Chinese Politics

Government 297/EAST 297 – Fall 2012
WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY
(T & TH 1:10-2:30pm)
EXLEY SCIENCE 113

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Course Description

The last thirty years have brought dramatic economic, social and political changes to China. Within the space of a single generation, China has gone from an impoverished, agrarian country to a rapidly modernizing urban one. This course examines the reforms in China over the past thirty years, as well as the prominent issues and challenges faced by the country today. For the first part of the course, we will discuss economic reforms in China, and the challenges inherent in its rapid economic transition. We will then examine political behavior, institutional reforms, and the prospects for democratization since the 1980s.

Course Requirements and Expectations

Classroom discussion and participation will be a critical component of our classes. To facilitate insightful and interesting discussions, you are required to complete the assigned readings before each class and contribute to class discussions. Generally the reading load will be around 100 to 120 pages per week. There is no required text for the course – all readings will be made available electronically on Moodle. I also encourage you to pay attention to current Chinese events in the news, which we will discuss in class.

Grading

Class Preparation, Attendance and Participation - 15%

Attendance is required. You will be allowed to miss up to three classes without penalty. Participation grades will be determined by the quality not quantity of comments/questions in class discussion.
At the start of each class, you are required to submit two questions/criticisms relating to the readings assigned for that day. Please submit these questions on a 3 by 5 file card (or similar size). They will be graded on a three point scale: 2 points=acceptable; 1 point=unacceptable/I’m not sure you read it; 0 points=seriously deficient/you didn’t turn anything in. You will be given 3 grace days which can be used to cover any absences (sickness, funerals, weddings, etc.). Questions are due within five minutes of the start of class (i.e. 1:15pm), and late questions are not accepted. The reading questions will count for two-thirds of this grade.

**Research Paper - 40%**

Over the course of the semester, you will be working on a research paper project that will culminate in a 12-15 page paper. In order to encourage you to begin work on your paper early, the assignment is broken into several parts spread across the semester. Complete details of the assignment will be posted on Moodle. These particular assignments, and the relative weight of each are below.

**Research Question and Hypothesis - 5%**

Due at the start of class on Sept. 18. Prepare a research question that is of interest to you, and formulate a hypothesis that can potentially answer the question.

**Research Proposal - 5%**

Due at the start of class on Oct. 4. The proposal should be approximately two or three double spaced pages, and outline your research question and hypothesis, planned methods to gather data for the paper, as well as academic sources that will help you to be able to answer your question.

**Rough Draft - 10%**

Due by 11:59pm on November 8. I will grade this paper as if I am grading your final paper – however, I will add 30 points to the final score after I have completed grading it (so if you earn at least a 70 on the rough draft, you will receive 100 points for this portion of the grade). If you are satisfied with the grade you receive on the rough draft, you do not need to turn in a final paper draft (and your rough draft score will count for the final draft as well).

**Final Draft - 20%**

Due by 11:59pm on November 29. The final paper should be a polished, finished project - perhaps something that you would feel comfortable submitting to an undergraduate re-
search journal such as Columbia East Asia Review or the Stanford Journal of East Asian Affairs.

**Midterm Exam 18%**

The midterm exam will be held in class on February 24, and will cover material covered up to (and including) Feb. 17.

**Final Exam 27%**

The final exam will be held on Tuesday, May 3, 2011 from 9–12am in the classroom. The final will be comprehensive.

**Course Policies**

**Grading Policies**

Here are several important details regarding my policy on course grades

1. I will not receive grade complaints if more than two weeks have passed after the assignment has been returned. Before I review your grade you must first:
   - Wait 24 hours.
   - Schedule a time to meet with me to discuss your grade.
   - Submit a formal appeal in writing (email is sufficient—but be clear that it is the appeal in the subject heading) that clearly identifies content in the assignment and the reasons why you think your grade should be changed. These appeals should refer to specific things in the assignment, and not to vague reasons like “I worked really hard.”

   The second grade, whether higher or lower, will become your grade on the assignment.

2. Late assignments are not tolerated. Your grade will be lowered 5 points for each day it is late (the exception is for the reading questions, which will not be accepted if late). That is if the assignment is due on Wednesday and you complete it on Thursday, the highest grade you can make is 95. If you complete it on Friday, the highest grade possible will be a 90. And so forth.

3. The ONLY acceptable (not penalized) excuses for not completing an assignment on time are family emergencies or illnesses. However, in these cases, I will arrange to give you extra time ONLY if you communicate with me BEFORE the assignment is due and you provide DOCUMENTATION of the circumstance.
Electronics in Class Policy

You are welcome to bring digital equipment (laptop, ebook reader, etc.) to class. However, I expect you to be responsible in your use of electronic equipment: please avoid visiting social networking sites, or otherwise browsing the internet on sites unrelated to the course. I would also recommend you read through the discussion (including comments), *Computers in the Classroom*, to think about the possible pros and cons of using computers in a classroom setting. Individuals who abuse this privilege will be asked to turn off their computer. Please turn off all cell phones during class.

Academic Honesty

You are expected to follow the Wesleyan Honor Code which can be found at [http://www.wesleyan.edu/studentaffairs/honorboard/honorcode.html](http://www.wesleyan.edu/studentaffairs/honorboard/honorcode.html). All work is expected to be your own. Cheating, plagiarism (using someone else’s words or ideas without properly citing them), and all forms of academic misconduct will not be tolerated and will be strictly handled according to university policy. If you are uncertain, cite your sources!

Disability-Related Accomodations

It is the policy of Wesleyan University to provide reasonable accommodations to students with documented disabilities. Students, however, are responsible for registering with Disabilities Services, in addition to making requests known to me in a timely manner. If you require accommodations in this class, please make an appointment with me as soon as possible (during the 2nd week of the semester), so that appropriate arrangements can be made. The procedures for registering with Disabilities Services can be found at [http://www.wesleyan.edu/studentaffairs/disabilities/index.html](http://www.wesleyan.edu/studentaffairs/disabilities/index.html).
Course Schedule

Readings should be completed prior to class. I reserve the right to make changes to the course schedule. I will alert you to any changes made in class, via email, and I will post the updated syllabus on Moodle.

Week 1: Course Introduction and the Start of the PRC

September 4: Overview of Course Policies and Expectations
We will review the syllabus and answer any questions you may have about the course.

Part I: China from 1949 to 1978

September 6: The Communist Victory and the Great Leap Forward

Week 2: The Cultural Revolution

September 11: The Cultural Revolution

September 13: The Gang of Four and the Rise of Deng

Part II: Economic Reforms

Week 3: Economic Reforms

September 18: The Beginning of Economic Reforms
- Research Question Due Today.
September 20: Reform since the 1990s


Week 4: Chinese Capitalism

September 25: Chinese Capitalism


September 27: FDI and the expansion of Capitalism


Week 5: Explaining the China Miracle

October 2: A (Very) Brief Overview of Economic Growth


October 4: The China Miracle

- Research Proposal Due today.

Week 6: Welfare State Development

October 9: A Broken Tiefanwan

October 11: Mid-Term Exam in Class

Part III: Attitudes, Institutions and Democracy

Week 7: The 1980s

October 16: NO CLASS (FALL BREAK)

October 18: Tiananmen 1989


Week 8: Democracy from Below

October 23: Village Elections

- Emerson Niou, “Implementing Village Elections in China: Voting Methods and Outcomes”.

October 25: Village Elections - Do They Matter?


Week 9: Democratic Attitudes and the Media

October 30: Civic Culture in China


November 1: Media and Free Speech

Week 10: Political Participation

November 6: Protests and Resistance


November 8: Formal Complaints and Political Participation


• Rough Draft of Paper Due Today.

Week 11: Prospects for Regime Change

November 13: Prospects for Democratization


November 15: Prospects for Democratization continued


Part IV: Holding it All Together

Week 12: The Communist Party

November 20: Political Structures in the Communist Party


November 22: Thanksgiving Break

Week 13: Regional and Class Divisions

November 27: Ethnic Relations and Politics


November 29: Regional Inequality and Attitudes toward Inequality

- FINAL PAPER DUE TODAY!

Week 14: Migration

December 4: Hukou


December 6: Final Preparation

- No Readings – Placeholder class in case we fall behind. Alternatively, begin your review and come prepared with any questions for the final exam.

FINAL EXAM: Thursday, December 14, 2012 from 2–5pm