

Chinese Politics

University of Georgia
Department of International Affairs
Spring 2025

Instructor

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Office hour: **Tue & Thu 10:50 am - 12:20pm by appointment.** (If you are not available during these time slot, email me so that we can set up a separate meeting.) You can sign up for an up-to-30-min office hour by just clicking it! (URL: <https://calendar.app.google/EtZU5DCppiAeRQ5E7>)

Course Information

Course: INTL 4361

Time: MWF 9:10 -10:00 pm (50 min)

Location: Sanford Hall 312

1. Course description and objectives

This course delves into various aspects of Chinese politics, with a particular focus on its foreign and security policy orientations and decision-making processes, viewed through the lens of historical, cultural, and societal contexts. The course begins with a concise overview of China's history, especially the rise of the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) and its consolidation of power over mainland China. This course will utilize diverse resources, including films, to create a richer and more engaging learning experience. Building on this historical foundation, the course will examine the complex and often fragmented nature of China's decision-making processes, examining both the formulation and implementation of policies. By the end of the course, students are expected to be equipped with their own views on China's future policy directions.

2. Books

You don't have to buy any book or material. All are uploaded at ELC.

Terrill, R. (2003). *The New Chinese Empire: And What It Means for the United States* (Vol. 284). Basic Books.

Li, C. (2016). *Chinese Politics in the Xi Jinping Era: Reassessing Collective Leadership*. Brookings Institution Press

Saich, T. (2021). *From rebel to ruler: One hundred years of the Chinese communist party*. Harvard University Press.

Recommended

Brown, K. (2013). *Contemporary China*. Bloomsbury Publishing.

Pillsbury, M. (2015). *The hundred-year marathon: China's secret strategy to replace America as the global superpower*. Henry Holt and Company

Most readings for this course are either accessible through the University of Georgia library system or will be provided by the instructor.

3. Evaluation

Full marks: 100 points.

Do NOT plagiarize, if so, you will get yourself in trouble. Always use citations!

1) Active participation (20 points): I will grade your participation in two ways.

- **10 points:** Please make sure that you've read and reflected on the assigned reading or visual materials. In the beginning of every class, I will give you a simple quiz that you can answer easily once you read or watched the materials.

- **10 points:** Attendance will be checked in every class, and you are allowed three waiver tickets. This means no points will be deducted until you reach the third absence over the semester. However, after those three absences, one point will be deducted from the total of 10 points for each additional absence. I strongly encourage you to use your waiver tickets wisely, as unforeseen circumstances like illness or family emergencies may arise over the next three months. Please note that there's NO NEED to email me with reasons for your absences—any absence will count after the three waivers, REGARDLESS of the reason. Active participation in discussions is strongly encouraged.

2) Individual presentation (10 points):

You will be presenting a topic of your choice related to Chinese politics, such as its foreign or security policies. If you're unsure which topic to select, explore online resources—there are plenty of fascinating topics. Pick a subject that genuinely sparks your interest and curiosity.

This presentation serves as a preliminary introduction to your final paper and offers a valuable opportunity to receive feedback from your classmates and me. In your presentation, you'll introduce i) your research question, ii) a brief review of 10–12 articles or news sources that shaped the question, and iii) your plan for further research. Before your presentation, you are required to submit two files to ELC: your presentation slides and a write-up. The write-up should be one page (single-spaced, font size 12) and include i) your research question, ii) preliminary answers to the question, and iii) a literature review of the 10–12 articles or news sources mentioned.

3) Quizzes (25 points)

- **Glossary Test (5 points):** You are expected to familiarize yourself with the essential glossaries on the structure of the Chinese Communist Party (CCP). The list of glossaries will be uploaded at ELC.

- **Midterm quiz (10 points):** You'll be tested on what you learned during Week 01, 02,

03, 04, and 05. A mix of multiple choices and short answers.

- **Final quiz (10 points):** You'll be tested on what you learned during Weeks 07–13. A mix of multiple choices and short answers.

4) Two write-ups (30 points): Throughout this semester, you will complete two short write-ups (1,000–1,500 words each, 15 points for each) in response to assigned questions. These assignments will require you to demonstrate your understanding of the concepts covered in class and the readings, incorporating your own thoughts and interpretations.

5) Final Short Essay (15 points): It is a 3–4-page essay. (single-spaced, font size 12)

- 1 page: Feel free to reuse the write-up you submitted for the "2) Individual Presentation" section to save time.
- 1 and a half page: Find your answer to the question and then explain the reasoning behind it by summarizing and analyzing approximately a dozen relevant articles or news sources.
- A half page: A conclusion

4. Grading Scale

A	94 to 100
A-	90 to 93.9
B+	87 to 89.9
B	84 to 86.9
B-	80 to 83.9
C+	77 to 79.9
C	74 to 76.9
C-	70 to 73.9
D	60 to 69.9
F	59 and below

5. Administrative Policy

5.1. Academic Honesty

The course syllabus is a rough outline for the course; instructors need to inform changes to the class. The University of Georgia's "Culture of Honesty" (http://www.uga.edu/honesty/ahpd/culture_honesty.htm) has requirements that must be met by all academic work. It is your responsibility to familiarize yourself with these requirements before beginning any academic work. Our academic dishonesty policy is straightforward:

Avoid plagiarism. You will receive a failing grade in the course if you turn in a written assignment that is (in part) not your own. Disciplinary actions that could result in your dismissal from the university could be taken.

5.2 Prohibition on Recording Lectures

In the absence of written authorization from the UGA Disability Resource Center, students may not make a visual or audio recording of any aspect of this course.

5.3 Students with Disabilities

If you plan to request accommodations for a disability, please register with the Disability Resource Center (DRC). The DRC can be reached by visiting Clark Howell Hall, by calling 706-542-8719 (voice) or 706-542-8778 (TTY), or by visiting <http://drc.uga.edu>

5.4 Resources for Mental Health and Wellness

Contact Student Care and Outreach in the Division of Student Affairs at 706-542-7774 or go to <https://sco.uga.edu> if you or someone you know needs help. By putting you in touch with the proper resources or services, they will assist you in navigating any challenging situations you might be dealing with. For students looking for crisis help or mental health services, UGA has a number of resources available at <https://www.uhs.uga.edu/bewelluga/bewelluga>. Please visit BeWellUGA (<https://www.uhs.uga.edu/bewelluga/bewelluga>) for a list of FREE programs, classes, mentoring, and health coaching given by certified clinicians and health educators in the University Health Center if you need assistance managing stress, anxiety, relationships, etc. The UGA App gives users access to more resources.

5.5 Diversity and Inclusion

The University of Georgia is dedicated to upholding a just and courteous atmosphere for employment, residence, and education. To that end, the University forbids harassment of or discrimination against any person on campus due to race, color, sex (including sexual harassment and pregnancy), sexual orientation, gender identity, ethnicity or national origin, religion, age, genetic information, disability, or veteran status by any member of the University Community in accordance with federal and state law, University System of Georgia policy, and University policy.

6. Course Schedule

This schedule is a suggestion for the class and is open to modification at my discretion. The underlined dates are assigned for group presentations. Watch or read assigned materials before class.

Week01 (Jan 6, 8, 10): Introduction

Jan 6

- Course introduction

Jan 8

- A short quiz
- Readings: Terrill, R. (2003). *The New Chinese Empire: And What It Means for the United States* (Vol. 284). Basic Books. pp.20-28.

Jan 10

- A short quiz
- Watch this video before coming to class: “*The Story of China with Michael Wood: Part 1.*” *Films On Demand, Films Media Group, 2017* (URL: http://fod.infobase.com.us1.proxy.openathens.net/p_ViewVideo.aspx?xtid=166822) access available via the UGA library account

Recommended

Spence, J. D. (1990). *The search for modern China*. WW Norton & Company.

Week02 (Jan 13, 15, 17, 22): Brief History of China 01

Jan 13

- A short quiz
- Readings: Brown, K. (2013). *Contemporary China*. Bloomsbury Publishing, pp.1-20

Jan 15

- A short quiz
- Watch this video before coming to class: “*The Story of China with Michael Wood: Part 2.*” *Films On Demand, Films Media Group, 2017* (URL: http://fod.infobase.com.us1.proxy.openathens.net/p_ViewVideo.aspx?xtid=166823) access available via the UGA library account

Jan 17

- No Class (out of town for a colloquium)
- Even if there’s no class but watch this video before Jan 22nd: “*The Story of China with Michael Wood: Part 3.*” *Films On Demand, Films Media Group, 2017* (URL: http://fod.infobase.com.us1.proxy.openathens.net/p_ViewVideo.aspx?xtid=166824) access available via the UGA library account

Jan 20

- No Class (Martin Luther King Jr. Day)

Jan 22

- A short quiz
- Readings: Brown, K. (2013). *Contemporary China*. Bloomsbury Publishing, pp.20-42

Recommended

Gernet, J. (1996). *A history of Chinese civilization*. Cambridge University Press.

Week03 (Jan 24, 27, 29): Brief History of China 02

Jan 24

- A short quiz
- Watch this video before coming to class: “*The Story of China with Michael Wood: Part 5.*” *Films On Demand, Films Media Group, 2017* (URL: http://fod.infobase.com.us1.proxy.openathens.net/p_ViewVideo.aspx?xtid=166826) access available via the UGA library account

Jan 27

- A short quiz
- Readings: Brown, K. (2013). *Contemporary China*. Bloomsbury Publishing, pp.43-58

Jan 29

- A short quiz
- Watch this video before coming to class: “*China: The Roots of Madness, 1967.*” *Films On Demand, Films Media Group, 2008* (URL: <https://fod.infobase.com/PortalPlaylists.aspx?wID=103311&xtid=48817>) access available via the UGA library account

Week04 (Jan 31, Feb 3,5): The History of CCP - Mao Zedong

Jan 31

- A short quiz
- Readings: Shambaugh, D. (2021). *China's leaders: From Mao to now*. John Wiley & Sons. pp. 1-27

Feb 3

- A short quiz
- Readings: Shambaugh, D. (2021). *China's leaders: From Mao to now*. John Wiley & Sons. pp.28-48

Feb 5

- A short quiz
- Readings: Shambaugh, D. (2021). *China's leaders: From Mao to now*. John Wiley & Sons. pp.49-69

Recommended

Leese, D. (2011). *Mao cult: Rhetoric and ritual in China's cultural revolution*. Cambridge

University Press.

Week05 (Feb 7, 10, 12): Chinese Society & Culture

Feb 7

- [A short quiz](#)
- Readings: Shambaugh, D. (2021). *China's leaders: From Mao to now*. John Wiley & Sons. pp. 70-94

Feb 10

- [A short quiz](#)
- Readings: Brown, K. (2013). *Contemporary China*. Bloomsbury Publishing, Ch.7. Chinese Culture
- Movie Night 01: *To Live* (1994, Director: Zhang Yimou, URL: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HorOrml6hKg&t=1423s>)

Feb 12

- [A short quiz](#)
- Movie Night 02: *To Live* (1994, Director: Zhang Yimou, URL: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HorOrml6hKg&t=1423s>)

Recommended

Raise the Red Lantern (1991, Director: Zhang Yimou, URL: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BMwHE8Po-oc>) / Gong Li starred as the leading actor in this compelling film set during the Warlord Era of the 1920s, portraying the life of a young woman in China. The movie delves into the societal status of women at the time and has been celebrated as one of The New York Times' 1,000 greatest films since 2004

Berry, C. (2006). *China on Screen: Cinema and Nation*. Columbia University Press.

Week06 (Feb 14, 17, 19): Review Session 01

Feb 14

- [A short quiz](#)
- Movie Night 03: *To Live* (1994, Director: Zhang Yimou, URL: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HorOrml6hKg&t=1423s>)

Feb 17

- Review of the materials learnt during Week 01, 02, 03, 04, and 05, and Q&A

Feb 19

- **Mid-term quiz**: You'll be tested on what you learned in Week 01, 02, 03, 04, and 05.

A mix of multiple choices and short answers.

Week07 (Feb 21, 24, 26, 28): The Party Structure 01

First Write-up: Due Feb 28, 11:59 p.m.

Feb 21

- A short quiz
- Li, C. (2016). *Chinese Politics in the Xi Jinping Era: Reassessing Collective Leadership*. Brookings Institution Press, pp.41-64

Feb 24

- A short quiz
- Li, C. (2016). *Chinese Politics in the Xi Jinping Era: Reassessing Collective Leadership*. Brookings Institution Press, pp.65-90

Feb 26

- A short quiz
- Li, C. (2016). *Chinese Politics in the Xi Jinping Era: Reassessing Collective Leadership*. Brookings Institution Press, pp.90-118

Feb 28

- A short quiz
- Li, C. (2016). *Chinese Politics in the Xi Jinping Era: Reassessing Collective Leadership*. Brookings Institution Press, pp.163-187

Recommended

Saich, T. (2021). *From rebel to ruler: One hundred years of the Chinese communist party*. Harvard University Press.

Week08 (Mar 10,12,14): The Party Structure 02

Mar 3,5,7

- Spring Break

Mar 10

- A short quiz
- Li, C. (2016). *Chinese Politics in the Xi Jinping Era: Reassessing Collective Leadership*. Brookings Institution Press, pp.187-206

Mar 12

- **Glossary Test:** You are expected to familiarize yourself with the essential glossaries on

the structure of the Chinese Communist Party (CCP). The list of glossaries will be uploaded at ELC.

Mar 14

- [A short quiz](#)
- Shambaugh, D. (2021). *China's leaders: From Mao to now*. John Wiley & Sons. pp. 95-115

Recommended

Schell, O., & Delury, J. (2014). *Wealth and power: China's long march to the twenty-first century*. Random House Trade Paperbacks.

Week09 (Mar 17,19,21,24): The History of CCP – Deng Xiaoping

Mar 17

- [A short quiz](#)
- Shambaugh, D. (2021). *China's leaders: From Mao to now*. John Wiley & Sons. pp. 115-135

Mar 19

- [A short quiz](#)
- Shambaugh, D. (2021). *China's leaders: From Mao to now*. John Wiley & Sons. pp.136-160

Mar 21

- No Class (out of town for a colloquium)

Mar 24

- Individual Presentation Day 01

Recommended

Vogel, E. F. (2011). *Deng Xiaoping and the transformation of China*. Harvard University Press.

Week10 (Mar 26,28,31): The History of CCP – Jiang Zemin

Mar 26

- Individual Presentation Day 02

Mar 28

- [A short quiz](#)
- Shambaugh, D. (2021). *China's leaders: From Mao to now*. John Wiley & Sons. pp.

161-181

Mar 31

- A short quiz
- Shambaugh, D. (2021). *China's leaders: From Mao to now*. John Wiley & Sons. pp.182-208

Recommended

Kissinger, H. (2012). *On China by Henry Kissinger*. Penguin Canada Press.

Gilley, B. (1998). *Tiger on the brink: Jiang Zemin and China's new elite*. Univ of California Press.

Week11 (Apr 2, 4, 7): The History of CCP – Hu Jintao

Apr 2

- A short quiz
- Shambaugh, D. (2021). *China's leaders: From Mao to now*. John Wiley & Sons. pp.209-230

Apr 4

- A short quiz
- Shambaugh, D. (2021). *China's leaders: From Mao to now*. John Wiley & Sons. pp.231-254

Apr 7

- A short quiz
- Shambaugh, D. (2021). *China's leaders: From Mao to now*. John Wiley & Sons. pp. 255-275

Recommended

McGregor, R. (2011). *The Party: the secret world of China's communist rulers*. Penguin UK.

Shambaugh, D. L. (2008). *China's communist party: atrophy and adaptation*. Univ of California Press.

Week12 (Apr 9,11,14): The History of CCP – Xi Jinping 01

Apr 9

- A short quiz
- Shambaugh, D. (2021). *China's leaders: From Mao to now*. John Wiley & Sons. pp. 276-296

Apr 11

- [A short quiz](#)
- Shambaugh, D. (2021). *China's leaders: From Mao to now*. John Wiley & Sons. pp. 296-318

Apr 14

- [A short quiz](#)
- Li, C. (2016). *Chinese Politics in the Xi Jinping Era: Reassessing Collective Leadership*. Brookings Institution Press, pp.1-20

Recommended

Economy, E. (2018). *The Third Revolution: Xi Jinping and the New Chinese State*.

Week13 (Apr 16,18,21): The History of CCP – Xi Jinping 02

Apr 16

- [A short quiz](#)
- Li, C. (2016). *Chinese Politics in the Xi Jinping Era: Reassessing Collective Leadership*. Brookings Institution Press, pp.20-40

Apr 18

- [A short quiz](#)
- Pillsbury, M. (2015). *The hundred-year marathon: China's secret strategy to replace America as the global superpower*. Henry Holt and Company, Introduction: Wishful Thinking & Ch 1. China Dream

Apr 21

- [A short quiz](#)
- Pillsbury, M. (2015). *The hundred-year marathon: China's secret strategy to replace America as the global superpower*. Henry Holt and Company, Ch 2. Warring States

Recommended

Hamilton, C., & Ohlberg, M. (2020). *Hidden hand: Exposing how the Chinese Communist Party is reshaping the world*. Simon and Schuster.

Week14 (Apr 23,25,28): Review Session

Write-up 02: Due Apr 23, 11:59 p.m.

Apr 23

- Review of the materials learned during Weeks 07–13 and Q&A

Apr 25

- Review of the materials learned during Weeks 07–13 and Q&A

Apr 28

- **Final quiz**: You'll be tested on what you learned during Week 07–13. A mix of multiple choices and short answers.

Final Paper: Due May 4, 11:59 p.m.