DEPARTMENT OF
POLITICAL SCIENCE

Credit Weighting: 0.50

Pre-/Co-Requisites: 1 of POLS*2080, POLS*2100, POLS*2200

Restrictions: None

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

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GENERAL DETAILS

This course is a study of contemporary China through the lens of its political history. The Chinese Communist Party came to power in 1949 with the mandate to build a sovereign and united China as well as to modernize the country within a socialist framework. We shall examine the historical background and the ideological factors behind the formulation of these goals and assess the extent to which they have been accomplished. Accordingly, the course covers the full range of major events that helped shape contemporary China. These events include the end of imperial China, the birth of Republican China, the Communist Revolution, the Mao era, and post-Mao China (the reform era of Deng Xiaoping and beyond).

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

The design of the course, including the assigned readings and audio-visual materials, is informed by the following objectives (formerly known as University Learning Objectives):

1. Literacy
As a course in comparative politics, “Politics of China” offers you the opportunity to explore how specific terms and concepts are applied to the study of development in a non-Western nation, which is also a communist state. In addition, through the assigned readings, you will be introduced to the system of romanization of the Chinese language. More generally, the course aims to broaden the scope of your literacy through a wide range of text-based and audio-visual materials. Assignments are designed to enhance your ability to communicate effectively by way of both written and oral venues.

2. Numeracy
China offers a good case of how statistics and data are often manipulated to serve political purposes.

METHOD OF ASSESSMENT

1. Online midterm quiz -- 20%
2. In-class participation -- 15%
3. Review essay -- 30%
4. Final examination (on campus during the exam period) -- 35%

REQUIRED READING

Joseph, William A. Ed. Politics in China: An Introduction. 3nd ed. New York: Oxford University Press, 2019 (available for purchase at University Bookstore) AND
Other readings on Ares