

PORTLAND STATE UNIVERSITY

MARK O. HATFIELD SCHOOL OF GOVERNMENT

DIVISION OF POLITICAL SCIENCE

PS 466
(CRN 82065)

The Politics of China

Summer Session 2, 2013

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, 2:15-4:35pm

Room: URBN 511

Professor Bruce Gilley
Email: gilleyb@pdx.edu
Office: URBN 650N
Tel: 725-3056

Summer Quarter Office Hours: By appointment

Updated: 20 July 2013

Course Description

China is the world's most populous country (1.3 billion people) and a state that encompasses one of the world's oldest continuous civilizations (approximately 2,800 years). It is the last major communist state, the world's fastest growing economy, and its most closely-watched emerging international power. China is also important for political science. The mixture of Marxist ideology, Chinese culture, and economic boom have created a rich laboratory for the study of politics. If these are not reasons enough to study the politics of China, one can offer another: it is fun. China's politics are tumultuous, unpredictable, and Baroque in their own way. Despite its self-image of timelessness, China experienced five violent regime changes in the 20th century (in 1911, 1928, 1949, 1976, and 1989) and may experience another this century. The aim of this course is to encourage and stimulate an interest in the politics of China, and to enhance one's understanding of the political science of developing nations. By the end of this course, you should be able to offer an informed assessment of the politics of China. You should be able to compare and contrast China's political experience with that of other countries.

Course Textbook

There is one required textbook, which is available at the PSU Bookstore: William A. Joseph (ed.), Politics in China: An Introduction (Oxford UP, 2010).

Course Requirements

- Class Attendance: 10%
- Class Participation: 10%
- Contending Views Participation: 10%
- Final Paper: 30%
- Two In-Class Exams: 20% each (40% total)

Attendance

Attendance is marked out of 10 with one mark deducted for each class missed.

Participation

Participation will be graded according to two criteria:

- (1) Engagement in class discussions (50%)
- (2) Raising challenging perspectives on weekly readings (50%)

Debates

In each class, I will specify a question for debate (listed in the syllabus). The debates will take place at the beginning of the class. Students will sign up for two debates and to one of the two sides in the first class. Each will have a 5 minute opening remark, followed by a 2 minute response to the other's perspective (for a total of about 20 minutes).

Final Paper

The final paper will be a 10-12 page summary of the class that responds to the following three questions: (1) What are the basic characteristics of China's politics?; (2) What explains the nature of China's politics?; and (3) What are the possible future scenarios for China's politics?

Weekly Schedule

(1) Monday, July 22

Ch 1: Studying China's Politics

(2) Tuesday, July 23

Ch 2: Historical Lineages of the PRC State

Debate: "The republican era was a failure."

(3) Wednesday, July 24

Ch 3: The Maoist Era

Debate: “Mao was a revolutionary.”

(4) Thursday, July 25
Ch 4: The Reform Era

Debate: “The reform era represents a clear break with the Maoist era.”

(5) Monday, July 29
Ch 5: Ideology

Debate: “Official ideology no longer matters in China.”

(6) Tuesday, July 30
Ch 6: The CCP

Debate: “The CCP has successfully institutionalized its rule.”

(7) Wednesday, July 31
Ch 7: Political Economy

Debate: “China is a market economy.”

(8) Thursday, Aug 1
In-Class Test #1

(9) Monday, August 5
Ch 8: Rural China

Debate: “Democracy is taking shape in rural China.”

(10) Tuesday, August 6
Ch 9: Urban China

Debate: “China is a model for the developing world.”

(11) Wednesday, August 7
Ch 11: Environment and Climate Change

Debate: “China’s authoritarian model is better than democracy in dealing with environmental challenges.”

(12) Thursday, August 8
Ch 12: Public Health

Debate: “China’s public health was better under Mao.”

(13) Monday, August 12

Ch 13: Population

Debate: “The ‘one child policy’ has done more good than harm.”

(14) Tuesday, August 13

Chs 14 & 15: Tibet and Xinjiang

Debate: “China’s rule in Tibet is a form of colonialism.”

(15) Wednesday, August 14

Chs 16 & 17: Hong Kong, Macau, and Taiwan

Debate: “The ‘one country, two systems’ model is a feasible policy for resolving the Taiwan issue.”

(16) Thursday, August 15

In-Class Test #2

Friday, August 16

Final Papers Due by 4pm (emailed to gilleyb@pdx.edu)