China is one of the oldest continuous civilizations, the most populous country, the last major communist system, and the fastest growing economy. In fact, China has just overtaken the United States as the world’s largest economy (in ppp), so it returns to the position it held through most human history. Despite its self-image of timelessness, China experienced violent and rapid transformations from its imperial rule to communism to a “socialist” market economy. These remarkable facts and changes along with its tremendous significance to global politics make China an extremely interesting and indispensable topic for all political scientists. The so-called “rise” or “rejuvenation” (复兴, fuxing) of China forces us to see the world differently, calling for a completely necessary “reorientation” of our world views, as the late Andre Gunder Frank once insisted.

The purpose of this course is to encourage and stimulate an interest in Chinese politics, to provide a historical background on major events in modern China, and then to understand the current issues in contemporary China. The course reflects three overarching themes: 1) phenomenal economic growth, 2) authoritarian resilience, and 3) global implications of China’s rise. First, what accounts for the economic “miracle,” namely China’s three-and-a-half decades of sustained high economic growth? Can textbook economics explain it? Second, what makes the durability of the Chinese party-state regime? What are the prospects for democratization in China? What is the relationship between high growth and authoritarian resilience? How are these two phenomena related? Do they reinforce or undermine each other? Finally, what are the implications of China’s rise for global politics? How can we conceptualize that the center of the world, for the first time in modern world history, is moving to a non-Western country in East Asia?

To answer these questions, the course is divided into three parts. Part I (Preliminaries) equips students with a theoretical framework of Chinese politics and introduces China more generally. Part II (History) provides significant historical facts of China from the 19th century to the present to properly understand the substantive topics of the following part. And, Part III (Issues) deals with important sociopolitical economic issues: the Leninist party-state and the military, economic growth, social welfare, civil society, contentious politics, foreign policy, and the G-2 relationship.
# SCHEDULE/OUTLINE OF TOPICS

## I. Preliminaries

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<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Date</th>
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<th>Topic</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Jan 15</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>Introduction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Jan 20-22</td>
<td></td>
<td>China from a Bird’s Eye View and Theoretical Framework</td>
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## II. History

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<th>Topic</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Jan 27-29</td>
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<td>“The Chinese World Order” before European Hegemony</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Feb 3-5</td>
<td></td>
<td>“The Century of Humiliation” from the Opium War</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Feb 10-12</td>
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<td>Struggles for Mastery in China: 1911 – 1949</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>Feb 17</td>
<td></td>
<td>Mardi Gras Holiday – No Class</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7/8</td>
<td>Feb/Mar 26-3</td>
<td></td>
<td>PRC Politics in the Reform Era: 1978 – present</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Mar 5</td>
<td></td>
<td>Midterm Examination, 10:30 – 11:50 am</td>
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## III. Issues

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<tr>
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<th>Date</th>
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<th>Topic</th>
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<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Mar 10-12</td>
<td></td>
<td>The Leninist Party-State and the Military</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>Mar 17-19</td>
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<td>The Politics of the Economic “Miracle”</td>
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<td>11</td>
<td>Mar 24-26</td>
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<td>Beneath the “Miracle”: Social Welfare Provision</td>
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<td>12</td>
<td>Mar 31</td>
<td></td>
<td>Civil Society and Social Movements</td>
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<td>12</td>
<td>Apr 2</td>
<td></td>
<td>Conference – No Class</td>
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<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Apr 7-9</td>
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<td>Spring Break – No Class</td>
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<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Apr 14-16</td>
<td></td>
<td>Authoritarian Resilience and Prospects for Democratization</td>
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<td>15</td>
<td>Apr 21-23</td>
<td></td>
<td>Foreign Policy and the G-2 Relationship</td>
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<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Apr 28-30</td>
<td></td>
<td>Implications: A Long-term Perspective</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>May 6</td>
<td></td>
<td>Final Examination, Wednesday 3:00 – 5:00 pm</td>
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READINGS

Each student is expected to read (before class) all the required readings for each session (see the reading assignments below). The textbook provides a background to understand topics and lectures:


Articles and book chapters other than the textbook are posted on Moodle.

Students need to purchase and read the following book to write a final paper (see the course requirements below):


Recommended/background readings:

If you are serious about studying China, read these monumental classics: Feng Yulan’s *A History of Chinese Philosophy* [中國哲學史] and Joseph Needham’s *Science and Civilization in China* (esp. Vol. 2).

*History*


*The Rise of China Redux*


*Politics*


*Economy*


*Society*

REQUIREMENTS

Basically, classes will involve lectures and discussions of the reading material assigned for each session. But, I will introduce and explain some issues and concepts that are not in the readings, so **attendance is crucial**. This means that a significant amount of material on the examinations will come from class lectures presenting information not discussed directly in the text and other readings. Participation from students is important and will count toward the final grade. At the end of each week, I will distribute a memo (posted on Moodle) that contains important points of my lecture.

Students are expected to complete:

1) In-class midterm and final examinations (25% each)
The emphasis is on important concepts and competing explanations of various political phenomena. Knowledge of some relevant historical facts is required as well.

2) Critical review paper (25%)
You will write a critical review of Schell and Delury’s *Wealth and Power*. The text should be no longer than six single-spaced pages. The format and guide of the paper will be discussed in class. **You should submit a hard copy due in our last class on the 30th of April (Thursday).**

3) Attendance and participation (25%)
It is virtually impossible for you to receive a satisfactory grade if you miss several classes. Attendance will be taken for each session. Students may earn credit for their attendance at each class session, while repeated and unexcused absence will cause deduction in student’s total grade. In addition to attending class, students are highly encouraged to ask and answer questions, and to make appropriate comments on issues covered in class.

**GRADING SCALE**

A: 90~100; B: 80~89; C: 70~79; D: 50~69; F: 0~49

**NOTE:** If you do not take any of the examinations, if you do not submit the final paper, or if you miss more than fourteen classes (half of lectures throughout the semester) you will automatically receive an F. No “make-up” examinations will be given; no late papers will be accepted.

**IMPORTANT DATES**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Midterm examination</td>
<td>Thursday, March 5</td>
<td>10:30 – 11:50 am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final examination</td>
<td>Wednesday, May 6</td>
<td>3:00 – 5:00 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final paper</td>
<td>Thursday, April 30</td>
<td>In class (or before)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mardi Gras Holiday</td>
<td>Tuesday, February 17</td>
<td>No class</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conference</td>
<td>Thursday, April 2</td>
<td>No class</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spring Break</td>
<td>Tue/Thu, April 7, 9</td>
<td>No class</td>
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READING ASSIGNMENTS AND SPECIFIC TOPICS

I. PRELIMINARIES

Week 1 (1/15)  Introduction
Scope and roadmap of the course.

Week 2 (1/20)  China from a Bird’s Eye View and Theoretical Framework

DREYER, Chapter 1-2.

II. HISTORY

Week 3 (1/27, 1/29)  “The Chinese World Order” before European Hegemony


DREYER, Chapter 2.

Week 4 (2/3, 2/5)  “The Century of Humiliation” from the Opium War

DREYER, Chapter 3.

Documentary film: China’s Century of Humiliation.

Week 5 (2/10, 2/12)  Struggles for Mastery in China: 1911 – 1949

DREYER, Chapter 4.

Week 6 (2/17)  Mardi Gras Holiday
No class.

Week 6-7 (2/19, 2/24)  PRC Politics under Mao: 1949 – 1976

DREYER, Chapter 5.
Week 7-8 (2/26, 3/3)  **PRC Politics in the Reform Era: 1978 – present**  

DREYER, Chapter 6.


Documentary film: *The Tank Man*.

**Week 8 (3/5) Midterm Examination**
10:30 – 11:50 am.

III. ISSUES

**Week 9 (3/10, 3/12) The Leninist Party-State and the Military**


DREYER, Chapter 9.


**Week 10 (3/17, 3/19) The Politics of the Economic “Miracle”**

DREYER, Chapter 7.


**Week 11 (3/24, 3/26) Beneath the “Miracle”: Social Welfare Provision**

DREYER, Chapter 10-11.


**Week 12 (3/31) Civil Society and Social Movements**

DREYER, Chapter 12-13.


**Week 12 (4/2) Conference**
No class.

**Week 13 (4/7, 4/9) Spring Break**
No class.

**Week 14 (4/14, 4/16) Authoritarian Resilience and Prospects for Democratization**


**Week 15 (4/21, 4/23) Foreign Policy and the G-2 Relationship**

DREYER, Chapter 14.


**Week 16 (4/28, 4/30) Implications: A Long-term Perspective**
The so-called “rejuvenation” of China from a long historical perspective. Will “the Chinese Dream” come true?


**Week 17 (5/6) Final Examination**
Wednesday 3:00 – 5:00 pm.