Course Title: Chinese Politics
Semester: Spring 2024
Instructor: Dr. Hongshen Zhu
Contact Information: hongshen@virginia.edu
Time: Tuesday/Thursday 9:30-10:45 am
Office Hour: Gibson 164 10:45-11:59 am
Classroom: Gibson 242

Course Description:

In era of reform that began in the late 1970s, China has followed a unique path of development to achieve extraordinary economic growth, while consolidating its authoritarian rule politically. Evidence of the economic transformation is striking. Understanding the politics of contemporary China and gauging its change and continuity in recent decades is less straightforward. It is the broad goal of this undergraduate seminar.

Course Goals:

1. ability to engage in critical thinking and to formulate and support well-reasoned arguments using reliable, appropriate evidence;
2. knowledge of major issues in Chinese politics that may or may not be distinctive to China, ability to explain sources of successful performance, and nuanced grasp of political fundamentals and political challenges;
3. understanding of major questions of consensus and disagreement among China experts and assessment of evidence and methods underlying how we know what we think we know;
4. familiarity with key sources to make further progress, after the semester is over, in acquiring expertise on contemporary Chinese politics.

Resources:
China Leadership Monitor, www.prcleader.org
China Vitae at http://www.chinavitae.com, Biographic information of current members of the Politburo.
China Files: https://www.chinafile.com/keyword/elites
UCSD China Data Lab: https://chinadatalab.ucsd.edu/resources/

TBD based on current affairs and updated academic publications. Check the course's online platform regularly for updates and additional materials.

Extra Credit: If you find an error in the syllabus that impacts the efficient execution of the class, the first person to note this as a comment on the syllabus will receive .5 extra credit points for the semester.

Office Hours: I am happy to speak with you during my office hours about questions you may have about the class! I will not respond to email requests about office hours, but you can make your own Google Meet appointments directly on a dedicated page on Calendly: https://calendly.com/hongshen-zhu

Course Communications
If you have a class, work, or another documented, unmissable conflict, during my office hours message me on Slack and we can find additional time to speak. Please reserve email only for long messages that pertain only to your personal situation. As much as possible, use the group Slack to try to get answers from the class or a speedy reply from me. Here is where you can sign up for the class Slack channel: ….

**Course Schedule:**

**Week 1, 18 January: Introduction**

**Required:** Course Syllabus

**Additional:**

**Week 2, 23 January: Political Economy of Development I**

**Required:**

**Week 2, 25 January: Political Economy of Development II**

**Required:**

**Additional:**

Week 3, 30 January: Political Selection I

Required:

Week 3, 1 February: Political Selection II

Required:

Additional:

Week 4, 6 February: Elite Politics I
Required:

Week 4, 8 February: Elite Politics II
Movie Week: The Transition Period (2009) Zhou Hao

Additional:
o Xi, Tianyang. 2019. “All the Emperor’s Men? Conflicts and Power-Sharing in Imperial China.” Comparative Political Studies, vol. 52, no. 8: 1099-1130.

Week 5, 13 February: Non-Electoral Representation and Responsiveness I
Required:

Week 5, 15 February: Non-Electoral Representation and Responsiveness II
Required:

Additional:
o Pan, Jennifer. Forthcoming. “How Chinese Officials Use the Internet to Construct their Public Image.” Political Science Research and Methods.
Week 6, 20 February: Congresses and Elections I
Required:

Week 6, 22 February: Congresses and Elections II
Required:

Additional:

Week 7, 27 February: Political Participation I
Required:

Week 7, 29 February: Political Participation II
Required:

Additional:
Week 8, 2 March – 10 March: Spring Recess, No Class

Week 9, 12 March: Ideology, Political Culture, and Public Opinion I
Required:

Week 9, 14 March: Ideology, Political Culture, and Public Opinion II
Required:

Additional:

Week 10, 19 March: Media Censorship and Self-Censorship I
**Guest Lecture, Professor Wang Yicheng from Washington & Lee University**

**Required: TBD**

**Week 10, 21 March: Media Censorship and Self-Censorship II**

**Required:**

**Additional:**

**Week 11, 26 March: Law and Repression I**

**Required:**

**Week 11, 28 March: Law and Repression II**

**Required:**

**Additional:**

**Week 12, 2 April: Political Corruption I**

**Required:**
Week 12, 4 April: Political Corruption II
Required:

Additional:

Week 13, 9 April: Policy Processes and Administrative Monitoring I
Required:

Week 13, 11 April: Policy Processes and Administrative Monitoring II
Required:

Additional:

Week 14, 16 April: Conceptualization of the Regime I
Required:

Additional:

**Week 14, 18 April: Student Presentations of final papers**

**Week 15, 23 April, 25 April: Student Presentations of final papers**

**Assessment:**

1. Class Participation (20%): Active participation in class discussions is expected and will be graded.
2. Presentations (20%): A in-class presentation of final paper findings in week 14/15.
3. Final Paper (60%)
   - Research question, hypothesis (due end of Week 6, February 25 11:55 pm) 10%
   - Rough draft (due end of Week 11, March 31 11:55 pm) 10%
   - Complete paper (due last day of the semester, May 19 11:55 pm) 40%

The final paper should explore one of the aspects of Chinese politics writ large. Your research paper must ask and answer a tractable question that is not in the stark, binary form adopted above. It could ask about the effect of one variable on another or the extent to which something has changed. The paper must be analytical, not a simple descriptive narrative. You must begin with a general expectation of what to find, then a discussion of findings from your sources. I do not expect a quantitative analysis, but I do require use of some primary sources, which may be in translation. You must identify and use a sufficient number of appropriate, high-quality scholarly sources. Students should incorporate at least five peer-reviewed sources and make a clear argument based upon a question that they have identified within this field. For evaluation criteria, please see below.

For students that enroll in graduate 5000-level section:
Two books are required for reading in their entirety:
Their final paper needs to have quantitative analysis and are expected be around 25 pages.

**Phase 1: 2-3 page paper prospectus**
Should include brief contexts of your research question, the research question itself, and your hypothesis, potential sources of evidence (data and/or primary sources).

What is a Research Question?
https://twp.duke.edu/sites/twp.duke.edu/files/file-attachments/research-questions.original.pdf

**Phase 2: 7 page rough draft**
The rough draft (for peer review and professor review) should include:
1. 7 pages of prose
2. A clear thesis
3. Correct in-text citation in Chicago author-date style (the Chicago Manual of Style is available here through the UVA library.
4. A bibliography in Chicago author-date style covering all texts cited in the first eight pages

Phase 3: Complete paper
There is no hard page limit. Normally students turn in ~15 pages.

Writing Evaluation Criteria:
The following criteria will be used when grading all writing assignments.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Argument</th>
<th>Grammar</th>
<th>Language Use</th>
<th>Research</th>
<th>Citation</th>
<th>Points Range</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>Brilliant and compelling</td>
<td>Flawless.</td>
<td>Clear and inspired.</td>
<td>Seamless integration of fresh, innovative material demonstrating extensive research.</td>
<td>All materials cited perfectly.</td>
<td>57-60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>Clear and strong.</td>
<td>Near perfect.</td>
<td>Excellent.</td>
<td>Innovative material from extensive research.</td>
<td>Few to no citation errors.</td>
<td>54-56.9</td>
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<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>Clear.</td>
<td>Very few errors.</td>
<td>Excellent.</td>
<td>Effective outside research.</td>
<td>Few citation errors.</td>
<td>52-53.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>Clear.</td>
<td>Minimal errors.</td>
<td>Generally good.</td>
<td>Effective research.</td>
<td>Multiple citation errors.</td>
<td>49-51.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>Unclear.</td>
<td>Regular errors.</td>
<td>Frustrating and unclear.</td>
<td>Limited, but effective to support claims.</td>
<td>Multiple errors in citation.</td>
<td>44-45.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>Unclear.</td>
<td>Regular errors.</td>
<td>Often frustrating and unclear.</td>
<td>Limited research not well integrated.</td>
<td>Majority of sources not cited, multiple errors.</td>
<td>40-43.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>None.</td>
<td>Abound with errors.</td>
<td>Very unclear.</td>
<td>Minimal to none.</td>
<td>Most materials not cited, no references.</td>
<td>30-36.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>None.</td>
<td>Abound with errors.</td>
<td>Extremely unclear.</td>
<td>None.</td>
<td>No references. Any paper found plagiarized will automatically receive 0 points.</td>
<td>0-29.9</td>
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Academic Integrity:
The University is committed to upholding the highest standards of academic integrity. All work submitted in this course must be your own, and any sources used must be properly cited.
Accommodations for Students with Disabilities:

If you require academic accommodations due to a documented disability, please communicate your needs to the instructor.