CPO4541 Chinese Politics (Fall 2017)
University of Central Florida
MoWeFr 12:30 PM – 01:20 PM
CB1 O308

Instructor: Xiongwei Cao
Office: Howard Phillips Hall Room 312 (next to the Doctoral GTA Room)
Phone: (407)618-3262, but email is better
E-mail: caoxiongwei@ucf.edu
Office hours: Mon: 14:00-15:30, Wed: 14:00-15:30, or by appointment

"Do not impose on others what you do not wish for yourself."
Confucius (Doctrine of Mean 13:3)

"So in everything do to others as you would have them do to you."
Jesus (Matthew 7:12)

Course Description

This course examines the People's Republic of China (PRC) from a variety of perspectives, culture, policy, society, economics, and foreign policy to enlighten our understanding of the politics of the most populous country quick rising power today. We will have a brief review of Chinese history and tradition by focusing on its implications for contemporary Chinese politics. We will also introduce the primary political structure of the PRC: the Communist Party of China (CCP), the government, the legislature and the legal system, the central and the local political institutions. Major political developments since 1949 will be covered and discussed in details. Our survey of political events will be associated with the five leaderships represented by Mao Zedong, Deng Xiaoping, Jiang Zemin, Hu Jintao and Xi Jinping. We will also touch upon the political economy especially since the reform and opening up in the late 1970s. Other important issue areas that occupy China's political agenda, including political reforms and foreign policy will also be paid close attention. My hope is that every member of this class will, at the end of this course, develop a profound and comprehensive understanding of the politics in China and its relations with the United States.

Required Books

1. Sujian Guo. 2013. *Chinese Politics and Government: Power, Ideology, and Organization*. New York: Routledge.

2. Henry Kissinger. 2011. *On China*. New York: The Penguin Press.

Course Requirements: Your final grade will be based on three exams and your participation. The exams will count for 80% of your final grade (exam 1 & 2: 20% each; the final exam: 40%). Attendance and participation is a crucial component of your learning experience. The best way to do well in the course and develop a strong grasp of the material it covers is to attend the course regularly, read and carefully consider the required materials beforehand, and be prepared to analyze and discuss those materials in class. Attendance and participation will count for 10% of your final grade. The research paper will count for the last 10%.

Exams: Each of the first two exams will consist of around 20 multiple-choice or true/false questions. The final exam will include 20 multiple-choice or true/false questions and 2-4 short essay questions. All of them are open-book open-note exams and are not cumulative (except for the final exam which will cover contents in the whole semester). Exams will be available on Webcourses at the class time of the exam day. Scores of the exams will be released within one week on Webcourses.

Research paper: You are supposed to raise an important question concerning Chinese politics, such as "why can the communist party continue to rule in China while its European counterparts all lost their reign?" Then, you are expected to search different sources of academic literature to answer such a question. More details about the requirements will be released in class. You are encouraged to pick the question and discuss with the instructor early.

Extra Credit: You may receive an additional bonus towards your final grade, up to 5%, based on a review of a book on Chinese politics. It must be submitted before the end of the 13th week in order to be graded.

Course Correspondence and Webcourses: All correspondence with the instructor will be via email or through Webcourses. I will usually respond to your email/message within 48 hours on business days. I will also post important information or any changes to the syllabus on Webcourses. So please check Webcourses periodically.

Make-up Exam Policy: Make-up exams will be granted only in the case of an emergency and/or a university documented absence. If exam dates conflict with a religious holiday, please notify the instructor about this at the beginning of the semester. I will seek to accommodate you.

Academic Activity and Financial Aid: All faculty members are required to document students' academic activity at the beginning of each course. In order to document that you began this course, please complete the following academic activity no later than **Friday, August 25, 2017** on the course page on Webcourses: post a brief description (up to a paragraph) of why you are interested in taking this course. Failure to do so will result in a delay in the disbursement of your financial aid (but this academic activity is not graded and has no impact on your final grade).

UCF Disability Statement: The University of Central Florida is committed to providing reasonable accommodations for all persons with disabilities. This syllabus is available in

alternate formats upon request. Students with disabilities who need accommodations in this course must contact the instructor at the beginning of the semester to discuss needed accommodations. No accommodations will be provided until the student has met with the instructor to request accommodations. Students who need accommodations must be registered with Student Disability Services, Student Resource Center, Room 132, phone (407) 823-2371, TTY/TDD only phone (407) 823-2116, before requesting accommodations from the instructor.

UCF Rules of Conduct: As reflected in the UCF creed, integrity and scholarship are core values that should guide our conduct and decisions as members of the UCF community. Plagiarism and cheating are very serious academic offenses. Please refer to the University's Rules of Conduct (available at: http://www.osc.sdes.ucf.edu) for more information on these issues. Failure to comply with university rules may subject violator(s) to appropriate action by university authorities and/or appropriate civil authorities. The penalty for students who plagiarize or cheat on an exam or an assignment will include a grade of F on that exam or assignment.

Grading Scale:

Letter Grade	Points
A	93 – 100 points
A -	90 – 92 points
B+	87 – 89 points
B	83 – 86 points
B -	80 – 82 points
C+	77 – 79 points
C	73 – 76 points
C -	70 – 72 points
D+	67 – 69 points
D	63 – 66 points
D -	60 – 62 points
F	59 and below

Course Schedule

Week 1: Introduction to Chinese Politics (08/21-08/25)

1. Guo 2013: Chapter 1, 2

Week 2: Historical Background (08/28-09/01)

1. Guo 2013: Chapter 3, 4
2. Kissinger 2011: Chapter 1, 2,3

Week 3: Political Development I (09/06-09/08)

1. Guo 2013: Chapter 5
2. Kissinger 2011: Chapter 4

Note: No class on Monday, September 4.

Week 4: Political Development II (09/11-09/15)

1. Guo 2013: Chapter 6, 10
2. Kissinger 2011: Chapter 7 (except the Sino-Indian War part), 11, 12
3. "The power of Xi Jinping," *Economist*, September 18, 2014.

   https://www.economist.com/news/china/21618882-cult-personality-growing-around-chinas-president-what-will-he-do-his-political
4. "Xi's China: The rise of party politics," Financial Times, July 25, 2016.

   https://www.ft.com/content/57371736-4b69-11e6-88c5-db83e98a590a

Week 5: Political Institutions (09/18-09/22)

1. Guo 2013: Chapter 9, 11

   Note: Exam 1 will be taken during the class time (12:30-1:20) on Friday (No meetings required).

Week 6: The Chinese Political Economy (09/25-09/29)

1. Guo 2013: Chapter 15, 16
2. Kissinger 2011: Chapter 16
1. "Xi Jinping's 'new normal' with Chinese characteristics." *South China Morning Post*, May 14, 2014.

http://www.scmp.com/business/economy/article/1511855/xi-jinpings-new-normal-chinese-characteristics

2. Lipscy, Phillip Y. 2015. "Who's Afraid of the AIIB: Why the United States Should Support China's Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank." *Foreign Affairs*, May 7, 2015 (Uploaded onto Webcourses).
3. Bert Hoffman. "China's One Belt One Road Initiative: What we know thus far." The World Bank, December 4, 2015. http://blogs.worldbank.org/eastasiapacific/china-one-belt-one-road-initiative-what-we-know-thus-far

Week 7: Chinese Society (10/02-10/06)

1. Guo 2013: Chapter 13, 14

Week 8: Political Ideology (10/09-10/13)

1. Guo 2013: Chapter 7, 8
2. "Xi Jinping and the Chinese dream." *The Economist*. May 4th, 2013.

http://www.economist.com/news/leaders/21577070-vision-chinas-new-president-should-serve-his-people-not-nationalist-state-xi-jinping

Week 9: Democracy in China (10/16-10/20)

1. Kissinger 2011: Chapter 15
2. Chapter 1, 2. Daniel Bell. 2015. *The China Model: Political Meritocracy and the Limits of Democracy.* Princeton: Princeton University Press.
   (Uploaded onto Webcourses)

Week 10: Foreign Policy (10/23-10/27)

1. Guo 2013: Chapter 17
2. Kissinger 2011: Chapter 5, 7 (the Sino-Indian War part)
   Note: Exam 2 will be taken during the class time (12:30-1:20) on Friday.

Week 11: Foreign Policy and US-China Relations I (10/30-11/03)

1. Guo 2013: Chapter 18
2. Kissinger 2011: Chapter 6, 8, 9

Week 12: Foreign Policy and US-China Relations II (11/06-11/08)

1. Kissinger 2011: Chapter 10, 13, 14, 17

Note: No class on Friday, November 10.

Week 13: China's Rise and the World (11/13-11/17)

1. Kissinger 2011: Chapter 18, epilogue
2. Mearsheimer, John J. 2014. "Can China Rise Peacefully?" *The National Interest* 25 (2014): 23-37. http://nationalinterest.org/commentary/can-china-rise-peacefully-10204
3. Ikenberry, G. John. 2008. "The Rise of China and the Future of the West: Can the Liberal Systems Survive?" *Foreign Affairs*, Vol. 87, No.1 (Jan.-Feb., 2008), pp.23-37 (Uploaded onto Webcourses)
4. Tammen, Ronald L. and Jacek Kugler. 2006. "Power Transition and China-US Conflicts." *Chinese Journal of International Politics*, Vol. 1, 2006. Pp. 35–55. (Uploaded onto Webcourses)

Note: Book review due if you want a bonus.

Week 14: Review & Discussions (11/21-11/23)

No new class contents. Q & A about the research paper.

Note: No class on Friday, November 24.

Week 15: Review & Conclusion (11/27-12/01)

Meetings are for reviews, conclusion and Q & A purposes only.

Note: Research paper due 11:59 p.m., 12/01/2017.

Final Exam: Friday, December 06, 2016, 12:30 – 1:20 PM. [1]

[1] **Note:** This syllabus is subject to change at the instructor's discretion if necessary. Changes to the syllabus, if any, will be announced in class and the updated syllabus will be posted on Webcourses.