UGEC1540 Government and Politics of China

No. of Credits: 3
Time: Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday 09:30 – 12:15
Location: ARC G04

Instructor: Prof. Gerald CHAN
Politics and International Relations, University of Auckland
Email: gerald.chan@auckland.ac.nz

Teaching Assistant: Ms. Yvonne LUI
Email: UGEC1540@cuhk.edu.hk

Course Description
This is an introductory course that surveys key issues in Chinese politics, including the historical background of the Chinese political system, the roles of the party/state, the style of leadership, the forms of popular participation, and the distinctive features of Chinese politics. The focus of this course is political change.

Classic essays by Sun Yatsen, Lu Xun, Mao Zedong and others provide students with grounding in the key problems modern China has faced, as well as the solutions it has pioneered. From that foundation, we will move on to contemporary institutions and intellectual debates over inequality, human rights, foreign relations, and the future shape of political reform in China.

Remarks
- UGEC1540 is double-coded with GPAD1070.
- Not for Government and Public Administration Majors and CUHK students who have taken GPAD1070.
- Co-requisite: UGFH1000 or UGFN1000 (only applicable to CUHK students admitted to the 4-year curriculum).

Learning Outcomes
By successfully completing this course, you should be able to
- Acquire adequate knowledge and understanding of Chinese political history and the contemporary politics of China;
- Explore the main theoretical, empirical, and methodological approaches to the study of Chinese politics;
- Relate these approaches to the broader field of comparative politics;
- Develop conceptual ability to analyze and explain major issues and challenges confronting China today.

Recommended Textbook

Reading(s)/Reference(s)
- Chan, Gerald, China’s compliance in global affairs (World Scientific, 2006).
- Chan, Gerald, China’s digital Silk Road (Edward Elgar, 2022).
- Chan, Gerald, China’s maritime Silk Road (Edward Elgar, 2020).
- Chan, Gerald, Understanding China’s new diplomacy: Silk Roads and bullet trains (Edward Elgar, 2018).
- Chan, Gerald, Pak K. Lee and Lai-Ha Chan, China engages global governance (Routledge, 2012).
- Chan, Lai Ha, Gerald Chan and Kwan Fung (eds), China at 60: global-local interactions (World Scientific,
2011).
- Dreyer, June T., *China’s political system*, 10th ed (Routledge, 2019).

The following website offers a good starting point for searching academic materials on China studies:
http://sun.sino.uni-heidelberg.de/igcs/ighist.htm

The following are academic journals (in English) relevant to China studies:
- *The China Quarterly*;
- *The China Journal*;
- *The China Review*;
- *China: An International Journal*;
- *Journal of Contemporary China*;
- *Issues & Studies*;
- *The Chinese Journal of International Politics*.

**Grading Weights**

Two in-class tests to test students’ mastery of the knowledge learnt in this course, including the methodological approaches to and the empirical contents of the study of modern Chinese politics and government:

1. First in-class test (one hour), 50%, on Thursday, 13 July 2023.
2. Second in-class test (one hour), 50%, on Thursday, 27 July 2023.

Students should report all leave and absences, including sick leave and absences from class, to their course teacher and the Office of Academic Links. In case of illness/injury necessitating absence, a medical certificate is required as documentary evidence. A student who has been absent for a continuous period exceeding two consecutive days shall be considered to have withdrawn from the International Summer School. All fees paid will not be refunded.
**GRADE Descriptor**

**A:** Demonstrates the ability to comprehend and apply the subject knowledge of the course as stated in the course description (key issues in Chinese politics, including: historical background of the system; roles of the party/state; style of leadership; forms of popular participation; distinctive features of Chinese politics; debates over inequality, human rights, and the future shape of political reform in China) with an outstanding performance on all required assignments and learning outcomes.

**A-:** Demonstrates the ability to comprehend and apply the subject knowledge of the course as stated in the course description (key issues in Chinese politics, including: historical background of the system; roles of the party/state; style of leadership; forms of popular participation; distinctive features of Chinese politics; debates over inequality, human rights, and the future shape of political reform in China) with a very good overall performance on all required assignments and learning outcomes.

**B:** Demonstrates the ability to comprehend and apply the subject knowledge of the course as stated in the course description (key issues in Chinese politics, including: historical background of the system; roles of the party/state; style of leadership; forms of popular participation; distinctive features of Chinese politics; debates over inequality, human rights, and the future shape of political reform in China) with a good overall performance on all required assignments and learning outcomes, or high performance on some required assignments and learning outcomes which compensates for less satisfactory performance on others, resulting in overall good performance.

**C:** Demonstrates the ability to comprehend and apply the subject knowledge of the course as stated in the course description (key issues in Chinese politics, including: historical background of the system; roles of the party/state; style of leadership; forms of popular participation; distinctive features of Chinese politics; debates over inequality, human rights, and the future shape of political reform in China) with satisfactory performance on the majority of required assignments and learning outcomes, possibly with some weakness.

**D:** Demonstrates the ability to comprehend and apply the subject knowledge of the course as stated in the course description (key issues in Chinese politics, including: historical background of the system; roles of the party/state; style of leadership; forms of popular participation; distinctive features of Chinese politics; debates over inequality, human rights, and the future shape of political reform in China) with barely satisfactory performance on a number of required assignments and learning outcomes.

**F:** Fails to demonstrate the ability to comprehend and apply the subject knowledge of the course as stated in the course description (key issues in Chinese politics, including: historical background of the system; roles of the party/state; style of leadership; forms of popular participation; distinctive features of Chinese politics; debates over inequality, human rights, and the future shape of political reform in China). Unsatisfactory performance on a number of required assignments and learning outcomes, or failure to meet specified assessment requirements.

**ASSIGNMENT Submission & Feedback**

The completed tests will be collected by the lecturer. Feedback of the first test will be given to or discussed with students shortly after marking is done, anticipated to be within a week.

Feedback to the tests will be online, to be delivered individually unless the feedback relates to generic student performance.
### Class Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topics</th>
<th>Readings/Assignment</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Wed, June 28</td>
<td>Introduction</td>
<td>In this first meeting, the lecturer will introduce the course, make necessary course arrangements, and answer any queries that students may have at this beginning stage.</td>
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</table>
| 2    | Thu, June 29 | Approaches to the study        | In this first lecture, we shall discuss the various approaches that scholars use to study Chinese politics. We shall try to answer the following questions, among others:  
(1) Why study approaches?  
(2) What are the approaches used by scholars?  
(3) How to assess the relevance of these approaches?  
(4) Analysing the analysts  
(5) What is the relationship between theory and practice?  
**Essential Readings:**  
• Guo, chapter 2.  
**Recommended Readings:**  
• Dreyer, chapters 1-2.  
• Gamer, chapter 1.  
• Joseph, chapter 1.  
• Liu, chapter 1.  
• Larus, chapter 1. |
| 3    | Tue, Jul 4   | The Communist Party            | (1) What is the Chinese Communist Party?  
(2) Why is it so powerful in China?  
(3) How does the Party exercise control in China?  
(4) What have been the major changes in the Party’s structure and functions?  
(5) What are the consequences of such changes?  
**Essential Readings:**  
• Guo, chapters 9 and 10.  
**Recommended Readings:**  
• Dreyer, chapter 4.  
• Joseph, chapter 6.  
• Liu, chapter 3.  
• Saich, chapter 4.  
• Lietherthal, chapter 6. |
| 4    | Wed, July 5  | The government                 | (1) What is the government structure of China?  
(2) How is governance exercised?  
(3) What is the relationship between the Party and the government?  
(4) What is the relationship between the central government and the local government?  
(5) How effective is China’s governance?  
**Essential Readings:**  
• Guo, chapters 9 and 10.  
**Recommended Readings:**  
• Liu, chapter 4.  
• Saich, chapter 5.  
• Larus, chapter 4.  
• Dreyer, chapter 6. |
| 5    | Thu, Jul 6   | The military                   | (1) What is the military structure of China?  
(2) What is the role of the military in Chinese politics?  
(3) Military modernisation: How far? How fast? |
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<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Text</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tue, July 6</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>The legislature</td>
<td>(1) What is China’s legislature? (2) What is the relationship between the legislature and the Party and government? (3) From the rule of man to the rule of law? (4) Between the rule of law and the rule by law (5) What is the prospect of China’s legal reform? Essential Readings: • Guo, chapters 11 and 12. Recommended Readings: • Liu, chapter 6. • Saich, chapter 5. • Dreyer, chapter 8. • Zou, Keyuan, <em>China’s legal reform</em> (Martinus Nijhoff Publishers, 2006).</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed, July 7</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>Politics</td>
<td>(1) What is the nature of Chinese politics? (2) What is the role of the Constitution? (3) What have been the changes and continuities of Chinese politics? (4) Why political reforms are so difficult to carry out in comparison with economic reforms? (5) What does the future hold for political reforms? Essential Readings: • Guo, chapter 10. Recommended Readings: • Dreyer, chapters 4-6. • Gamer, chapter 4. • Lieberthal, chapters 3-5. • Larus, chapter 4.</td>
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<td>Date</td>
<td>Topic</td>
<td>Questions</td>
<td>Essential Readings</td>
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<td>9 Tue, July 18</td>
<td>Society</td>
<td>(1) What are the traditional features of Chinese society?</td>
<td>• Guo, chapters 13 and 14.</td>
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<td>(2) How do political (revolutionary) changes affect the society?</td>
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<td>(3) How do economic changes affect the society?</td>
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<td>(4) What have been the changes to the civic awareness of the general public?</td>
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<td>(5) What has been the growth of civil society and how has it evolved in the current political climate?</td>
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<td>10 Wed, July 19</td>
<td>The environment</td>
<td>(1) What is the origin of China’s environmental awareness?</td>
<td>• Dreyer, chapter 11.</td>
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<td>(2) What is the scale of China’s environmental degradation?</td>
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<td>(3) How does China balance environmental protection with economic growth?</td>
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<td>(5) What are the prospects?</td>
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<td>(4) What is China’s view on humanitarian intervention?</td>
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<tr>
<td>Date</td>
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<td>Questions</td>
<td>Essential Readings</td>
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<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Foreign Policy</td>
<td>(1) What is Chinese foreign policy?</td>
<td>• Guo, chapters 17 and 18</td>
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<td>Tue, July 25</td>
<td></td>
<td>(2) What are China’s core national interests?</td>
<td>• Chan (2018), chapters 1 &amp; 2.</td>
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<td>(3) How to study Chinese foreign policy?</td>
<td>• Gamer, chapter 7.</td>
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<td>(4) Who makes foreign policy in China?</td>
<td>• Liu, chapter 7.</td>
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<td>• 'Vision and actions on jointly building Silk Road Economic Belt and 21st Century Maritime Silk Road' (available online)</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>Global Governance</td>
<td>(1) What is global governance?</td>
<td>• Guo, chapters 17 and 18</td>
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<td>13</td>
<td></td>
<td>(2) How does China engage global governance?</td>
<td>• Chan, chapter 11.</td>
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<td>Wed, July 26</td>
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<td>(3) Is China a rule-taker or a rule-maker in global affairs?</td>
<td>• Gamer, chapter 7.</td>
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<td>(4) Is China a responsible state in the international community?</td>
<td>• Liu, chapter 7.</td>
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<td>• 'Vision and actions on jointly building Silk Road Economic Belt and 21st Century Maritime Silk Road' (available online)</td>
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<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Conclusion/summing up</td>
<td>(Test 2)</td>
<td>• Guo, chapters 17 and 18</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thu, July 27</td>
<td>summing up [Test 2]</td>
<td></td>
<td>• Chan, Lee and Chan.</td>
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<td>• Chan (2006).</td>
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**ACADEMIC POLICIES**

Attention is drawn to University policy and regulations on honesty in academic work, and to the disciplinary guidelines and procedures applicable to breaches of such policy and regulations. Details may be found at [http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/policy/academichonesty/](http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/policy/academichonesty/).

With each assignment, students will be required to submit a signed declaration that they are aware of these policies, regulations, guidelines and procedures.

- In the case of group projects, all students of the same group should be asked to sign the declaration, each of whom is responsible and liable to disciplinary actions should there be any plagiarized contents in the group project, irrespective of whether he/she has signed the declaration and whether he/she has contributed directly or indirectly to the plagiarized contents.

- For assignments in the form of a computer-generated document that is principally text-based and submitted via VeriGuide, the statement, in the form of a receipt, will be issued by the system upon students' uploading of the soft copy of the assignment. A user manual of VeriGuide can be found at: [https://academic.veriguide.org/academic/documents/VeriGuide_Academic_Student_User_Manual_CUHK.pdf](https://academic.veriguide.org/academic/documents/VeriGuide_Academic_Student_User_Manual_CUHK.pdf).

Assignments without the properly signed declaration will not be graded by teachers. Only the final version of the assignment should be submitted via VeriGuide.

The submission of a piece of work, or a part of a piece of work, for more than one purpose (e.g. to satisfy the requirements in two different courses) without declaration to this effect shall be regarded as having committed undeclared multiple submission. It is common and acceptable to reuse a turn of phrase or a sentence or two from one's own work; but wholesale reuse is problematic. In any case, agreement from the course teacher(s) concerned should be obtained prior to the submission of the piece of work.