

POL-1010/2116/3105: Political Economy of China

Mondays and Wednesdays, 11:50 am

Room TBA

Instructor

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By Appointment: TBA

Course Description

Over the past forty years, China has grown rapidly to become one of the world's largest economies. This course first examines how China transitioned from a planned economy to a "socialist market economy," then turns to how the "socialist market economy" has functioned in practice. By examining the key factors of production—land, labor, capital, and information—this course shows how the Chinese state retains the ability to set prices and allocate inputs across different sectors of the economy, facilitating the implementation of industrial policy. At the same time, the course highlights the large size of informal markets in land, labor, capital, and information, which spur market-driven economic behavior outside of the industrial policy framework.

Course Goals

The goal of this course is for you to leave with an understanding of China's political economy. The 1000-level version of the course is meant to expose you to the basic workings of China's political economy without going into great depth. The 3000-level version of the course is meant to provide an advanced and textured understanding of China's political economy that would prepare you to conduct research in this area. The 2000-level version of the course falls in between, providing a basic overview and allowing you to go into more depth in the portions of the course that most interest you.

Course Format

There will be two lectures each week. The Monday lecture will be a full 1.5 hours. The Wednesday lecture will be abbreviated (generally about 45 minutes), after which students who have read the week's reading assignment will remain for a discussion.

Assignments

In this course, knowledge will be transmitted through a mixture of lectures and readings. Students will be evaluated solely on their proficiency with this material. The amount of

reading and the evaluation criteria will vary depending on whether you enroll in the 1000-level, 2000-level, or 3000-level course.

	1000-level	2000-level	3000-level
Attendance	40%	20%	0%
Participation	10%	20%	30%
Reading Responses	30% (2 responses)	40% (5 responses)	50% (10 responses)
Term Paper	20%	20%	20%

Attendance

Attendance is mandatory for those in the 1000- and 2000-level versions of the course. Attendance will be taken at both the beginning and end of each lecture, and protracted absences in the middle of lecture will be noted. Students are permitted to miss three class meetings without impacting their grade. You should reserve these for days that you are sick or on which other emergencies present themselves. If you experience a prolonged illness, you should provide written documentation to the instructor as soon as possible, copying all other instructors for your courses this semester.

Students who have not attended any classes by the spring break will fail the course. No accommodations will be provided.

Class Participation

Class participation will be evaluated both in terms of facility with the readings and based on the originality and constructiveness of contribution to the discussion.

Students who have submitted a reading response will be expected to participate actively in that week's class discussion on Wednesday. If you are unable to attend, then you must arrange a time to attend office hours to discuss the book within no more than two weeks.

Reading Responses

Reading responses should briefly summarize the argument and evidence of the week's reading, then evaluate its strengths and weaknesses. They should put the reading in dialogue with other readings, lectures, and class discussions, but the focus should be on the reading itself. Each reading response should be 500-750 words. For students in the 3000-level version of the course, there are thirteen assigned reading responses; the lowest two grades will be dropped, making for ten reading responses in the final grade. Students in the 1000- and 2000-level versions of the course may choose for which readings to write reading responses, but at least one reading response must be submitted the week before the deadline to add a class so that you have feedback in time to change to another course if you so choose.

Students who have not turned in any reading responses by the spring break will fail the course. No accommodations will be provided.

Term Paper

A short 1000-1500 word term paper is due 3 May 2024. The paper should draw on the material covered in the course to make and support a single argument about China's political economy. All students will be expected to draw extensively on the material from lecture; students will also be expected to draw appropriately from the books they have chosen to read.

Electronic Devices

The use of electronic devices in class is (unfortunately) strictly prohibited. I am aware that many of you use your laptops productively in class, but they unfortunately do become distractions for some. Therefore, students using an electronic device, such as a cellphone or a laptop, will be asked to put it away. If you do not, you will be asked to leave the room and marked as absent.

Grading Formalities

Grading will be conducted using points, which will be converted to letter grades at the end of the semester. The conversion between points and letter grades will be no less generous than the below:

A/A-:	85% - 100%
B+/B/B-:	70% - 84%
C+/C/C-:	55% - 69%
D+/D/D-:	40% - 54%
F:	0% - 39%

Assignments should be turned in on time. For students in the 1000- and 2000-level versions of the courses, assignments more than twelve hours late will only be accepted with prior approval of the instructor. You are encouraged to submit assignments for weeks when you can complete them on time. For students in the 3000-level version of the course, assignments will not be accepted more than two weeks after the initial due date without prior approval. Late assignments will be penalized by ten percentage points for the first twelve hours of lateness and an additional five percentage points for the subsequent 6.5 days of lateness. Each passing week will incur an additional fifteen percentage point penalty.

Assignments should be factually accurate. Each factual inaccuracy will lead to a deduction of no less than two percentage points. Please note that this policy applies only to facts. You are encouraged to think creatively about your arguments; you should not, however, get too creative with your facts!

Accommodations

If you may require accommodations or modification of any of course procedures, please inform me within one week of the first course session or within one week of enrolling in the course, whichever is later. You should write me to explain and document your request, at which point we can set up a time to meet either in office hours or by appointment.

Academic Integrity

While students are encouraged to seek out help from the instructor and others, students are required to take quizzes and exams without any assistance from others. Students caught cheating on quiz and exam procedures will be reported to the administration and will receive a failing grade.

Reference Book

You may find the following reference book of use during this course:

- Naughton, *The Chinese Economy*

Course Schedule & Readings

Week 1 (January 22 & January 24)

- January 22: Introduction
- January 24: The Socialist Economy
(Reading TBA)

Week 2 (January 29 & January 31): Reform and Opening

- Weber, *How China Escaped Shock Therapy*

Week 3 (February 5 & February 7): Reform and Opening

- Huang, *Capitalism with Chinese Characteristics*

Week 4 (February 12 & February 14): Capital

- Shih, *Factions and Finance in China*

Week 5 (February 19 & February 21): Capital

- Tsai, *Back-Alley Banking* OR Collier, *Shadow Banking and the Rise of Capitalism in China*

Week 8 (March 18 & March 20): Labor

- Lee, *Against the Law*

Week 10 (March 27): Labor

- Wang, *Organization through Division and Exclusion*

Week 6 (February 26 & February 28): Land

- Hsing, *The Great Urban Transformation*

Week 7 (March 4 & March 6): Land

- Qiao, *Chinese Small Property*

Week 11 (April 1 & April 3): Information

- Wallace, *Seeking Truth and Hiding Facts*

Week 12 (April 8): Corruption

- Shum, *Red Roulette*

Week 13 (April 15 & April 17): Industrial Policy

- Ang, *How China Escaped the Poverty Trap* OR Chen, *Manipulating Globalization*

Week 14 (April 22 & April 24): Industrial Policy

- Naughton, *The Rise of China's Industrial Policy* OR Lei, *The Gilded Cage*

May 3: Final Paper Due