

GEORGIA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY
The Sam Nunn School of International Affairs

INTA 4331. Chinese Politics
Fall 2024

Instructor: Dr. Fei-Ling Wang
Time: TTh 15:30-16:45
Office Hours: TuTh 10:30-12:15 & 17:00-18:00 or by appointment
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This is a Core IMPACTS course that is part of the Social Sciences area.

Core IMPACTS refers to the core curriculum, which provides students with essential knowledge in foundational academic areas. This course will help students master course content, and support students' broad academic and career goals.

This course should direct students toward a broad Orienting Question:

How do I understand human experiences and connections?

Completion of this course should enable students to meet the following Learning Outcome:

Students will effectively analyze the complexity of human behavior, and how historical, economic, political, social, or geographic relationships develop, persist, or change.

Course content, activities, and exercises in this course should help students develop the following Career-Ready Competencies:

- Intercultural Competence
- Perspective-Taking
- Persuasion

Course Description

This course aims at examining the main aspects of Chinese politics—how the People's Republic of China (PRC) is politically organized and governed. The emphasis will be a historical and comparative description of the governmental institutions, political culture, and political party—the Chinese Communist Party (CCP). We will also discuss and assess the CCP-PRC government's policy-making in the areas of the economy, sociocultural affairs, disease-control, and foreign policy. The aim is to understand the internal sociopolitical structure and dynamics of the PRC as a rising world power, representing an alternative mode of sociopolitical governance and a distinctive model of economic development.

There is no special requirement for this course except a willingness to read, think, and learn. The class will be organized as a seminar with a clear emphasis on having an extensive classroom participation of the students.

An effort of following the current events in the PRC is encouraged. Publications such as *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, and the *South China Morning Post* as well as the web-based news services are useful sources for up-to-date information of China.

The students are expected to participate in classroom discussions. The assigned readings are expected to be finished before classes.

Course Rules

Unless the student has an official letter from the GT administration certifying a need for special accommodation, audio or video recording is not allowed in class.

Cell phones are to be placed on vibrate mode or turned off and remain out of sight, unless you are expecting an emergency call (in that case, please alert the instructor before class). No texting during class.

Class attendance is mandatory unless excused for legit reasons with proper documentation (e.g., doctor's note). Lecture slides will not be available online, nor made available unless there was an excused absence.

In addition to observation of class rules and carrying a professional conduct in classroom, Attentive and active contribution to class discussions will be awarded. All views are welcome!

University Policies

The Ivan Allen College of Liberal Arts supports the Georgia Institute of Technology's commitment to creating a campus free of discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, or veteran status. We further affirm the importance of cultivating an intellectual climate that allows us to better understand the similarities and differences of those who constitute the Georgia Tech community, as well as the necessity of working against inequalities.

If you are a learner that requires adaptations for you to succeed in this course or are a student with disabilities that requires accommodations, please contact the Office of Disability (404) 894-2563 or disabilityservices.gatech.edu to make an appointment to discuss your needs and obtain the appropriate accommodation letter. Any student requiring such adaptation/accommodation should make inform the instructor as soon as possible so to make the appropriate arrangement.

We have all committed to upholding the ideals of honor and academic integrity. Please consult University policies for more information (www.policylibrary.gatech.edu/student-affairs/academic-honor-code; www.catalog.gatech.edu/rules/18/). Any student suspected of violations of honor code including but not limited to cheating or plagiarizing behavior will be automatically reported to the Office of Student Integrity, which will investigate the incident and recommend penalties for the violations.

Course Requirements

Requirement	Marks	(%)
Participation/Attendance	200	20
First test	300	30
Presentation	200	20

Second test	300	30
Total	1,000	100

The two tests will be written exams in essay format, close- or open-book. The examination will be drawn from all aspects of the course: readings, lectures, and classroom discussions.

Presentation will be a research project exploring one aspect of Chinese politics by the students. Each presenting group should select a research topic to be approved by the instructor by Week 5. Sample topics are: China's political parties; leading factions inside the CCP; the political role of the PLA; corruption and anti-corruption; the trade war with the US; and the PRC's management of the Covid-19 pandemic. Each group should conduct a collective research and write a report and, finally, make an oral presentation of no longer than 15-19 minutes to the class, including Q & A. A written report (3 pages, single space or 5 pages, double space) is due on the day of the presentation. The format of the presentation may be modified later depending on logistic conditions.

Participation/attendance will be based on the quality and the quantity of your participation in class discussions and the Q&A sessions of the group project. The class will be a mixture of informal lecture and relaxed discussion. All views are welcome and those who participate actively will be rewarded appropriately. We all learn from each other's insights.

Course Materials:

(Books are available for purchase online or at GT Bookstore)

William A. Joseph ed., *Politics in China: An Introduction*, Third Edition, Oxford University Press. 2019 (Joseph)

Fei-Ling Wang, *The China Order: Centralia, World Empire, and the Nature of Chinese Power*, SUNY Press, 2017 (Wang I)

Fei-Ling Wang, *The China Record: An Assessment of the People's Republic*. SUNY Press, 2023 (Wang II)

Course Outline:

Week 1 Introduction: The study of Chinese politics
8/20, 8/22 Joseph, 3-35 (Intro), Wang 1-38 (Intro and Chapter 1)

Part I – Political History and Tradition

Week 2 The Qin-Han Polity
8/27, 8/29 Wang I, 39-74 (Chapter 2)

Week 3 The Defining Century: Progress and Humiliation
9/3, 9/5 Joseph 45-73 (Chapter 2), Wang I, 135-158 (Chapter 5)

Week 4 The Great Leap Backward
9/10, 9/12 Wang I, 159-193 (Chapter 6)

Week 5 From Mao Zedong to Deng Xiaoping and Xi Jinping
9/17, 9/19 Joseph 76-120 (Chapters 3), 124-150 (Chapter 4)
(Presentation topic due 9/19)

Part II – The Party-State

- Week 6** **Chinese Political Ideology**
9/24, 9/26 Joseph 157-197 (Chapters 5), Wang II 15-34 (part of Chapter 1)
- Week 7** **The Party-State: The Structure**
10/1 Joseph 201-234 (Chapter 6)
10/3 **First Test**
- Week 8** **Chinese Legal System**
10/8, 10/10 Joseph 237-266 (Chapter 7)
- Week 9** 10/15 **No class – Enjoy the Fall Break**
10/17 **Assessing the Party-State**
Wang II 1-13 & 34-83 (Intro and part of Chapter 1)

Part III –Policies and Records

- Week 10** **PRC Political Economy**
10/22, 10/24 Joseph 274-307 (Chapter 8)
- Week 11** **China’s Socioeconomic Record**
10/29, 10/31 Wang II 85-174 (Chapters 2-3)
- Week 12** **Arts, Environment, and Population**
11/5, 11/7 Joseph 371-380, 381-396 & 418-437 (Chapters 11, 12 & 14)
- Week 13** **Chinese Spirit, Education, and Ecology**
11/12, 11/14 Wang II 175-225 (Chapter 4)
- Week 14** **The Periphery and the Minorities**
11/19, 11/21 Joseph 257-482, 487-510 (Chapters 16 & 17)

Part IV - Conclusion

- Week 15** **11/26** **Second Test**
11/28 **No class—Happy Thanksgiving!**
- Week 16** **12/3** **Group Presentation**