**211F Politics in China**  
Mon, Weds, Fri 11-11:50 am | KJ 111

Instructor: Professor Ivan Willis Rasmussen

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Office hours: Mondays 2-4 pm or by appointment

**Course description:**

This course examines the complexities of politics within China, focusing on the decline of Confucian China and problems of recreating political order. Topics include rise of the Communist Party, political organization and policy in the People’s Republic, role of ideology, foreign relations, the politics of modernization and China’s increasing integration into the world economy.

The People’s Republic of China (PRC) contains almost one quarter of the world’s population at the same time as sustaining history’s largest political bureaucracy. Adding to this complexity, China currently employs a system of political economy that combines elements of a variety of approaches as a mix of communism, socialism, capitalism, and unregulated markets. This course is designed to introduce students to the basic aspects of political institutions and processes as well as major events in Chinese politics. The course deals with the changing roles of ideology, the Chinese Communist Party (CCP), political institutions (government, bureaucracy, parliament and legal systems), politics of economic reforms, democratization and foreign relations.

**Objectives:**

* Increase knowledge of the Chinese political, economic, and social system(s) with an emphasis on the contemporary period.
* Improve analytical writing abilities by developing a rigorous research paper that tests several hypotheses regarding a modern phenomenon in China.
* Assess key developments and structural changes in Chinese history and how these impact current domestic affairs.

**Requirements and Grading:**

1) **Class attendance and participation** (20%): Regular class participation and active engagement is required for this course.

2) **Map quiz** (5%): Key cities, provinces, landmarks, etc to be held in class on **Sept 18**.

3) **Midterm** (20%): Identify and short answer examination to be held in class on **Oct 12**.

4) **Film review** (10%): Film review of three pages maximum due on Friday of selected film’s week.

5) **Biographical sketch** (10%): Three to five page essay where you take on the identity of a Chinese citizen during a specific period of time of your choice due on **Nov 13**.

6) **Final paper** (35%): Four step research paper which includes: 1)topic selection and three resources (articles, databases, etc) (5%) due on **Oct 5**, 2) outline of five competing hypotheses (5%) due on **Oct 28**, 3) test of one hypothesis (5%) due on **Nov 6**, and 4) final paper evaluating three hypotheses to make a clear argument (20%) due on **Dec 14**.

**Grading:**

Your grade will be based on the completion of all assignments in the aforementioned allocation (Attendance/Participation 20%; Map Quiz 5%; Midterm 20%; Film Review 10%; Biographical Sketch 10%; Final Paper 35%). Please note that it is my policy to reward progress and improvement over the course of the semester through informal assessment built into the attendance/participation grade. Also, I provide several assignments that draw upon various skill sets from the technical (Map Quiz) to the informed-creative (Biographical Sketch) along with fine arts (Film Review) and analytical (hypothesis testing for the Final Paper). My goal is to allow students a wide variety of opportunities to display their intellectual rigor and how well they have engaged the course material.

All excellent work (90-99%) will earn a grade in the A range; all meritorious work will earn a grade in the B range (80-89%); work without any marked merit or defect will earn a grade in the C range (70-79%); and all unsatisfactory or mediocre work will earn a grade in the D range (60-69%). All other work will earn an F (59% or lower). Please do not attempt to bargain, negotiate, or plead for a higher grade. **Grading guidelines for all assignments**, including late penalties, will be given with the assignments themselves; without exception, all assignments will be evaluated according to these guidelines. No extra credit assignments or re-writes will be permitted. Assignments will be returned within ten or twelve (10-12) days after the due date.

**Required Texts:**

* Perry and Selden/ Chinese Society: Change, Conflict and Resistance (here after **CS**)
* Joseph / Politics in China (hereafter **PC**)
* Osnos / Age of Ambition: Chasing Fortune, Truth, and Faith in the New China (hereafter **AA**)

All other readings will be posted on blackboard (hereafter **BB**) or provided as a link in the syllabus. The above books should all be available for purchase and on reserve along with some other resources, which you may find particularly useful for your studies and final paper assignment. Some of those resources are:

• Fairbank, John / The Great Chinese Revolution 1800-1985.

• Lieberthal, Kenneth. Governing China.

• Spence, Jonathan / The Search for Modern China.

• Meisner, Maurice / Mao’s China and After.

• June T. Dreyer / China’s Political System: Modernization and Tradition.

• Huang, Yasheng / Capitalism with Chinese Characteristics: Entrepreneurship and the State.

• Tsai, Lilly / Accountability without Democracy.

**Films:**

For the first three weeks of class, I will ask that you watch outside of class a three part series on China for historical background. I will also host three film showings in conjunction. The film showings complement the readings and every effort is made to not overload your outside class reading requirements. Most of the films are approximately two hours and will be combined with one hour of readings. Please note that these three initial films as part of the “China a century of revolution” series are **not** included in the potential films to be watched for your film review. The schedule for the first three weeks of films is as follows along with relevant links:

**Week 2 (Aug 31-Sept 4): China a century of revolution part 1** https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m7C40M9GM3k&list=PLO\_sLtxST1N1nNNe2gPttoX1DrjsUbSAV

**Week 3 (Sept 7-11): China a century of revolution part 2** https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GgpKv-xXgf8&index=2&list=PLO\_sLtxST1N1nNNe2gPttoX1DrjsUbSAV

**Week 4 (Sept 14-18): China a century of revolution part 3**

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lZLYKnQ8c4Q&index=3&list=PLO\_sLtxST1N1nNNe2gPttoX1DrjsUbSAV

**Additional films (*choose one*) and relevant week (due on Friday of that week):**

For one of your course assignments, you will do a film review. You can select from the following films or, in consultation with me, choose a film of your liking (film review for that film will be Nov 20). The outline of the assignment will be provided.

Last Emperor (Oct 9)

Lust Caution (Oct 9)

Farewell my Concubine (Oct 23)

To Live (Oct 23)

Golden Chicken (Nov 20)

Mountain Patrol (Nov 20)

Wedding Banquet (Dec 4)

Please Vote for me (Dec 4)

**Web Resources on Chinese Politics:**

Although not required, the following resources are useful for keeping up with daily news relevant to Chinese politics and will serve as resources for your assignments (NB this does not constitute an endorsement of all material produced by these sources):

*Online News on China:*

Xinhua: http://www.chinaview.cn/

Wall Street Journal “China in Real Time”: http://blogs.wsj.com/chinarealtime/

The People’s Daily: http://english.peopledaily.com.cn/ (in English)

South China Morning Post: http://www.scmp.com/portal/site/SCMP/ (in English)

New York Times (Asia): http://www.nytimes.com/pages/world/asia/index.html

Shanghaiist: http://shanghaiist.com/

The Diplomat: http://thediplomat.com/

**Classroom approach and policies:**

*In class:*

My approach to teaching is based on using a mix of discussion, lecture, and other activities such as simulations, videos, and debates. Students are asked to be **actively engaged** in both the course material and the presentation of that material in the classroom. On a weekly basis, I send out questions to assist as you do the course readings and those questions are used also as part of class discussion. Finally, I appreciate and expect students to interact in a positive and respectful way with their peers. If at any time, you feel the classroom environment has deviated from the norms of respectful intellectual engagement, please feel free to bring this to my attention.

Feel free to bring and use laptop computers; however, I expect all cellphones to be put away and turned off or on silent. If you must take a phone call in the case of an emergency or other extenuating circumstances, you can leave the classroom. I do reserve the right to ask you to turn off your laptop during class particularly when we conduct debates.

I ask that **all students come to office hours at least once** before the midterm so that I can get to know you all. As the semester progresses, I expect you will all want to chat about assignments and the course in general despite how busy everyone gets during the academic year. Feel free to come to office hours or email to schedule an alternate time.

*Academic dishonesty:*

Your participation in the course and its assignments must adhere to Hamilton’s **Honor Code**. The Honor Code can be found here: <http://www.hamilton.edu/student-handbook/studentconduct/honor-code>. I will proctor exams, less for draconian reasons and more to be available to answer any clarifying questions. Some salient elements include the following statements:

“Any form of academic dishonesty is a serious offense in an academic community. At Hamilton such dishonesty will often result in removal from the course, assignment of an XF for the course, or separation from the College community, or some combination of these. It is essential, therefore, that every student understands the standards of academic honesty and how to avoid dishonesty by proper acknowledgment of intellectual indebtedness. The Honor Court will not excuse a lack of awareness or understanding of what constitutes academic dishonesty. Any attempt to commit any of the following infractions also constitutes academic dishonesty. Academic dishonesty includes but is not limited to:

1. **Plagiarism**: Failure to acknowledge ideas, phrases, data, music, or images used in any paper, examination, quiz, report, presentation, exercise or project submitted in a course but gained from another person. Guidelines for proper documentation are available from many sources, including the Hamilton College Style Sheet, which is provided to all first-year students and may be obtained at the Library or at the Writing Center. Similar guidelines for using sources in oral presentations are available from the Communication Department and the Oral Communication Center.
2. **Misrepresentation or falsification of data** in any coursework.
3. **Self-plagiarism:** the submission of one piece of work in more than one course without the written permission of the instructors involved.
4. **Cooperative or collaborative effort in coursework without acknowledgment.** Assume that acknowledgement is necessary any time you collaborate and/or cooperate, unless you are expressly informed that it is not. This is not meant to inhibit discussion and debate of academic subjects either inside or outside the classroom.
5. **Cooperative or collaborative effort in coursework without the explicit permission of the instructor.** Assume collaboration and/or cooperation are not permitted unless you are expressly informed that they are. This is not meant to inhibit discussion and debate of academic subjects either inside or outside the classroom.
6. **Cheating on examinations or tests:** to give or receive assistance from written material, another person, his or her paper, or any other source, including electronic sources, or to attempt to do so, during an examination or test. The only exceptions will be at the explicit instruction of the teacher of the course.
7. The **submission of work as one's own that has been prepared by another person.**
8. **Stealing, altering, redirecting, or otherwise tampering with the form or content of digital media created or presented by another person without explicit permission of that person.**
9. **Forgery or falsification of academic documents.** The chair of the Honor Court, after consultation with the dean of students, may remand such complaints to the Judicial Board.”

*Attendance:*

I will take roster the first two weeks. In general, I take a **1-2-3 approach to absences**. The first absence can be completely unexcused and needs no clearance; the second absence must have a reasonable explanation such as illness; by your third absence, we need to meet to discuss attendance. Note Hamilton’s policy regarding religious holidays: <https://my.hamilton.edu/chaplain/holy-days-school-policy>

Please give me advance notice of any classes you might miss.

*Additional policies:*

Hamilton prides itself on **diversity and inclusion** as an institution and particularly within the classroom. This course also seeks to elicit a wide-range of perspectives to enrich your academic and personal experience at Hamilton. That includes being open to discussing a range of issues related but not limited to race, gender, sexual orientation, and more. In this way, the classroom should be viewed as a safe environment for these discussions as long as all involved maintain an appropriate level of respectfulness and sensitivity to others.

In case of an **emergency**, we will follow emergency protocol guidelines. As your instructor, I will gather information and action ordinance then we will follow these instructions as a class.

Some students are entitled to extra time on exams or additional support for their studies. Any student with this status should notify me within the first two weeks of the course with appropriate documentation. **All** students should be aware of and take advantage of the various additional services to improve their writing, oral communication, etc.

**Course Outline:**

*Sections:*

1. History (Aug 28-Sept 18)
2. Political and economic structures (Sept 21-Oct 30)
3. Current issues (Nov 2-Nov 20)
4. Future developments (Nov 30-Dec 11)

**Daily schedule (Aug 28-Dec 11):**

**Friday Aug 28**

Introduction to the class (syllabus discussion)

*No readings*

Activity: Chinese language and political culture as the ‘middle kingdom’ 中国

**Monday Aug 31**

Chinese Dynastic past: “The Empire long united, must divide; long divided, must unite.”

*Readings*

* **PC** Chapter 1 (“Studying Chinese Politics”)
* First four paragraphs from The Romance of Three Kingdoms: <http://www.eze33.com/war/sanguo/sg001.htm>

**Wednesday Sept 2**

From Empire to ???

*Readings*

* **PC** Chapter 2 (“From Empire to People’s Republic”)
* Lu Xun’s “Kong Yiji”: <https://www.marxists.org/archive/lu-xun/1919/03/x01.htm>

**Fri Sept 4**

NO CLASS (in lieu of film review)

**Mon Sept 7**

My Kingdom for a Warlord!

*Readings*

* Excerpts from McCord’s *The Power of the Gun* (“Introduction” and “Conclusion”): <http://publishing.cdlib.org/ucpressebooks/view?docId=ft167nb0p4&chunk.id=d0e46&toc.depth=1&toc.id=&brand=ucpress>

**Weds Sept 9**

Mao’s the One

*Readings*

* **PC** Chapter 3 (“Mao Zedong in Power)
* Mao “Our Great Victory in the War to Resist U.S. Aggression and Aid Korea and our Future Tasks”: <https://www.marxists.org/reference/archive/mao/selected-works/volume-5/mswv5_34.htm>

**Fri Sept 11**

Path(s) to development

*Readings*

* “China’s changing road to development” (Chapter 3) from Saich, *Governance and Politics of China*. **Blackboard**

**Mon Sept 14**

Times they aiya-changin’

*Readings*

* **PC** Chapter 4 (“Deng Xiaoping and His Successors”)
* Dittmer. “Bases of Power in Chinese Politics”.  
  <http://www.jstor.org/stable/2009966?seq=1#page_scan_tab_contents>

**Weds Sept 16**

The Princelings Arrive

*Readings*

* **PC** Chapter 6 (“China’s Communist Party-State”)
* Alice Miller “China's Leadership Transition: Implications for China's Domestic Development and External Relations”. Video lecture: <https://vimeo.com/53554080>

**Fri Sept 18**

No readings; Mapping the future for China by revisiting key historical and structural notes on Politics in China

**\*\*In class map quiz\*\***

**Mon Sept 21**

Contemporary China begins

*Readings*

* **CS** Introduction
* **PC** Chapter 5

**Weds Sept 23**

China’s legal system

*Readings*

* **CS** Chapter 5
* **PC** Chapter 7

**Fri Sept 25**

The *Hukou* system

*Readings*

* **CS** Chapter 3
* Kam Wing Chan “The Chinese Hukou System at 50” *Eurasian Geography and Economics*, 2009, 50, No. 2, pp. 197–221.

**Mon Sept 28**

No readings; discussion of final papers and potential areas of exploration

**Weds Sept 30**

Chinese Political Economy

*Readings*

* **PC** Chapter 8
* Jean Oi. “Fiscal reform and economic foundations of local state corporatism in China,” *World Politics* 51.1 (1992). **Blackboard**

**Fri Oct 2**

Rural and Urban dynamics

*Readings*

* **PC** Chapters 9 and 10
* **CS** Chapter 4

**Mon Oct 5**

Human rights in China

*Readings*

* **CS** Chapter 1
* Human Rights Watch 2015 Report on China: <https://www.hrw.org/world-report/2015/country-chapters/china-and-tibet>
* Press Conference on Human Rights (Obama and Hu): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1WUmcDFS8Vg>

**\*\*Topic selection and sources for final paper\*\***

**FILM Assignment for Last Emperor or Lust Caution due on Fri Oct 9**

**Weds Oct 7**

One Child Policy

*Readings*

* **CS** Chapter 7
* **PC** Chapter 14

**Fri Oct 9**

Demographics and the One Child Policy (AND midterm prep)

*Readings*

* Liang and Ma: “China’s floating Population”: <http://www.albany.edu/imc/Liang_Ma_PDR_2004.pdf>
* Remick and Loh: <http://www.eastasiaforum.org/2015/08/25/dont-blame-chinas-skewed-sex-ratio-on-the-one-child-policy/?utm_campaign=shareaholic&utm_medium=facebook&utm_source=socialnetwork>

**Mon Oct 12**

**IN CLASS MIDTERM**

**Weds Oct 14**

No readings; review of semester to date

**\*\*Fall recess begins at 4 pm\*\***

**Mon Oct 19**

**\*\*Fall recess over | Classes resume\*\***

Village Elections

*Readings*

* **CS** Chapter 7
* Carter Foundation report on village elections: <https://www.cartercenter.org/documents/531.html>

**FILM Assignment for Farewell my Concubine or To Live due on Fri Oct 23**

**Weds Oct 21**

The Environment

*Readings*

* **CS** Chapter 8
* **PC** Chapter 12
* Recommended: Excerpts from Elizabeth Economy. *The River Runs Black*. Cornell University Press 2005. Chapters 3 and 4. **Blackboard**

**\*\*Weds Oct 21 (last day to drop a class without penalty)\*\***

**Fri Oct 23**

The Chinese Middle Class

*Readings*

* An Chen. “Capitalist Development, Entrepreneurial Class, and Democratization in China”. *Political Science Quarterly* 117.3 (2002) 401-22. **Blackboard**
* Yongshun Cai. “China’s moderate middle class” *Asian Survey*. 45.5 (2005) 777-99. **Blackboard**

**Mon Oct 26**

Censorship and the Internet

*Readings*

* Gary King et al. “How Censorship in China Allows Government Criticism but Silences Collective Expression” *American Political Science Review*. <http://gking.harvard.edu/files/censored.pdf>
* Rebecca MacKinnon. “Networked Authoritarianism in China and Beyond: Implications for global Internet freedom.” Paper Presentation. <http://iis-db.stanford.edu/evnts/6349/MacKinnon_Libtech.pdf> **Blackboard**

**Weds Oct 28**

Ethnic minorities (Wolves vs Sheep?)

*Readings*

* **CS** Chapter 11
* Dru Gladney, "Ethnic Identity in China," in William A. Joseph, ed., *China Briefing* 1994 (Boulder: Westview Press, 1994), pp. 261-287. **Blackboard**

**Fri Oct 30**

Other identities and expression in China

*Readings*

* **CS** Chapter 6 and 10
* **PC** Chapter 11

**Mon Nov 2**

Nationalism in China

*Readings*

* “A Glimpse into Chinese Nationalism” The Diplomat. <http://thediplomat.com/2014/11/a-glimpse-into-chinese-nationalism/>
* Excerpts from Zheng Wang *Never forget National Humiliation*. Columbia University Press 2014. **Blackboard**

**Weds Nov 4**

Taiwan

*Readings*

* **PC** Chapter 18
* Susan Shirk. *China: Fragile Superpower*. Oxford University Press 2007. Pages 181-211. **Blackboard**

**Fri Nov 6**

Hong Kong

*Readings*

* **PC** Chapter 17
* Feng Shi Wu. “Protests in Hong Kong: Roots in Old and New Social Movements”. <http://dr.ntu.edu.sg/bitstream/handle/10220/38442/CO14194.pdf?sequence=1>

**Mon Nov 9**

Tibet and Xinjiang

*Readings*

* **PC** Chapters 15 and 16
* Evan Osnos. “The New Incarnation”, *The New Yorker*. <http://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2010/10/04/the-next-incarnation>

**Weds Nov 11**

Current Sino-Japanese Relations

*Readings*

* Yun Zhang. “Multilateral means for bilateral ends: Japan, regionalism, and China–Japan–US trilateral dynamism”. The Pacific Review. Volume 27, Issue 1, 2014. **Blackboad**
* Two articles on Sino-Japanese tensions by Feng Zhu and Jiping Hu: <http://www.eastviewpress.com/Files/CIR_2_2014_Current_v3.pdf> **Blackboard**

**Fri Nov 13**

Current Sino-US Relations

*Readings*

* Michael Swaine. “Xi Jinping’s Address to the Central Conference on Work Relating to Foreign Affairs: Assessing and Advancing Major-Power Diplomacy with Chinese Characteristic”. *Hoover Institute*. <http://www.hoover.org/sites/default/files/clm46ms.pdf> **Blackboard**
* Xuetong Yan. “How China can defeat America”. *NYTimes*. <http://www.nytimes.com/2011/11/21/opinion/how-china-can-defeat-america.html?_r=0>

**\*\*Biographical sketch DUE\*\***

**Mon Nov 16**

Factional politics in China

*Readings*

* Cheng Li. “Intra-Party Democracy in China: Should we take it seriously?” *Asia Policy*. **Blackboard**
* Meg Rithmire. ["The “Chongqing Model” and the Future of China ."](http://hbr.org/product/The--Chongqing-Model--and/an/713028-PDF-ENG" \t "_blank) *Harvard Business School Case* 713-028, December 2012. (Revised July 2013.) **Blackboard**

**FILM Assignment for Golden Chicken or Mountain Patrol due on Fri Nov 20**

**Weds Nov 18**

The economic benefits of political status

*Readings*

* Rory Truex. “The Returns to Office in a ‘Rubber Stamp’ Parliament.” *American Political Science Review* 108(2): 235-251. (2014) <http://static1.squarespace.com/static/5431e6ebe4b07582c93c48e3/t/54321948e4b0d4b6148a5e45/1412569416620/Truex+-+APSR+-+2014.pdf> **Blackboard**

**Friday Nov 20**

No readings; summarizing discussion of structures and current issues in Chinese politics

**\*\*Thanksgiving break begins at end of day\*\***

**Monday Nov 30**

**\*\*Thanksgiving break over | Classes resume\*\***

China in 2020

*Readings*

* Cheng Li. “China in the Year 2020”. *Asia Policy*. **Blackboard**

**FILM Assignment for Wedding Banquet or Please Vote for Me due on Fri Dec 4**

**Weds Dec 2**

China goes abroad

*Readings*

* Excerpts from Serge Michel and Michael Beuret *China Safari* Nation Books 2010. **Blackboard**

**Fri Dec 4**

Border disputes and increasing contestation in East/Southeast Asia

*Readings*

* **TBD**

**Mon Dec 7**

The New (Old) China

*Readings*

* **AA** part 1

**Weds Dec 9**

The New (Old) China

* **AA** parts 2 and 3

**Fri Dec 11**

Future developments in China and concluding remarks

**Dec 14**

**\*\*Final paper due by 5 pm\*\***