The Rise of China
Boston University

Fall – 2016
IR 365/PO352
Tuesdays & Thursdays: 9:30 – 11:00 am
Location: KCB Room 107
(Version: 9/4)

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Course Description

This course provides undergraduates with a broad introduction to China’s political, economic, and strategic development during the modern era (with some introduction of China’s past). The discussion begins with the lowest point in Chinese history when the country was rendered as a semi-colony of Western powers and ends with China’s contemporary rise and implications for the world. The questions asked include: In what ways is China rising? How did it happen? How does China’s rise impact the U.S and the global system? The course will examine the historical background first, and then look at the economic development, societal development, state development, and foreign policy to address the above questions.

Course Requirements

Attendance and participation (25%):

Required, unless you are sick or have an official BU conflict. You must notify me of your absence in advance. (Repeatedly being late might also accumulate to an absence.) Participation is crucial, and this requires that you keep up with the course readings.

- News presentation: you will be assigned to present news or current events once during the semester. You will need to send out the web link of the news article to the entire class by noon before the day you present. Your presentation should be about 5 minutes and should be related to the topic of the week. Describe what happened and why this is important. (5%)
- Quizzes: There will be pop-up quizzes on some days. Questions will be generally quite easy if you have been “present” during classes and have done the assigned readings (10%)
- You are expected to attend all classes and actively contribute to the discussions. Absences may be excused for medical, religious, official and personal reasons. Absences for illness for more than two days require a medical certificate. Absences for religious observances and for family or personal reasons require documentation. Absence for purposes of representing the University in authorized athletic events or officially sponsored activities are excused by notification from your sponsoring department or activity. The stated University policy reads: “Any student who has been excessively absent from a course may be required to withdraw from that course without credit.” I define “excessively absent” for this course to be six absences, excused or not. (10%)
Small group discussions and group project (35%): 
- We will break down into small groups (3-5 students each) to have structured discussions every class for about 15 minutes (We will use the method based on a process formulated by the Interactivity Foundation. A more detailed guide can be found online.1 A brief description of the process will be handed out. Each student will rotate to be the scribe and the facilitator during the semester. The scribe will write down the participants of the group with detailed discussion notes. Each group will develop a comprehensive report about a specific theme containing conceptual, contrasting policy possibilities. They will be presented in class at the end of the semester.
  - Research on the issue topic your group has decided. The use of scientific methods will be preferred. (reflected in the report)
  - Then, use the IF method to ask questions and raise concerns, generate policy possibilities, explore potential implementations and consequences, revise the policy possibilities. The outcome is a report. (15%)
  - Group presentation on the possibilities (10%)
  - Scribe notes (5%)
    - What was discussed
    - Why you made certain decisions
    - Did the rules work or not
  - Creativity, effectiveness, and management of the project (5%)
    - Decision making process
    - Necessary functions and institutions
    - Awareness and adjustments
    - Effective resource mobilization
    - Meeting attendance
    - Meeting schedule (discussions on individual countries, theme selection, comparison and material gathering, etc.)
    - Communication with the instructor (apply for time needed at the end of the class, default 30 min; representative; written document, etc.)

Exams (40%): 
There will be two equally weighted exams in this course. The first midterm will be held on Thursday, 10/13, the second on Tuesday, 11/22.

Grading

Your grade for the course will be based on your performance on the above assignments, as well as your preparedness for and participation in class:
- Attendance and Participation 25%
- Small Group Projects 35%
- First Midterm Exam 20%
- Second Midterm Exam 20%

1 Please visit <http://studentguide.interactivityfoundationwiki.wikispaces.net/>
For written work, the A range will comprise only work which features strikingly original thinking and/or argumentation, expressed in clear, cogent, error-free writing. Only students that go well beyond class materials and discussions (in thought, not extra research) will be considered for an A grade. Papers and examinations in the B range exhibit mastery of the course materials and discussions, expressed in clear, cogent, error-free writing. Papers and examinations in the C range exhibit inadequate understanding of the course materials and discussions and/or deficient, error-plagued writing. Papers and examinations in the D range exhibit wholly inadequate understanding of the course materials combined with deficient, error-plagued writing. Hopefully the D range and worse will not be an issue. Pluses, minuses, or flat grades within any of these ranges reflect the instructors’ judgment of the merits of the paper or examination relative to other papers in the same range. All late assignments will be reduced 1/3 of a grade for every day they are late. Students may appeal grades they feel they received in error but I reserve the right to increase or decrease their grade upon reconsideration. To appeal you must explain, in writing, why you believe your grade is incorrect before coming to talk to me. I am willing to give “A”s when deserved but I am also willing to use the other parts of the grading spectrum to make sure that those whose work is truly outstanding truly stand out. Your work does not start at “A” level with subtraction for things wrong with it. I frequently give “B”s to work that is very good and without obvious shortcoming, and which only has the flaw of not being A quality work.

Academic Integrity

Students are expected to do their own work and to accurately and honestly give credit for information, ideas, and words obtained elsewhere. Plagiarism will be dealt with strictly according to the Academic Conduct Code (http://www.bu.edu/cas/students/undergrad-resources/code/ ); please review the website for examples of what counts as plagiarism so you know how to avoid it. If you have questions or concerns about how to properly cite outside sources, feel free to contact me and I will be happy to assist you.

Course Outline (readings with * are optional)

9/6: Introduction

9/8: Methods
Gundersen, Adolf. 2007. “A Brief Description of Interactivity Foundation’s Sanctuary and Public Discussions”, Interactivity Foundation

9/13: Historic Overview

9/15: Economic Reform
9/20: Economic Development I: background

9/22: Economic Development II: consequences

9/27: Changing Political Landscape

9/29: Political Structure and Institutions
*Lawrence, Susan and Michael Martin. 2013. “Understanding China’s Political System.”* *Congressional Research Service*, P1-41

10/4: Political Reform I: Local Politics

10/6: Political Reform II: Elite Politics

10/11: no class (Monday Schedule)

10/13: **First mid-term**

10/18: Changing Society I: Civil Society

10/20: Changing Society II: a case study of state-society relations

10/25: Policy making in China

10/27: Policy Experimentation

11/1: Authoritarian Resilience I

11/3: Authoritarian Resilience II

11/8: Corruption and Legitimacy I

11/10: Corruption and Legitimacy II

11/15: China’s Rise I

11/17: China’s Rise II

11/22: Second mid-term

11/24: no class (Thanksgiving break)

11/29: Foreign Policy I

12/1: Foreign Policy II

12/6: The Future I

**Group Project Presentation**

12/8: The Future II

**Group Project Presentation**