due, April 23

Quizzes:

The class will include 10 short quizzes of 15 minutes. The quizzes will have 10 multiple choices and

True/False questions. These quizzes will test your knowledge about important concepts, theories, and facts from the lecture and the readings. I will make the quizzes straightforward if you have completed the readings.

Your lowest two quiz grade will be dropped from your final quiz score for the semester. This policy is designed to accommodate potential conflicts that arise during the semester. No makeups of missed quizzes will be provided.

Exams:

This course has two in-class mid-term exams. Each midterm exam will be worth 25% of your overall grade. You will have 75 minutes to complete 10 multiple choices, 10 True/False, and 4 short-answer questions. Please note the dates and times of these exams and make sure that you can attend both exams. Make-up exams will not be accommodated either. The two midterm exams are NOT cumulative.

Technical Guidelines:

The exams will be timed and closed book. They will be administered through Canvas and a software proctoring service called Proctorio. On exam days, you will need to bring your laptop to the classroom.

To insure exam integrity, during the exam period, Proctorio will lock down a number of your computer's capabilities, including locking down your browser and disabling new internet tabs, disabling printing, disabling the clipboard, disabling the right click feature on the mouse (to prevent copying and pasting activities), forcing full screen in the browser window to prevent the exam participant from accessing outside programs, and clearing the memory cache of temporary internet files to prevent retention and redistribution of exam materials.

Final Essay:

The essay question will be released at Thursday, March 23 at 8:00 a.m. And you have till Sunday, April 23, at 11:59 p.m. to complete it. The essay must be analytical, not a simple descriptive narrative. You must identify and use appropriate, high-quality sources. You can also use some primary sources, which may be in translation.

You must submit the essay to receive credit for the course. Submission must be made as Word documents via Canvas. Put your name on your assignments. For more information, please visit the Everything You Need to Know about the Final Essay page on Canvas.

Course Structure:

Weeks	Themes
1-2	Historical Background
3-4	Institutions and Reforms
5-6	Politics and Business
7-9	State and Citizens
11-12	Technology and Society
13-14	China and the World

Schedule and Readings:

The course readings can be accessed through our Canvas page. You should have read these assignments **before the class** for which they are assigned. Your comprehension of material from all readings will be assessed in quizzes, exams, and in the final essay.

- **Week 1 Jan 10 & 12: Introduction**

Pre-class Survey

Politics in China, pp 1-19.

(Optional) Documentary: China: A Century of Revolution: Part Two: The Mao Years, https://youtu.be/PJyoX_vrlns

- **Week 2 Jan 17 & 19: History and its Legacy**

Quiz 1

Politics in China, Chapter 2 “From Empire to People’s Republic,” p. 45-73.

Politics in China, Chapter 3 “Mao Zedong in Power (1949–1976),” p. 76-120.

Communist Party of China, Eleventh Central Committee, Sixth Plenary Session. 27 June 1981. “Resolution on Certain Questions in the History of Our Party Since the Founding of the People’s Republic of China.” <https://digitalarchive.wilsoncenter.org/document/resolution-certain-questions-history-our-party-founding-peoples-republic-china>

- **Week 3 Jan 24 & 26: National Leadership**

Quiz 2

Politics in China, Chapter 4 “Deng Xiaoping and His Successors (1976 to the Present),” p. 124-150.

Shirk, Susan L. 1993. The Political Logic of Economic Reform in China. University of California Press, Introduction.

(Optional) Andrew Nathan. February 9, 2017. “China: The Struggle At the Top” New York Review of Books. <http://www.chinofile.com/library/nyrb-china-archive/china-struggle-top>

(Optional) Infographic: China’s Leadership before and after the 20th Party Congress, <https://fairbank.fas.harvard.edu/research/blog/infographic-chinas-leadership-before-the-20th-party-congress/>

(Optional) Bonny Lin et al., 2022, How Did the 20th Party Congress Impact China’s Military? https://chinapower.csis.org/20th-party-congress-china-military-pla-cmc/?fbclid=IwAR1TZTz19D_rwR9Ke0p3iTThcAFmuRVgvaXwfHs_6EsAZe8Wt5IGGLhDLL9U

- **Week 4 Jan 31 & Feb 2: Ideology and Institutions**

Quiz 3

Politics in China, Chapter 5 “Ideology and China’s Political Development,” p. 157-70 and 186-197.

Politics in China, Chapter 6 “China’s Communist Party-State: The Structure and Dynamics of Power,” p. 201-234.

Nathan, Andrew J. 2003. “Authoritarian Resilience.” Journal of Democracy 14(1): p. 6-17.

(Optional) Bilingual State Council Organizational Chart, <https://npcobserver.com/resources/bilingual-state-council-organizational-chart/>

(Optional) Lawrence, Susan V. 2013. China's Political Institutions and Leaders in Charts, Congressional Research Service, p. 12-19.

- **Week 5 Feb 7 & 9: Bureaucracy**

Quiz 4

Shih Victor, Christopher Adolph, and Mingxing Liu. 2012. Getting Ahead in the Communist Party: Explaining the Advancement of Central Committee Members in China. *American Political Science Review*, vol 106, no. 1: 166–87.

Politics in China, Chapter 9 “Rural China: Reform and Resistance,” p. 317-335.

Politics in China, Chapter 10 “Mao Zedong in Power (1949–1976),” p. 350-353.

O’Brien, Kevin J., and Lianjiang Li. 1999. Selective Policy Implementation in Rural China. *Comparative Politics*, vol 31, no. 2: 167–86.

Dickson, Bruce J. 2014. “Who Wants to Be a Communist? Career Incentives and Mobilized Loyalty in China.” *The China Quarterly* 217:42-68.

(Optional) Examine the Connected China project at Reuters, <http://connectedchina.reuters.com/>

(Optional) Documentary: The Chinese Mayor, <http://www.zhaqifilms.com/the-chinese-mayor.html>

(Optional) Edin, Maria. 2003. State Capacity and Local Agent Control in China: CCP Cadre Management from a Township Perspective. *The China Quarterly*, vol 173: 35-52.

- **Week 6 Feb 14 & 16: Political Economy**

Quiz 5

Politics in China, Chapter 8 “China’s Political Economy,” p. 274-307.

Xu, Chenggang. 2011. The Fundamental Institutions of China’s Reforms and Development. *Journal of Economic Literature*, vol 49, no.4: 1076-1151.

Ang, Yuen Yuen. 2016. How China Escaped the Poverty Trap. Cornell University Press, Introduction, Chapter 1-2.

Pearson, Margaret, Meg Rithmire, and Kellee S. Tsai. 2020. Party-State Capitalism in China. Harvard Business School, Working Paper, No. 21-065.

(Optional) Malesky, Edmund, and Jonathan London. 2014. The Political Economy of Development in China and Vietnam. *Annual Review of Political Science*, vol. 17: 395-419.

(Optional) Documentary: American Factory, <https://www.netflix.com/title/81090071?source=35>

(Optional) How to run the Mega Port? <https://youtu.be/CtHyYErE3YM>

(Optional) Leaked Records Reveal Offshore Holdings of China’s Elite, <https://www.icij.org/investigations/offshore/leaked-records-reveal-offshore-holdings-of-chinas-elite/>

(Optional) China’s “Big Tech crackdown”: A guide, <https://thechinaproject.com/2021/08/02/chinas-big-tech-crackdown-a-guide/>

- **Week 7 Feb 21: Accountability and Responsiveness**

Midterm Exam 1 on Feb 23

Ang, Yuen Yuen. 2020. China's Gilded Age, The Paradox of Economic Boom and Vast Corruption, Chapter 3 Unbundling Corruption over Time.

O'Brien, Kevin J and Rongbin Han. 2009. Path to Democracy? Assessing Village Elections in China. *Journal of Contemporary China*, vol 18, no.60: 359–78.

(Optional) Examine the Anti-corruption Campaign at Visualization at ChinaFile, <https://anticorruption.chinafile.com/>

(Optional) Zheng, Siqi, and Matthew E. Kahn. 2013. Understanding China's Urban Pollution Dynamics. *Journal of Economic Literature* 51 (3):731-72.

(Optional) Documentary: Under the Dome: Investigating China's Smog, <https://youtu.be/V5bHb3ljjbc>

- **Week 8 Feb 28 & March 2: Social Policies**

Quiz 6

Politics in China, p. 335-336, 355-361.

Politics in China, Chapter 8 “Population Policy,” p. 418-437.

Cheng, Tiejun, and Mark Selden. 1994. The Origins and Social Consequences of China's Hukou System. *The China Quarterly*, vol 139: 644-668.

Wu, Xiaogang. 2019. “Inequality and Social Stratification in Postsocialist China.” *Annual Review of Sociology*, vol 45: 363-382.

Politics in China, Chapter 16 and 17 “Tibet and Xinjiang,” p. 457-510.

(Optional) Ian Johnson. “China’s Great Uprooting: Moving 250 Million Into Cities.” *New York Times*. June 15, 2013. <https://www.nytimes.com/2013/06/16/world/asia/chinas-great-uprooting-moving-250-million-into-cities.html>

(Optional) Alison Killing, Megha Rajagopalan. “What They Saw: Ex-Prisoners Detail The Horrors Of China’s Detention Camps.” *Buzzfeed News*, August 27, 2020, https://www.buzzfeednews.com/article/alison_killing/china-ex-prisoners-horrors-xinjiang-camps-uighurs

- **Week 9 March 7 & 9: Protests and Repression**

Quiz 7

Politics in China, Chapter 9 “Rural China: Reform and Resistance,” p. 337-345.

O'Brien, Kevin J. 1989. Rightful Resistance. *World Politics*, vol. 49, no. 1: 31-55.

Cai, Yongshun, and Chih-Jou Jay Chen. 2022. State and Social Protests in China (Elements in Politics and Society in East Asia). Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Politics in China, Chapter 18 “Hong Kong,” p. 517-536.

(Optional) Tiananmen Square: Rarely Seen Video of the 1989 Protests in China, <https://youtu.be/Je7dhUa08Rg>

(Optional) Hong Kong’s Freedoms: What China Promised and How It’s Cracking Down, <https://www.cfr.org/backgrounder/hong-kong-freedoms-democracy-protests-china-crackdown>

- **Week 10 March 14 & 16: Spring Break**

No class

- **Week 11 March 21 & 23: Propaganda, Censorship, and Surveillance**

Quiz 8

Politics in China, Chapter 15 “Internet Politics,” p. 440-451.

Gallagher, Mary, and Blake Miller. 2019. Who Not What: The Logic of China’s Information Control Strategy. *The China Quarterly*: 1-26.

Huang, Haifeng. 2018. The Pathology of Hard Propaganda. *The Journal of Politics*, vol 80, no. 3: 1034-1038.

(Optional) King, Gary, Jennifer Pan, and Margaret E. Roberts. 2013. “How Censorship in China Allows Government Criticism but Silences Collective Expression.” *American Political Science Review*, vol 107, no. 2: 326-343.

(Optional) Qian, Isabelle, Muyi Xiao, Paul Mozur and Alexander Cardia. “Four Takeaways From a Times Investigation Into China’s Expanding Surveillance State.” *The New York Times*, July 21 2022, <https://www.nytimes.com/2022/06/21/world/asia/china-surveillance-investigation.html>

(Optional) Hvistendahl, Mara. 2017. “Inside China’s Vast New Experiment in Social Ranking.” *Wired*. <https://www.wired.com/story/age-of-social-credit/>

(Optional) Josh Chin and Liza Lin. 2022. *Surveillance State: China’s Quest to Launch a New Era of Social Control*. St. Martin’s Press.

- **Week 12 March 28 & 30: Public Opinion and Nationalism**

Quiz 9

Pan, Jennifer, and Yiqing Xu. 2018. China’s Ideological Spectrum. *The Journal of Politics*, vol 80, no. 1: 254-273.

Cunningham, Edward, Tony Saich, and Jessie Turiel. 2020. *Understanding CCP Resilience: Surveying Chinese Public Opinion Through Time*. Ash Center for Democratic Governance and Innovation.

Politics in China, Chapter 19 “Taiwan,” p. 538-553.

Chen Weiss, Jessica. 2014. *Powerful Patriots: Nationalist Protest in China’s Foreign Relations*. Oxford University Press, Chapter 1-2.

(Optional) China’s Online Nationalist Army: How Social Media Users Weaponized Patriotism, <https://asia.nikkei.com/static/vdata/infographics/china-social-media/>

(Optional) Street Interview: What The Chinese Think Of Taiwan <https://youtu.be/r2MlxzlHphY>

- **Week 13 April 4: China and the World**

Quiz 10

No class on April 6 (Instructor will be out of town for a conference)

Examine U.S. Relations with China 1949-2022, <https://www.cfr.org/timeline/us-china-relations>

Christensen, Thomas J. “Fostering stability or creating a monster? The rise of China and US policy toward East Asia.” *International Security* 31.1 (2006): 81-126.

Shambaugh, David. 2015. *China’s Soft-Power Push: The Search for Respect*. *Foreign Affairs*, vol. 94, no. 4: 99–107.

Dreyer, June Teufel. 2015. The “Tianxia Trope”: Will China Change the International System?

Journal of Contemporary China, vol. 24, no. 96: 1015–1031.

Kurt M. Campbell and Ely Ratner. 2018. The China Reckoning: How Beijing Defied American Expectations.” Foreign Affairs. <https://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/united-states/2018-02-13/china-reckoning>

(Optional) Michael D. Swaine. 2015. “Chinese Views and Commentary on the ‘One Belt, One Road’ Initiative.” China Leadership Monitor. <https://www.hoover.org/sites/default/files/research/docs/clm47ms.pdf> (Optional) Malik, A. et al. 2021. Banking on the Belt and Road: Insights from a New global Dataset of 13,427 Chinese Development Projects. Williamsburg, VA: AidData at William & Mary.

(Optional) China Research Center. 2020. China’s Recent Engagement in Latin America and the Caribbean: Current Conditions and Challenges, <https://chinacenter.net/2020/china-currents/19-1/chinas-recent-engagement-in-latin-america-and-the-caribbean-current-conditions-and-challenges/>

(Optional) Autor, David H., David Dorn, and Gordon H. Hanson. 2016. The China Shock: Learning from Labor-market Adjustment to Large Changes in Trade. Annual Review of Economics, vol 8: 205-240.

- **Week 14 April 11 & 13: Covid-19 and Future Political Development of China**

Politics in China, Chapter 19 “Public Health,” p. 399-413.

Shih, Victor C. 2021. China’s Leninist Response to COVID-19: From Information Repression to Total Mobilization, https://muse.jhu.edu/pub/166/edited_volume/chapter/2839461

Greitens, Sheena Chestnut. 2020. Surveillance, Security, and Liberal Democracy in the Post-COVID World. International Organization, vol 74, no. S1: E169-E190.

Pei, Minxin. 2021. China: Totalitarianism’s Long Shadow. Journal of Democracy, vol 32, no. 2: 5–21.

Tang, Wenfang. 2018. The “Surprise” of Authoritarian Resilience in China, American Affairs.

(Optional) What Videos Show About the Extremes of China’s ‘Zero Covid’ Policy, The New York Times, November 16 2022, <https://www.nytimes.com/2022/11/16/world/asia/china-zero-covid-policy-videos.html>

(Optional) China’s Novel Health Tracker: Green on Public Health, Red on Data Surveillance, <https://www.csis.org/blogs/trustee-china-hand/chinas-novel-health-tracker-green-public-health-red-data-surveillance>

(Optional) Myers, Steven Lee, Jin Wu, and Claire Fu, “China’s Looming Crisis: A Shrinking Population.” The New York Times, January 17 2020, <https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2019/01/17/world/asia/china-population-crisis.html?searchResultPosition=1>

- **Week 15 April 18: Course Review**

Midterm Exam 2 on April 20 Course Evaluation

- **Final Paper Due on April 23**

Academic Integrity Policy:

The University of Texas maintains an Honor Code. Its core values are learning, discovery, freedom, leadership, individual opportunity, and responsibility. Each member of the university is expected

to uphold these values through integrity, honesty, trust, fairness, and respect toward peers and the community. Because academic integrity is a fundamental value of higher education at UT, I will not tolerate acts of cheating, plagiarism, falsification, or attempts to cheat, plagiarize, or falsify.

If the instructor determines that an academic integrity violation has taken place, she will follow the University's formal process for dealing with such matters.

Documented Disability Statement:

The University of Texas will make reasonable accommodations for students with documented disabilities. Any student with a documented disability who requires academic accommodations should contact Services for Students with Disabilities at 471-6259 (voice) or 1-866-329-3986 (Video Phone) as soon as possible to request an official letter outlining authorized accommodations.

Accommodations for Religious Holidays Policy:

According to UT-Austin policy, students must notify the instructor of an impending absence at least 14 days prior to the date of observance of a religious holy day. If a student must miss a class, an examination, a work assignment, or a project in order to observe a religious holy day, the student will be given an opportunity to complete the missed work within a reasonable time after the absence.

Other Resources:

The Undergraduate Writing Center, FAC 211, 471-6222: <http://www.uwc.utexas.edu/> offers free, individualized, expert help with writing for any UT undergraduate, by appointment or on a drop-in basis. Any undergraduate enrolled in a course at UT can visit the UWC for assistance with any writing project. They work with students from every department on campus, for both academic and non-academic writing. Their services are not just for writing with "problems." Getting feedback from an informed audience is a normal part of a successful writing project. Consultants help students develop strategies to improve their writing. The assistance they provide is intended to foster independence. Each student determines how to use the consultant's advice. The consultants are trained to help you work on your writing in ways that preserve the integrity of your work.

Useful Links:

Congressional-Executive Commission on China: <https://www.cecc.gov/events/hearings>

ChinaPower: Unpacking the complexity of China's rise: <https://chinapower.csis.org/>

China Leadership Monitor: <https://www.prcleader.org/>

The Sinica Podcast: <https://supchina.com/series/sinica/>

ChinaFile: <https://www.chinafile.com/>

The Fairbank Center: <https://fairbank.fas.harvard.edu/research/blog/>

VoxChina: <http://voxchina.org/>

The New York Times: <https://www.nytimes.com/>

Grading Scheme:

Letter Grade	100-Point Score
A	94-100
A-	90-93
B+	87-89
B	84-86
B-	80-83
C+	77-79
C	74-76
C-	70-73
D+	67-69
D	64-66
D-	60-63
F	<=59