

BOSTON UNIVERSITY

CHINA: FROM REVOLUTION TO REFORM

CAS IR 370/PO 369

Semester I – 2007/2008

Mon., Weds., Fri.: 10:00-11:00

CAS 116

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Office hours: Mon., 1:00-4:00;
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COURSE CONTENT

This course is intended as an introduction to the political and economic development of contemporary China, with particular attention to the dynamics of the Chinese Communist Party (CCP). The course will look first at the breakdown of the imperial system, the reasons China embarked on a path of revolution, the origins and development of the CCP and then concentrate on the economic and political development of the People's Republic of China (PRC), including the early years, the Great Leap Forward, the Cultural Revolution, and the reform era. The course will also examine how the interplay between China's domestic politics and the outside world has affected China's development as well as the dilemmas involved in trying to reform a socialist economy.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

There will be two in-class midterm exams, one paper, and a take-home exam. The midterm exams will be held on Monday, October 1 and Friday, November 2. The paper should be 12-15 pages long and should focus on a major problem addressed in class. It will be due on Monday December 3. The take-home exam will be due on the last day of class, Wednesday, December 12.

In addition, there will be a map quiz. This will be ungraded but must be passed in order to complete this course. You may take it as many times as you want, but you must pass it!

NOTE: The paper must be submitted on time. "On time" means the start of class on the day the paper is due. Late papers will be severely downgraded.

COURSE READINGS:

The texts for this course are as follows:

Keith Schoppa, *Revolution and Its Past: Identities and Change in Modern Chinese Society*,
Second Edition (Upper Saddle River, NJ: Pearson Prentice Hall, 2006) ISBN 0-13-

193039-7.

Maurice Meisner, *Mao's China and After*, Third Edition (New York: Simon and Schuster, 1999).

These books are all available at the Barnes and Noble Bookstore. In addition, a few assigned articles are on the Courseinfo website.

POLICY ON ABSENCES

YOU ARE EXPECTED TO ATTEND ALL CLASSES. 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. Attendance will be a factor in grading.

POLICY ON "INCOMPLETES"

No incomplete grades will be reported unless the instructor and the student have conferred, the student has presented a sufficient reason why the work of the course cannot be completed on schedule, and the instructor has assigned a date within the succeeding twelve months by which time all course requirements must be completed. This must be in written form. No degree credit for incomplete courses will be granted unless the work is completed by the date assigned, which must be no later than one calendar year from the date on which the incomplete grade was reported. In the event that coursework remains incomplete on the assigned date or twelve months after the "I" grade has been awarded, whichever ever comes first, the "I" grade will be changed automatically and permanently to an "F" grade.

POLICY ON PLAGIARISM

Plagiarism is the passing off of the ideas or words of another as your own. It is taken very seriously at Boston University as at all institutions of higher learning. Those believed to have committed plagiarism must appear before a university disciplinary board, a procedure that can result in a student's suspension or expulsion. Your papers should contain appropriate citations. It is better to use too many citations than too few. If you have any doubt about what constitutes plagiarism, please talk with me.

GRADING

Grades will be determined on the following basis:

Class Participation	10%
Midterm Exam	20%
Midterm Exam	20%
Paper	25%
Take-home Exam	25%

COURSE OUTLINE

Week 1: INTRODUCTION: THE PROBLEM OF MODERN CHINESE POLITICS

- #1 Wed., Sept. 5: Introduction and Organization
Introduce the basic outline of the course and expectations of the students.
The problem of Governance
- #2 Fri., Sept. 7: China in the Late Qing
Reading:
Schoppa, *Revolution and Its Past*, pp. 1-26.

Week 2: MODERNIZATION AND REVOLUTION

- #3 Mon., Sept. 10: The Crisis of the late Qing
Reading:
Schoppa, *Revolution and Its Past*, pp. 27-65.
- #4 Wed., Sept. 12: The Failure of Reform
Reading:
Schoppa, *Revolution and Its Past*, pp. 66-104.
- #5 Fri., Sept. 14: The Revolution of 1911 and Emergence of Warlordism
Reading:
Schoppa, *Revolution and Its Past*, pp. 105-142.

Week 3: THE REVOLUTIONARY PATH

- #6 Mon., Sept. 17: Social and Political Ferment
Reading:
Schoppa, *Revolution and Its Past*, pp. 143-161..
- #7 Wed., Sept. 19: The May Fourth Movement
Reading:
Schoppa, *Revolution and Its Past*, pp. 162-180.
- #8 Fri., Sept. 21: Cultural Ferment
Reading:
Lu Xun, "Dairy of a Madman" (on courseinfo website)
Lu Xun, "Ah Q -- The Real Story" (on courseinfo website)

Week 4: THEORY AND PRACTICE OF CHINESE COMMUNISM

#9 Mon., Sept. 24: The Nationalist Revolution

Reading:

Schoppa, *Revolution and Its Past*, pp. 201-220.

#10 Wed., Sept. 26: The Introduction of Marxism Into China

Reading:

Schoppa, *Revolution and Its Past*, pp. 181-200.

#11 Fri., Sept. 28: The Early Development of the CCP

Reading:

Schoppa, *Revolution and Its Past*, pp. 221-240.

Mao Zedong, "Report on the Peasant Situation"

Week 5: MAO ZEDONG IN THEORY AND PRACTICE

#12 Mon., Oct. 1: MIDTERM EXAM

#13 Wed., Oct. 3: Yanan and the Formation of Mao Zedong Thought.

Reading:

Mao Tse-tung, "On Practice" (on courseinfo website).

Meisner, *Mao's China and After*, pp. 31-51.

#14 Fri., Oct. 5: Mao Zedong Thought

Reading:

Mao Tse-tung, "On Contradiction" (on courseinfo website).

Week 6: FROM REVOLUTION TO STATEHOOD

NOTE: NO CLASS, MONDAY, OCT., 8

#15 Tues., Oct. 9: Mao on Literature and Art

Reading:

Mao Tse-tung, "Talks at the Yanan Forum on Literature and Art" (on courseinfo website).

#16 Wed., Oct. 10: Wartime China

Reading:

Schoppa, *Revolution and Its Past*, pp. 241-285.

#17 Fri., Oct. 12: Founding the New State

Reading:

Meisner, *Mao's China and After*, pp. 55-74.

Schoppa, *Revolution and Its Past*, pp. 286-304.

PAPER PROPOSALS DUE

Week 7: THE EARLY YEARS OF THE PRC, 1949-1957

#18 Mon., Oct. 15: Consolidating the New Regime

Reading:

Meisner, *Mao's China and After*, pp. 75-89.

Schoppa, *Revolution and Its Past*, pp. 305-318.

#19 Wed., Oct. 17: Transforming the Countryside

Reading:

Meisner, *Mao's China and After*, pp. 90-102.

#20 Fri., Oct. 19: Transforming the Cities

Reading:

Meisner, *Mao's China and After*, pp.103-152.

Week 8: TOWARD THE GREAT LEAP FORWARD PERIOD

#21 Mon., Oct. 22: The Party and the Intellectuals

Reading:

Mao Zedong, "On the Correct Handling of Contradictions Among the People" (on courseinfo website).

Meisner, *Mao's China and After*, pp. 155-190.

REVISED PAPER PROPOSALS AND BIBLIOGRAPHY DUE

#22 Wed., Oct. 24: The Party and Intellectuals: Hundred Flowers and the Anti-Rightist Movement

Reading:

Meisner, *Mao's China and After*, pp. 191-204.

#23 Fri., Oct. 26: Why the Great Leap Forward?

Reading:

Schoppa, *Revolution and Its Past*, pp.326-345.

Week 9: THE GREAT LEAP FORWARD

#24 Mon., Oct. 29: The Great Leap Forward

Reading:

Meisner, *Mao's China and After*, pp. 204-213.

#25 Weds., Oct. 31: The Impact of the Great Leap Forward

Reading:

Meisner, *Mao's China and After*, pp. 214-241.

#26 Fri., Nov. 2: MIDTERM EXAM

Week 10: ORIGINS OF THE CULTURAL REVOLUTION

#27 Mon., Nov. 5: The Impact of the GLF on the Leadership

Reading:

Meisner, *Mao's China and After*, pp. 245-272.

#28 Weds., Nov. 7: The Socialist Education Campaign

Reading:

Meisner, *Mao's China and After*, pp. 273-288.

Fri., Nov. 9: The Unfolding of the Cultural Revolution

Reading:

Meisner, *Mao's China and After*, pp. 312-351.

Schoppa, *Revolution and Its Past*, pp. 346-365.

Week 11: THE CULTURAL REVOLUTION AND THE PASSING OF MAO

#29 Mon., Nov. 12: NOTE: NO CLASS – VETERANS DAY

#30 Weds., Nov. 14: The Impact of the Cultural Revolution

Reading:

Meisner, *Mao's China and After*, pp. 352-375.

#31 Fri., Nov. 16: The End of the Cultural Revolution and the Problem of Succession

Reading:

Meisner, *Mao's China and After*, pp. 376-410.

Schoppa, *Revolution and Its Past*, pp. 366-392.

Week 12: THE EMERGENCE OF REFORM

#32 Mon., Nov. 19: The Origins of Reform

Reading:

Meisner, *Mao's China and After*, pp. 413-426.

FALL RECESS: NOV. 21-NOV. 25

Week 13: THE EVOLUTION OF REFORM

#33 Mon., Nov. 26: The Evolution of Reform

Reading:

Meisner, *Mao's China and After*, pp. 427-448.

#34 Wed., Nov.28: The Politics of Reform

Reading:

Meisner, *Mao's China and After*, pp. 449-482.

#35 Fri., Nov. 30: Searching for New Solutions

Reading:

Schoppa, *Revolution and Its Past*, pp. 393-423.

Week 14: TIANANMEN AND THE EMERGENCE OF A NEW ERA

#36 Mon., Dec. 3: A Jiang Zemin Era?

Reading:

Meisner, *Mao's China and After*, pp. 483-513.

PAPERS DUE

#37 Weds., Dec. 5: Why Political Stability in the New Period?

Reading:

Kang Xiaoguang, "Political Development and Political Stability in the Era of Reform" (on courseinfo website).

#38 Fri., Dec. 7: Does the Polity Really Need to Reform?

Reading:

Fewsmith, "Continuing Pressures on the Social Order" (on courseinfo website).

Week 15: A SUMMING UP

#39 Mon., Dec. 10: A Century of Revolution and Reform

A Summing Up

Readings:

Fewsmith, "Historical Echoes in Contemporary Chinese Politics" (on reserve).

#40 Wed., Dec. 12: The Future of the Chinese Communist Party

TAKE HOME EXAM DUE