

# PS343: Government & Politics of China

Spring 2022

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<b>Instructor:</b>	Prof. Yujeong Yang	<b>Time:</b>	M/W 3:00PM - 4:20PM
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## Please note that:

- This syllabus is subject to change to best realize the educational goals of the course. Necessary revisions will be announced in class or on the course website with fair prior notice.
- This is a **synchronous class**. Everyone in the class is expected to meet at the same time.

## Office Hours:

- Mon/Wed 1:00 -2:30 pm or by appointment
- Sign up: <https://calendly.com/yujeongyang/officehour>

## 1. Course Description

This course provides upper-level undergraduate students an introduction to the main issues of contemporary Chinese politics and society. China has risen from a deeply impoverished socialist country to the world's second largest market economy. Yet various social issues and political problems have followed after the rapid economic growth, posing challenges to Chinese social and political stability. How has China accomplished its phenomenal economic growth and what are the costs China has paid for it? How are the social and political issues challenging further economic and social development of China? This course attempts to address these questions by exploring crucial historical events that have happened since 1949, institutional structures, and cutting-edge social issues that characterize today's Chinese society.

This course is divided into three parts. In the first part, the course locates contemporary China into a comparative and historical context by exploring important historical events in Chinese history, including the Great Leap Forward, the Cultural Revolution, the market reform, the Tiananmen protest. In the second part of the course, students will examine institutional frameworks that characterize the Chinese society. In the third part of the course, students will browse various social issues engendered by the above mentioned historical legacies and institutional arrangements, such as urban-rural divide, social unrest, and media control.

## 2. Course Goals

- Identify historical and institutional foundations of Chinese politics,
- Apply concepts and theories in comparative politics to analyze Chinese politics,
- Describe differences and similarities in political systems and outcomes between China and other countries (e.g., the United States).
- Critically evaluate the role of China in global politics.

### 3. Course Materials

All readings will be made available on the course website.

Please ensure that you have completed all readings before lecture. Most of reading materials are from advanced social science research. It is not required to understand every word of every reading or memorize every detail. Focus, instead, on the broader argument and understand the main findings of the article. Here's some useful tips regarding how to read an academic paper: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SKxm2HF\\_-k0](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SKxm2HF_-k0)

### 4. iClicker

I am going to check students' attendances and participation using I-clicker. Students can participate in class activities using either **the iClicker student mobile app**, or using a **handheld iClicker remote**. Remotes can be purchased from campus bookstores or online. Students who use the app can purchase an iClicker subscription by signing in to your account on the iClicker student web app (<https://student.iclicker.com>).

Either you use an app or a handheld remote, you should create your iClicker account unless you already have one (If you already have the account, simply log in, instead of creating another account.) If this is first time using the iClicker, you can create your account here (<https://student.iclicker.com>). After signing in (or logging in), click the + button, enter "University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign", and the course number "PS343". You will see "PS343: Government and Politics of China". Then, press "Add this course" to complete the process.

### 5. General Expectations

Aside from attending lectures and discussion sections, students are expected to devote around 4-6 additional hours per week learning the topics of the course through readings (2 - 3hrs), homework assignments (1 - 2hrs), and online quizzes (1 hr).

### 6. Course Requirements and Assignments

Weekly Assignments (10 points × 9) .....	90 points
Weekly Quizzes (10 points × 9) .....	90 points
Midterm .....	100 points
Final .....	100 points
Attendance and Participation .....	20 points
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>400 points</b>

- **Weekly Assignments (10 points × 9 = 90 points)**

There are 12 weekly assignments throughout the semester. Student may skip up to 3 assignments. For those who submit more than the required nine sets, only their most successful nine sets will be used when calculating their final grades. Students who did not skip any reading assignment would receive extra-credit points (2 points) at the end of the semester. Reading questions will be distributed through the Canvas website. An-

swers should be uploaded to Canvas > Weekly Assignment folder by **11:59pm Sunday** each week. Please save and upload your assignment as either .pdf or .doc (or .docx) file. Please refer to the "late policy" on page 3 for the treatment of late submissions.

- **Weekly Quizzes (10 points × 9 = 90 points)**

There will be a short online quiz at the end of every Wednesday's lecture. Each will consist of multiple choice questions, T/F questions, or short-answer questions based on

the readings, lectures, and discussions of the week. The quiz questions will be recycled and will show up in the Midterm and Final. In this regard, the weekly quizzes are great study guides for students. Students are encouraged to review the quiz questions when they prepare the midterm and final. I will only count nine highest quiz scores when calculating student's final grades.

- **Midterm and Final (100 points, each)**

The format of the midterm and final will consist of a combination of TF questions, multiple choices, short answers (The short answer questions will be drawn from the key terms identified at the beginning of each set of lecture notes. Students are expected to provide 4-5 sentences which define the concept and explain its relevance to the study of Chinese politics).

- **Attendance and Participation (20 points)**

Attendance and participation grade will be based on student's preparation for, attendance of, and participation in lecture and class discussion. ‘

- Those who are uncomfortable speaking up in section can earn participation points by having discussion during the office hours.
- Students can opt to miss up to three lectures per semester without penalty. Every each subsequent absence will be penalized (- 1 point for each subsequent absence). If students habitually miss lecture or section without excuse (8 or more times per semester), they will receive zero of 20 points.

- **Extra-credit Opportunities**

Students will have opportunities to earn extra-credits by 1) posting movie review(s), 2) not skipping any homework assignments, and/or 3) participating in the political science subject pool.

- **Assignment of Grades** Letter grades will be calculated according to the following scale:

A+	(392-400)	B+	(348-359)	C+	(308-319)	D+	(268-279)
A	(372-391)	B	(332-347)	C	(292-307)	D	(252-267)
A-	(360-371)	B-	(320-331)	C-	(280-291)	D-	(240-254)

## 7. Classroom Policies

- **Contacting the Instructor**

I will do my best to answer questions via email, but do not expect a response for at least 24-36 hours. Please go over the syllabus before sending me an email about general classroom policies. The syllabus is likely to have an answer for your question.

- **Late policy**

Any assignments (weekly quizzes and/or position papers) should be submitted by the deadline stated on the syllabus. Assignments turned in within an hour of the due date will lose 10 percent of total points. Assignments turned in within a day of the due date (i.e., 24 hours past the deadline) will lose 20 percent of total points. Any assignments turned in after that will receive zero (0) points. The student alone is responsible for uploading assignments on time and in a readable format (either PDF or word).

- **Academic Honesty**

All work that a student submit and complete in the course must be the student's own. It is students' responsibility to refrain from infractions of academic integrity, from conduct that may lead to suspicion of such infractions, and from conduct that aids others in such infractions. "I did not know" is not an excuse. Please refer to the Academic integrity policy and procedure. <https://studentcode.illinois.edu/article1/part4/1-401/>

- **Students with Disabilities**

The instructor will do their utmost to make appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities. As explained in the University of Illinois Student Code, these accommodations can be coordination through the Division of Disability Resources and Educational Services, reachable at (217) 333-4603 or [disability@illinois.edu](mailto:disability@illinois.edu)

- **Important Information about the Syllabus**

The syllabus of each class is filled with important information that helps you succeed in the class. Hence, it is important to read the syllabus thoroughly. However, please note that the syllabus is subject to change based on the needs of the class. If you have made it this far, please use google image to find a picture of Master Po Ping, and send it to me attached to email with the subject line "PS343: Hello Master!" I will provide 1 extra-credit point to students who have successfully completed the mission by January 31, 11:59pm.

## 8. Course Outline and Reading Schedule

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### Week 1. Introduction to Comparative Politics of China

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Wednesday, January 19 - Introduction

- Syllabus PS343

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### Week 2. From Qing Dynasty to the People's Republic of China

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#### Assignment #1 by January 23

Monday, January 24 - China in Revolution

- PBS documentary: A Century of Revolution Part 1 (1:15:35 ~ )  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I5cl0GjPjy4>

Wednesday, January 26 - Chinese Land Reform

- PBS documentary: A Century of Revolution Part 2 (~ 33:36)  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fsh2FHq0tUA>
- Liao Yiwu, "the Former Landowner" in *The Corpse Walker*.

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### Week 3. Mao's Era

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#### Assignment #2 by January 30

Monday, January 31 - Great Leap Forward

- PBS documentary: A Century of Revolution Part 2 (33:36 ~ 58:26)  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fsh2FHq0tUA>

Wednesday, February 2 - Cultural Revolution

- PBS documentary: A Century of Revolution Part 2 (58:27 ~ )  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fsh2FHq0tUA>
- Schiavenza, Matt. "China's 10-Year Government Shutdown". *The Atlantic* (Oct 15, 2013).

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### Week 4. Beginning of the Reform (Pre-1993 reform)

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#### **OPTIONAL FILM SCREENING: *To Live* (1995)**

#### Assignment #3 by February 6

Monday, February 7 - Growing out of the Plan

- Naughton. *The Chinese Economy*. Chapter 4 (Market Transition), pp. 85-99

Wednesday, February 9 - Tian An Men

- The Gate of Heavenly Peace  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1Gtt2JxmQtg&t=3382s>

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**Week 5.           Returning to Growth**

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**Assignment #4 by February 13**

Monday, February 14 - Southern Tour and Market Transition

- Naughton. The Chinese Economy. Chapter 4 (Market Transition), pp. 100 - 110.

Wednesday, February 16 - Changes in the Urban and Rural Areas

- Hu, Xiaobo. "The state, enterprises, and society in post-Deng China: Impact of the new round of SOE reform." *Asian Survey* 40, no. 4 (2000): 641-657.
- Sandlund, William. "China's Retrograde Rural Land Policies". Council on Foreign Relations. (Aug 5, 2020). Available at: [https://www.cfr.org/blog/chinas-retrograde-rural-land-policies#\\_ftnref2](https://www.cfr.org/blog/chinas-retrograde-rural-land-policies#_ftnref2)

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**Week 6.           Review and Midterm**

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Monday, February 21 - Exam Review

**Wednesday, February 23 - Midterm**

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**Week 7.           Political Structure of the PRC (1)**

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**Assignment #5 by February 27**

Monday, February 28 - Formal Structure

- Lawrence, Susan V., and Michael F. Martin. "Understanding China's political system." CRS Report for Congress (2013): 1-41.

Wednesday, March 2 - Cadre Evaluation System

- Ang, Yuen Yuen. "Why China Can't fix its environment simply by adjusting targets." *The Strait Times* (Aug 12, 2017).
- Landry, Pierre F., Xiaobo Lü, and Haiyan Duan. "Does Performance Matter? Evaluating Political Selection Along the Chinese Administrative Ladder." *Comparative Political Studies* 51, no. 8 (July 2018): 1074-1105.

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**Week 8.           Political Structure of the PRC (2)**

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**Assignment #6 by March 6**

Monday, March 7 - Authoritarian Elections

- Li, Lianjiang. "The empowering effect of village elections in China." *Asian Survey* 43, no. 4 (2003): 648-662.
- Chen, Weijun "Please vote for me". available at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KD1QsX2h0nk>

Wednesday, March 9 - Chinese Courts

- Wang, Yuhua. "Relative capture: quasi-experimental evidence from the Chinese judiciary." *Comparative Political Studies* 51, no. 8 (2018): 1012-1041.

**Week 9. Managing Social Discontent (1)**

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**OPTIONAL FILM SCREENING: *Still Life (2006) or the Story of Qiu Ju*****Assignment #7 by March 20**

Monday, March 21 - Hukou, Migration, Urbanization

- Chan, Kam Wing. "China's urbanization 2020: a new blueprint and direction.", *Eurasian Geography and Economics* 55, no. 1 (2014): 1-9.

Wednesday, March 23 - Protests and Disputants

- Chen, Xi. "China at the Tipping Point?: The Rising Cost of Stability." *Journal of Democracy* 24, no. 1 (2013): 57-64.
- Fu, Diana. 2017. "Disguised Collective Action in China." *Comparative Political Studies* 50(4): 499-527.

**Week 10. Managing Social Discontent (2)**

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**Assignment #8 by March 27**

Monday, March 28 - Public Opinion

- Edward Cunningham, Tony Saich & Jesse Turiel, "Understanding CCP Resilience: Surveying Chinese Public Opinion Through Time" (2020).
- Haifeng Huang, "How Information Bubble Drives the Chinese Public's Views of China's Global Standing and Fuels Grassroots Nationalism"(2020).

Wednesday, March 30 - Internet Control and Censorship

- King, Gary, Jennifer Pan, and Margaret E. Roberts. "How censorship in China allows government criticism but silences collective expression." *American Political Science Review* (2013): 326-343.

**Week 11. Managing Social Discontent (3)**

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**OPTIONAL FILM SCREENING: *Last Train Home (2009)*****Assignment #9 by April 3**

Monday, April 4 - Social Provision in China

- Solinger, Dorothy J., and Yiyang Hu. 2012. "Welfare, Wealth and Poverty in Urban China: The Dibao and Its Differential Disbursement." *The China Quarterly* 211:741-764. doi: 10.1017/s0305741012000835.

Wednesday, April 6 - Corruption and Anti-corruption

- Ang, Yuen Yuen. "Authoritarian restraints on online activism revisited: Why "I-paid-a-bribe" worked in India but failed in China." *Comparative Politics* 47, no. 1 (2014): 21-40.
- Zhu, Jiangnan, Huang Huang, and Dong Zhang. "'Big Tigers, Big Data': Learning Social Reactions to China's Anticorruption Campaign through Online Feedback." *Public Administration Review* 79, no. 4 (2019): 500-513.

**Week 12. (Beyond) Border Politics**

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**OPTIONAL FILM SCREENING: *Infernal Affairs* (2003)****Assignment #10 by April 10**

Monday, April 11 - China, Hong Kong, and Taiwan

- Syaru Lin (2018). Analyzing the Relationship between Identity and Democratization in Taiwan and Hong Kong in the Shadow of China
- Javier C. Hernández and Steven Lee Myers. As China Strengthens Grip on Hong Kong, Taiwan Sees a Threat, *New York Times*, (Sept. 18, 2020).

Wednesday, April 13 - Xinjiang Issues

- China's Secret Internment Camps. Available at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cMkHcZ5IwjU>

**Week 13. The China Model**

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**Assignment #11 by April 17**

Monday, April 18 - How China Escaped the Poverty Trap

- Pettis, Michael. "China's Many Economies". in Stanford Social Innovation Review. Available at: [https://ssir.org/books/reviews/entry/chinas\\_many\\_economies](https://ssir.org/books/reviews/entry/chinas_many_economies)

Wednesday, April 20 - The "China Model" and Its Challenge

- Erik Li: "A Tale of Two Political Systems." Available at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s0YjL9rZyR0>.
- Bell, Daniel A., Timothy Garton Ash, Andrew J. Nathan, and Taisu Zhang. "Is the China model better than democracy." *Foreign Policy* (Oct 19, 2015). Available at: <https://foreignpolicy.com/2015/10/19/china-democracy-theory-communist-party-politics-model/>
- Mary Hui, "China Wants to Redefine Democracy", *Quartz* (Dec 8, 2021).

**Week 14. China and the World**

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**Assignment #12 by April 24**

Monday, April 25 - China and the US

- Cerrato, Andrea, Francesco Ruggieri and Federico Maria Ferrara. "Trump won in counties that lost jobs to China and Mexico." *The Washington Post*. Dec 2, 2016. Available at: <https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/monkey-cage/wp/2016/12/02/trump-won-where-import-shocks-from-china-and-mexico-were-strongest/>
- Odd Arne Westad. "Are Washington and Beijing fighting a new cold war?", *Foreign Affairs*, Sep/Oct 2019.

Wednesday, April 27 - China's Global Outreach

- Brahma Chellaney. "China's debt trap diplomacy." *Project Syndicate*. Jan 23, 2017.
- Broz, J. Lawrence, Zhiwen Zhang, and Gaoyang Wang. "Explaining Foreign Support for China's Global Economic Leadership." *International organization* 74, no. 3 (2020): 417-452.



**Week 15.          Review and Final**

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Monday, May 2 - Course Review

**Wednesday, May 4 - Final Exam**