COURSE OVERVIEW
Welcome to Chinese Politics! This course attempts to understand China from four perspectives: China as China, China as a Communist party state, China as a developing country, and China as a rising power. Through these lenses, the course examines the historical factors that have shaped the contemporary political environment. It also investigates the nuts and bolts of contemporary Chinese institutions and the nature of Chinese Communist Party rule to bring into sharp relief the challenges and opportunities China faces for the future. Finally, it examines China’s influence and security concerns within the international community.

COURSE OBJECTIVES
By the end of this course, you will:
1. Understand the Confucian and Communist influence on China’s political institutions and politics today.
2. Assess the strengths and weaknesses of China’s current political structure.
3. Understand China’s influence and security concerns within the international community.
4. Become a critical and informed reader on current debates related to China.

COURSE EXPECTATIONS
Please complete the assigned readings before class. Ask questions! Remember, there are no stupid questions. I often find that after getting a “stupid” question answered, difficult concepts will more easily click into place. Please visit me during office hours regarding any problem about the class, the readings, or the assignments. If you are unable to make these office hours, please email or call me to arrange another time.

Be sure to understand St. Lawrence’s Constitution of the Academic Honor Council. All
suspected violations of the academic honor code will be reported to the Academic Honor Council.

**READINGS**

- Please acquire the following at Brewers Bookstore:

- **Current Events.** Suggested sources:
  - Yahoo News Asia
  - China Digital Times
  - People’s Daily (English) Official paper of the Chinese Communist Party.
  - The Economist on China Go to SLU library website.
  - New York Times on China Go to SLU library website.
  - South China Morning Post Based in Hong Kong.

**REQUIREMENTS AND GRADES**

**Map Quiz** (5%): Given in class, 3/10.

**Exams & Essays** (60%): Two exams given on 2/24 and 3/31 (21% each). One take home essay due 5/1 (18%).

**Research Paper** (25%): 12–15 pages. This paper is based on a topic of your choosing. Breakdown of grade is as follows:

- 25 points trial annotated bibliography/research question (due 3/3)
- 100 points annotated bibliography/research question (due 4/9)
- 75 points oral presentation (last week and a half of classes)
- 300 points final paper (due 5/8).

**Class Participation** (10%): You are expected to participate actively, intelligently, and positively in this class. You are also expected to prepare a question or observation for each class and share at least three current events over the course of the semester that relates to the readings we have done thus far in class. Failure to prepare a question or report a current event will result in a penalty of being marked down ¼ absent.

- **Attendance Policy:** You are allowed two absences. No questions asked! After that, your participation grade will automatically be deducted by 1/2 a grade from the third missed class and onwards. For example, if you have 90 for a participation grade and three absences, your participation grade drops to an 85.
Late Policy: Please be punctual. Tardiness to class will be marked down as 1/4 absence, and late assignments will have points deducted from the overall grade.

Final Grade Structure

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CLASS SCHEDULE

TH. 1/15: Introduction and Overview
Begin learning China’s provinces, municipalities, autonomous regions, and special autonomous regions (SAR). A useful aid: Online China Province Quiz

WEEK 1

PART I: History to Present

China as China
1. T. 1/20: Studying Chinese Politics
   Qin dynasty and Qing dynasty: The First and Last Empire of China
   Text: William A. Joseph, Chapter 1, 3–18
   Text: R. Keith Schoppa, Chapter 2, 41–53

2. TH. 1/22: The Republican Era: Transforming China into a Modern State
   Text: R. Keith Schoppa, Chapter 2, 53–69
   Text: Frederick C. Teiws, Chapter 3, 72–79

WEEK 2
China as a Communist Party State
   Text: Frederick C. Teiwes, Chapter 3, 79–103

4. TH. 1/29:  **Mao in Power: Part II**  
   Text: Frederick C. Teiwes, Chapter 3, 103–116
   
   *To Live*, dir. by Zhang Yimou (1994; Shanghai Film Studio and ERA International, dvd). Will begin viewing in class.

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**WEEK 3**


China as a Developing Country
6. TH. 2/5:  **Deng Xiaoping’s Reforms**  
   Text: Bruce Gilley, Chapter 4, 119–134

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**WEEK 4**

7. T. 2/10:  **A Closer Look at Tiananmen and its Aftermath**  

   ◆Bibliography◆
   ◆Instructions for putting together an annotated bibliography◆

   TH. 2/12:  No class. FEBRUARY BREAK

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**WEEK 5**

China as a Rising Power
8. T. 2/17:  **After the Strongmen: Jiang Zemin, Hu Jintao, and Xi Jinping**  
   **Ideology and China’s Political Development**  
   Text: Bruce Gilley, Chapter 4, 134–144  
   Text: William A. Joseph, Chapter 5, 149–177

9. TH. 2/19:  **Ideology and China’s Political Development**  
   Text: William A. Joseph, Chapter 5, 177–188

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**WEEK 6**

10. T. 2/24:  **Exam**

   **Part II: Chinese Communist Party & Political Institutions**
Chinese Communist Party
11. TH. 2/26: **How the Chinese Communist Party Rules**
McGregor, Chapter 1, part of Chapter 2, read to page 47

12. T. 3/3: **Structure and Dynamics of Chinese Communist Power**
Text: Cheng Li, Chapter 6, 192–221

Trial annotated bibliography/Research Question due 4 pm in my mailbox

13. TH. 3/5: **China Inc. & Keeper of the Files**
McGregor, Chapter 2, 47–69; Chapter 3

Political Institutions
14. T. 3/10: **The Emperor is Far Away; The Legal System**
McGregor, Chapters 6
Text: Jacques deLisle, Chapter 7, 224–241

Map Quiz

15. TH. 3/12: **China’s Legal System; China Inc.**
Text: Jacques deLisle, Chapter 7, 242–253

Movie: The People’s Court: Introducing the Rule of Law in China, dir. by

SPRING BREAK
(3/13-3/22)

16. T. 3/24: **China’s Educational System**
Educator, Hao Jiang, visits class. Please come with questions.

17. TH. 3/26: **The Hukou System**
Wang, Xin-Rui, Eddie Chi-Man Hui, Charles Choguill, Sheng-Hua Jia,

18. T. 3/31: **Exam**
Part III: China in the International Context

**China in Africa**

19. TH. 4/2: China in Mozambique & Zambia  
French, 3–68

20. T. 4/7: China in Mali  
*Why China in Africa is Different from the West*  
French, 142–184  

21. TH. 4/9: China in Ghana  
*Why China in Africa is the Same*  
French, 185–210; 259–266

◆ Annotated Bibliography & Research Problem Due (4 pm in my mailbox) ◆

**WEEK 12**

**China’s Security Concerns**

22. T. 4/14: Chinese Foreign Policy and Deciphering the U.S. Threat  
Nathan and Scobell, 3–10; 15–18; 33–36; 89–114  

23. TH. 4/16: Sino-American Relations, Debating Global Roles and Responsibilities  

**WEEK 13**

24. T. 4/21: Taiwan  
Text: Shelly Rigger, Chapter 18, 468–482  
Nathan and Scobell, 195–198; 212–221

? Pass out take home essay ?

25. TH. 4/23: Research Presentations

**WEEK 14**


27. TH. 4/30: Research Presentations & Conclusion
WEEK 15

F 5/1: Take home essay due 4 p.m. in my mailbox

F 5/8: Final Paper Due (noon in my mailbox (Hepburn 102))