

**Sam Nunn School of International Affairs  
Georgia Institute of Technology**

**INTA 8803FW. Political Economy of China  
Fall 2023**

**Instructor: Dr. Fei-Ling Wang  
Time: TuTh 12:30-13:45  
Office Hours: TuTh 11:00-12:30 or by appointment.  
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### **The Course**

This course examines the political economy of China, the People's Republic of China (PRC). We will first explore the historical trajectory of Chinese political economy, with an analysis of China's peculiar sociopolitical system and its relationship with the economy, prior to the PRC. The bulk of the course will be on the economic system, policies, and records of the PRC especially since the 1980s. We will examine the main aspects of the Chinese economic development from agriculture, rural development, urbanization and industrialization, fiscal and monetary policies, to foreign trade and investment. We will assess the "Chinese Model" of economic development and PRC's new position in the world economy. The course will also consider some of the major events and developments such as the US-China trade disputes and the aftermath of the global Covid-19 pandemic.

There is no special requirement for this course except a willingness to read, think, and learn. The class will be organized as a seminar with a clear emphasis on having an extensive classroom participation of the students.

An effort of following the current events in the PRC is encouraged. Publications such as *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, and the *South China Morning Post* as well as the web-based news services list below are useful sources for up-to-date and diverse information and opinions about China in English:

China Digital Times: <http://chinadigitaltimes.net>

China Media Project: <http://cmp.hku.hk>

China Watch: <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/sponsored/china-watch/>

The Atlantic-China: <http://www.theatlantic.com/photo/categories/china/>

China Daily: <http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/index.html>

The students are expected to participate in classroom discussions. The assigned readings are expected to be finished before classes.

### **Course Rules**

Unless the student has an official letter from the GT administration certifying a need for special accommodation, audio or video recording is not allowed in class.

Cell phones are to be placed on vibrate mode or turned off and remain out of sight, unless you are expecting an emergency call (in that case, please alert the instructor before class). No texting during class.

Class attendance is mandatory unless excused for legit reasons with proper documentation (e.g., doctor's note). Lecture slides will not be available online, nor made available unless there was an excused absence.

In addition to observation of class rules and carrying a professional conduct in classroom, Attentive and active contribution to class discussions will be awarded. All views are welcome - we all learn from each other's insights.

### University Policies

The Ivan Allen College of Liberal Arts supports the Georgia Institute of Technology's commitment to creating a campus free of discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, or veteran status. We further affirm the importance of cultivating an intellectual climate that allows us to better understand the similarities and differences of those who constitute the Georgia Tech community, as well as the necessity of working against inequalities.

If you are a learner that requires adaptations for you to succeed in this course or are a student with disabilities that requires accommodations, please contact the Office of Disability (404) 894-2563 or [disabilityservices@gatech.edu](mailto:disabilityservices@gatech.edu) to make an appointment to discuss your needs and obtain the appropriate accommodation letter. Any student requiring such adaptation and accommodation should inform the instructor as soon as possible so to make the appropriate arrangement.

We have all committed to upholding the ideals of honor and academic integrity. Please consult University policies for more information ([policylibrary.gatech.edu/student-affairs/academic-honor-code](http://policylibrary.gatech.edu/student-affairs/academic-honor-code); [catalog.gatech.edu/rules/18/](http://catalog.gatech.edu/rules/18/)). Any student suspected of violations of honor code including but not limited to cheating or plagiarizing behavior will be automatically reported to the Office of Student Integrity, which will investigate the incident and recommend penalties for the violations.

### Course Requirements

Requirement	Marks	(%)
Participation/Attendance	200	20
Presentation	200	20
Reading Reports	200	20
Paper	400	40
Total	1,000	100

**Presentation** will be a research project exploring one aspect of Chinese political economy by the students. Each presenting group should select a research topic to be approved by the instructor by Week 5. Sample topics are: Chinese economic history prior to the PRC, Maoist economic policy, assessing the Chinese economy, internationalization of the RMB, Chinese foreign economic aid, the US-China trade war, and the economic impact of the Covid-19 Pandemic in China. Each group should conduct a collective research and write a report and, finally, make an oral presentation of no longer than 20 minutes to the class, followed by 5 minutes of Q & A. A written report (3 pages, single space or 5 pages, double space) is due on the day of the presentation.

**Participation/attendance** will be based on the quality and the quantity of your participation in class discussions and the group project. The class will be a mixture of informal

lecture and relaxed discussion. All views are welcome and those who participate actively will be rewarded appropriately. We all learn from each other's insights.

**Reading Report:** You are required to write two (2 pages, single space) reading reports on the two Wang books. You will be asked to orally present one of your reading reports to class for no longer than 10 minutes, Q&A inclusive.

**Research Paper:** You are required to write a research paper addressing one aspect of Chinese foreign policy. Your paper topic must be submitted with a brief justification to the instructor by Week 5. It should have 18 double-spaced pages, excluding bibliography and cover page. The completed paper is due on the last day of class.

Through those and other class activities, we aim at the following **Learning Outcomes:**  
Students will demonstrate the ability to describe the social, political, and economic forces that influence social behavior and the global system.

Students will be able to use their knowledge of international affairs in a practical way to address issues of immediate international concern.

Students will be able to understand current political events through an analytical lens of major theories of international relations.

Student will have cultural, contextual and ethical awareness of the diversity of cultural and ethical systems in the world.

**Course Materials:** (Books are available for purchase online or at GT Bookstore)

Arthur R. Kroeber, *China's Economy: What Everyone Needs to Know*, 2nd edition, Oxford University Press, June 2020 (Kroeber). Paperback, ISBN-13: 978-0190946463

Fei-Ling Wang, *The China Order: Centralia, World Empire, and the Nature of Chinese Power*, SUNY Press, 2017 (Wang I). Paperback, ISBN-13: 978-1438467481

Fei-Ling Wang, *The China Record: An Assessment of the People's Republic*. SUNY Press, 2023 (Wang II). Paperback, ISBN-13: 978-1438492261

Additional handout materials will be posted on Canvas.

## Course Outline:

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**Week 1 - 8/22, 8/24**

#### **Introduction**

Kroeber Chapter 1; Wang I 1-74; Wang II 1-12

**Week 2 – 8/29, 8/31**

#### **Political System and Record of Governance**

Wang I 99-158; Wang II 15-83, 184-196

**Week 3 – 9/5, 9/7**

#### **Economic History**

Kroeber Chapters 2-3; Wang I 159-193; Wang II 91-98

**Week 4 – 9/12, 9/14**

#### **Agriculture and Rural Economy**

	Kroeber Chapter 4
<b>Week 5 – 9/19, 9/21</b> 9/21	<b>Industry, Urban Economy and Export-led Growth</b> Kroeber Chapters 5-6; Wang II 95-98 <b>Research paper/Group presentation topic due</b>
<b>Week 6 – 9/26, 9/28</b>	<b>Firms and Resource Allocation</b> Kroeber Chapter 7, Wang II 129-132
<b>Week 7 – 10/3</b> 10/5	<b>Open Discussion: Numbers and the Record</b> <b>Reading Report I due – Presentation and Q&amp;A</b>
<b>Week 8 – 10/10</b> 10/12	<b>No class – enjoy fall break!</b> <b>Energy and the Environment</b> Kroeber Chapter 10; Wang II 213-225
<b>Week 9 – 10/17, 10/19</b>	<b>Fiscal and Monetary policies</b> Kroeber Chapters 8-9; Wang II 103-129
<b>Week 10 – 10/24, 10/26</b>	<b>Demography and Labor</b> Kroeber Chapter 11; Handout on <i>Hukou</i> System
<b>Week 11 – 10/31, 11/2</b>	<b>Socioeconomic Development</b> Kroeber Chapters 12-13; Wang II 135-153
<b>Week 12 – 11/7, 11/9</b>	<b>Quality of life, Disaster Relief, and Social Consequences</b> Wang II 153-184, 196-213
<b>Week 13 – 11/14, 11/16</b>	<b>The China Model and Its Assessment</b> Kroeber Chapter 14; Wang I 159-193; Wang II 85-91, 133-134
<b>Week 14 – 11/21</b> 11/23	<b>PRC in the World</b> Kroeber Chapter 15, Wang I 195-214; Wang II 227-229 <b>No class – Happy Thanksgiving!</b>
<b>Week 15 – 11/28</b> 11/30	<b>So What?</b> Wang I 215-218; Wang II 227-229 <b>Reading Report II due – Presentation and Q&amp;A</b>
<b>Week 16 – 12/5</b>	<b>Group Presentation</b> <b>Research Paper due</b>