Course Introduction:

A journey of a thousand li starts with a single step.  
--Lao Zi, ancient Chinese philosopher

The aim of this course on Chinese politics is to introduce students to this rising global power.  Most of us know that China is a rapidly developing political and economic power.  It is home to the world’s longest high-speed rail network, the longest sea-crossing bridge, the largest airport terminal, the biggest hydroelectric project, and five of the top ten tallest skyscrapers in the world (part of Greater China, including Taiwan).  In your lives, China will be of ever-rising importance.

But, the story of China is far more complex than just a story of superlatives attained.  China is challenged by issues in its politics, economics, military, and society.  How democratic should China be?  The Arab Spring frightened Chinese leaders.  How should China’s economy be organized, more state or more market?  The 2013 Third Plenum of the Chinese Communist Party’s 18th Central Committee appeared to opt for more reform.  Should China’s military push against the US or lay low while the country develops?  The late 2013 announcement of an Air Defense Identification Zone which covered several islands disputed with Japan in the East China Sea has some neighbors and the United States worried.  Should the one-child policy be sustained despite the dire demographic effects?  China is already moving to make changes.  These and other questions we will explore this semester.

Student Learning Outcomes:

By the end of this course:

- Students will be able to go beyond stereotypes to paint a complex picture of China’s politics and economic development.
- Students will be familiar with China’s basic political history, peoples, and religions.
• Students will be able to evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of state-led and market-led development models.
• Students will deepen their understanding of China’s evolving roles in world politics and the world economy.

Course Readings and Materials:

Further recommended materials:

- If you want to develop a strong understanding of China’s economic policies, I encourage you to purchase Barry Naughton’s book, *The Chinese Economy*, Cambridge: MIT Press, 2007. Chapters from this book are highlighted throughout the syllabus as “recommended reading.”
- DVD, *Up the Yangtze*, about damming the Yangtze River and the changes development brings to people and the environment (available to stream from Netflix, also at UNCW Library).
- DVD, *Last Train Home*, about migrant workers traveling home at spring festival/Chinese New Year (available in the UNCW Library and streaming via Netflix).
- DVD, *The Sun Behind the Clouds*, about divergent Tibetan approaches to dealing with China (available from Netflix and the UNCW Library).

Course Grade:

The course grade will be determined in the following way:

Class attendance/participation: 15%
Map quiz: 5%
Adopt-a-province paper: 20%
China memo: 20%
Midterm examination: 15%
Final examination: 25%

Class attendance/participation: Students are required to attend class with a maximum of two absences. Successful class participation involves quality participation in class discussion: asking interesting questions, offering interesting observations from assigned or recommended reading and videos, or the students’ own experience. Class participation will also include in-class quizzes on reading assignments. Class participation is worth 15% of the final grade.

Map quiz: In order to have a coherent conversation about China’s contemporary situation, a basic understanding of the country’s political divisions and geographical features is necessary. The map quiz is worth 5% of the course grade.

Adopt-a-province paper: See [http://people.uncw.edu/tanp/PLS495ChinesePoliticsAdoptaProvince.html](http://people.uncw.edu/tanp/PLS495ChinesePoliticsAdoptaProvince.html) for further directions and onward links to information sources. The adopt-a-province paper is worth 20% of the final grade. Adopt-a-province must be submitted electronically as well as in hard copy for purposes of assessment of the Asian Studies minor.

China Memo: Writing to a US or Chinese government agency or non-profit organization, propose alternatives and recommend a policy the agency should pursue on a given issue in Chinese politics or international relations. An example would be writing to the US Secretary of State regarding a current human rights issue and what the US response should be. A China-centered example would be to write to the Chinese environment ministry regarding greenhouse gas emissions.

The memo should follow the following sample memo format: [http://people.uncw.edu/tanp/samplmemo.pdf](http://people.uncw.edu/tanp/samplmemo.pdf). Remember to use the Writing Well handout to help you proofread all work for this class. The memo will be evaluated on the quality of its writing and research (including quality sources), the persuasiveness of the recommendation, the logic of the analysis, the fit between the memo’s contents and the context of the issue, and the mechanics of citation. Please note: The memo is 20% of your final grade. It must reflect significant research and thought about a problem of Chinese politics/international relations. The memo should be the equivalent of 8-10 double-space pages.
**Midterm examination:** The midterm exam will be conducted about halfway through the course. There will be both short-answer and essay questions. The midterm is worth 15% of the final grade.

**Final examination:** The final exam will have both short-answer and essay questions. It will be the length of a normal class period: one hour and fifteen minutes. Short-answer questions will likely come from the second half of the course. Essay questions will be comprehensive. The final examination is worth 25% of the final grade.

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**Course Policies**

**Academic Honesty**

This instructor believes academic honesty is the foundation of the entire enterprise of a university. Only in an environment of honesty can genuine learning occur and good citizenship be fostered. For further information, students should consult the online UNCW Honor Code at [http://www.uncw.edu/policies/documents/03_100FINALHONORCODE_Aug2009.pdf](http://www.uncw.edu/policies/documents/03_100FINALHONORCODE_Aug2009.pdf). Students should also feel free to ask the instructor any questions they may have about academic honesty. Because academic honesty is treated as a serious matter, the course policy is one of zero tolerance for academic Dishonesty.

The core principle of the Academic Honor Code is that student work represents the original work of the student. For this reason, plagiarism, using the work of another without proper citation, and cheating, the unauthorized use of information during an examination, are prohibited.

The Academic Honor Code works for both students and teachers. Students can expect that the instructor will treat them in a fair, honest, and impartial manner. The instructor also expects students to deal with her and with one another honestly. Plagiarism and cheating are violations of academic honesty because they steal from the original creator of the work. In addition, they violate the relationship of honesty between student and teacher as the student attempts to pass off work as his or her own which was produced by another. Further, plagiarism and cheating violate the bond of honesty among students themselves. Students who produce their assignments through long, hard work are being violated by those taking a shortcut through the misappropriation of another’s work or knowledge. Most sadly, students who violate academic honesty cheat themselves of the chance to learn.

Please note two particular policies the instructor follows:

1) Work for this course must be yours, and it must be original. If you wish to work on a project you have previously worked on for another class, you must add at least as much content as the assignment requires (so, say, 12 pages for the adopt-a-province paper) that is new and original for this class.

2) You may receive help on your written assignments (not tests) from your roommate, significant other, parents, the University Learning Center, or a passerby on the street. The process of reading and revising your work based on the comments of others is an important part of how we learn and improve.
Contacting the Instructor

Students are encouraged to call or e-mail with questions, or stop by office hours (listed above). I endeavor to be available to assist you with your course work. It’s my job. As a hint, e-mails are likely to guarantee a quicker response than phone messages. I am most happy to set up an appointment for a meeting in addition to those times listed as office hours. A note on courtesy: When students receive assistance through any one of these extra-class channels, they should be sure to thank the instructor for her time and effort. This little trick will serve you well in the future. It is an expected part of social etiquette.

Late Papers

PLEASE PAY ATTENTION TO THIS POLICY!

Students are encouraged to plan in advance to make time to complete assignments. Things come up during the semester; relatives require our attention, cars break down, and students get sick. Students should begin their assignments early enough to allow for these foreseeable and unforeseeable eventualities. The instructor does not wish to receive any late assignments during the semester.

Papers are due at the start of class on the date listed on the syllabus. Each twenty-four hours that a paper is late may result in a penalty of one letter grade. Late papers must be submitted by e-mail (pasted into your message and attached in Word format) and must receive confirmation of receipt from the instructor to be considered "turned
For your protection, submit your paper from an e-mail account which will keep a record of your outgoing e-mail. With this, you could demonstrate a true attempt to submit the paper that somehow disappears into the electronic ether. Do not submit papers to the instructor’s faculty snail mailbox, the department secretary, or under the instructor’s office door. After submitting papers electronically, students should bring a print-out of the late assignment to the next class meeting. Late assignments will not be graded on the same schedule as assignments submitted on time. Under no circumstances should students miss class to complete an assignment.

Extra Credit

Students are invited to attend lectures, panels, and movies on campus that deal with Chinese/Asian topics. Just check with the instructor beforehand as to whether you’ve picked a good event. After the event, submit a two-page write-up that deals with your reactions to the presentation. How does it relate to what we are doing in class? How does it relate to other things you’ve studied at UNCW? Did you agree or disagree with the speaker/s argument? What did the presentation make you think about? This extra credit will be used toward class participation or in the calculation of final grades in borderline cases.

Tardiness

Students are strongly encouraged to show respect for fellow students and the instructor by arriving for class on time. Late arrivals disturb fellow students and disrupt the learning process. It is better to come in late than not to come at all, but try to be respectful of classmates by making arrangements to be in class and in your seat at the start of class. Chronic tardiness will be taken into consideration in students’ class participation grades.

Excused/Unexcused Absences

This class has two allowed absences during the semester for any reason. In general, it does not matter whether an absence is excused or unexcused. An excused absence still counts toward students’ total of two absences; however, whether an absence is excused or not determines whether the instructor will allow a student to make up missed work (like a test or quiz). Please note that an excused absence is discussed with the professor IN ADVANCE of the class missed and is an absence for which documentation can be provided. All make-up work will be done at the instructor’s convenience.

Disabilities

The instructor understands that some students may have need of accommodation (for example, extended testing time or a quiet testing locale) due to a disability. If you feel that you are in need of an accommodation, please contact Disability Services in Westside Hall to make the appropriate arrangements. The phone number is 910-962-7555.

Electronic Devices

Students are permitted to use laptop computers during class to access PowerPoints, online notes, or to type their own course notes. Laptops are not to be used for surfing the internet or checking e-mail. Students with computers MUST sit in the back of the classroom to avoid disturbing fellow students. During periods of class discussion, computers should be closed to ensure adequate attention and participation. Obviously, when tests and quizzes are being administered, laptops are not permitted. Use of cellphones, including texting, is never permitted. PLEASE NOTE: If students are found to be using electronic devices in a manner inconsistent with the professor’s assessment of the best
environment for group learning, they may be penalized with a one-letter grade reduction in their class participation grade.

Information Resources

Web Links

300 Tang Poems http://etext.lib.virginia.edu/chinese/frame.htm
BBC News Asia Pacific http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world/asia_pacific/
China Daily (English) http://usa.chinadaily.com.cn/
China Embassy to the United States http://www.china-embassy.org/
Chinese Politics Links from William Joseph/Wellesley http://www.wellesley.edu/Polisci/wj/chinesepolitics/
China: Political Resources on the Net http://www.politicalresources.net/china.htm
Chinese Military Power Page http://www.comw.org/cmp/
China Government Official http://english.gov.cn/
China Watch from Jane’s (military) http://jir.janes.com/public/jir/chinawatch.shtml
Danwei http://www.danwei.org/
Economist magazine, China Politics stories http://www.economist.com/topics/chinese-politics
Economy, articles by the Economist http://www.economist.com/research/articlesBySubject/display.cfm?id=478048
Fairbank Memorial Chinese History Virtual Library http://museums.cnd.org/fairbank/
Foreign Affairs http://www.foreignaffairs.org/
Foreign Policy http://www.foreignpolicy.com/
Global Times (English) http://www.globaltimes.cn/
Human Rights in China http://www.hrichina.org
Ministry of Foreign Affairs http://www.fmprc.gov.cn
People’s Daily (English) http://english.peopledaily.com.cn/
Propaganda Posters http://chineseposters.net/themes/index.php
Shanghaiist (quirky blog) http://shanghaiist.com/
South China Sea WWWVL http://www.middlebury.edu/SouthChinaSea
South China Morning Post http://www.scmp.com
Tibet Dalai Lama http://www.dalailama.com/
Tibet Online http://www.tibet.org/
Urban Development Blog http://chinaurbandevelopmentblog.wordpress.com/
Washington Quarterly http://www.twq.com/
Further Sources: Databases, Books, Periodicals, and Scholarly Journals

To find more information on Chinese Politics and Foreign Policy, you may consult the following library databases (accessible via the library homepage at http://library.uncw.edu/).

- CIAO
- EbscoHost
- JSTOR
- LexisNexis Academic
- Project MUSE
- Sage Journals
- WorldCat

Course Schedule

1 Jan 14 Course Introduction
- Syllabus, topics, policies, assignments.
- Getting to Know You.
- China Introduction.
Reading: Dreyer, Ch. 2.

2 Jan 16 Confucianism, Imperial China, Theories of Analysis of Chinese Politics
- Chinese words and pronunciation.
- Introduce adopt-a-province projects.
Reading: Dreyer, Ch. 1.

3 Jan 21 The West Surges Ahead, China’s Decline and Civil War, the Communist Triumph
- Lecture: Colonialism, Humiliations, Seeds of Renewal, and Civil War.
- Discuss: “The True Story of Ah Q.”
Hand out map quiz materials.

Poster above: A bright future in space
4 Jan 23 Maoist Politics: Overview

- Lecture: Challenges of Victory, Maoist Movements, Totalitarianism of the Mind.
Comment cards: How is class going so far?

SNOW DAYS

5 Feb 4 Maoist Economics

- Lecture: On the Vanguard with Maoist Economic Policies
Reading: You should be starting Chen Village.
Recommended: Barry Naughton, The Chinese Economy, Ch. 3.

SNOW DAYS

6 Feb 6 Movie: To Live
Reading: Chen Village, 13-140.

7 Feb 11 Movie: To Live
Reading: Chen Village, 141-266.

8 Feb 13 Chen Village
- Reading: You should be done with Chen Village through page 266 for today. We will discuss the book the whole class session.
Quiz on knowledge of Chen Village readings.

9 Feb 18 Post-Mao Politics
- Lecture: Post-Mao Politics.

Above: Goddess of Democracy, Tiananmen Square, 1989
Right/Below: Idealized Mao Zedong (from a contemporary postcard)

10 Feb 20 Tiananmen Square
- Video: Tiananmen Documentary

Map quiz

**11 Feb 25 Post-Mao Economy**
- Highlight: Economic Development of Wenzhou, Pearl River Delta, and Shanghai.
Reading: Dreyer, Ch. 7.

**12 Feb 27 Post-Mao Economy**
- Discuss: *Chen Village* book.
- If time remains, news coverage of the current Chinese economy.
Reading: *Chen Village*, pp. 276-375.
**Quiz on Chen Village reading assignment.**

Mar 4 and Mar 6 Class cancelled for Spring Break.

The following two lectures will be available on Blackboard as Camtasia audio files (probably in several chunks). Please listen to these files on your own. We will discuss the Xinran readings in class.

**13 The Dark Side of China’s Development: Pain in the Rural Areas**
- Lecture/Discussion: Peasant Unrest.
Reading: Chen Guidi and Wu Chuntao, *Will the Boat Sink the Water?* London: Public Affairs, 2006, 29-62 (Blackboard reserve as Chen Boat). Please be aware that there is some vulgar language in this reading (people in the rural areas can be earthy).
Recommended, Barry Naughton, *The Chinese Economy*, Ch. 5, 10.

**14 Inland Provinces**
- Lecture: Regional Disparities in China, Go West.
15 Mar 11 Business and Politics in China
  - Lecture: State Role in Business, China’s Communism Today.
Recommended: James Fallows, Postcards from Tomorrow Square and China Airborne. Also, James McGregor, One Billion Customers.
*Talk with UNCW graduate teaching English in China.*
  - Adopt-a-province reports due. Remember to correct and embellish your basic data sheets and re-submit with your project.
  - Catch up by discussing Xinran reading.

16 Mar 13 Midterm
You will need your own paper to answer an essay question.
*Outline for China memo project due next time.*

17 Mar 18 Changing Cities
Recommended: Learn more about issues in urban China at the Urban China Initiative: http://www.urbanchinainitiative.org/.
*Due date for China memo project concept and outline.*

18 Mar 20 Factory Girls
  - Discuss Factory Girls book.
Reading: Factory Girls.
*Quiz on knowledge of Factory Girls readings.*

19 Mar 25 Minorities
  - Lecture: Issues in Nationalities Policy, including Tibet and Xinjiang.
Reading: Dreyer, Ch. 13.
*Adopt-a-province paper revisions due.*

20 Mar 27 Population/Women
  - Lecture: Demographic Challenges.
  - Lecture: Women’s Issues in Contemporary China.
  - Discuss: Xinran reading.
Reading: Dreyer, Ch. 11 (section on Demography). Also, Xinran, The Good Women of China, New York: Anchor, pp. 67-87 (Blackboard reserve as Xinran The Mothers Who Endured).

### 21 Apr 1 Reform, Disaffection, and Political Thought
- Discuss: Liao Yiwu, Charter ‘08.


### 22 Apr 3 China’s Environment


### 23 Apr 8 The Chinese Communist Party and Chinese Military
- Lecture: The Party Itself, High-Level Party Meetings, Relations with the Military, the Three Represents.

Reading: Dreyer, Ch. 9.


### 24 Apr 10 Chinese Foreign Policy
- Lecture: Background, Hot Button Issues, and Basic Principles.
Reading: Dreyer, Ch. 14.  

Cartoon: New superpower in town?

Apr 15 Video: TBD.

Apr 17 Class cancelled due to the upcoming “state holiday.”

25 Apr 22 China in the World Economy
- Lecture: A New Superpower?
Reading: None for today.  
China memo project due.  Brief presentation of findings to the class.

26 Apr 24 Strategic Competitors: China and the US/Japan
- Lecture: A Fragile Superpower.  

27 Apr 29 China and Its Neighbors
- Lecture: China’s Relations with its Neighbors: Russia, Korea, Southeast Asia, and India.  
- Conclusion: When China Rules the World?
Reading: None for today.  

May 8 11:30am to 12:45pm Final Examination

Get ready for China to play a bigger role in the world ahead!