

**GEORGIA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY**  
**The Sam Nunn School of International Affairs**

**INTA 8803FW. Chinese Politics** (Graduate students)  
Fall 2024

Instructor: Dr. Fei-Ling Wang

Time: TTh 15:30-16:45

Office Hours: TuTh 10:30-12:15 & 17:00-18:00 or by appointment

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**Course Description**

This course aims at examining the main aspects of Chinese politics—how the People’s Republic of China (PRC) is politically organized and governed. The emphasis will be a historical and comparative description of the governmental institutions, political culture, and political party—the Chinese Communist Party (CCP). We will also discuss and assess the CCP-PRC government’s policy-making in the areas of the economy, sociocultural affairs, disease-control, and foreign policy. The aim is to understand the internal sociopolitical structure and dynamics of the PRC as a rising world power, representing an alternative mode of sociopolitical governance and a distinctive model of economic development.

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 the different views 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!

### 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/accommodation should make 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 ([www.policylibrary.gatech.edu/student-affairs/academic-honor-code](http://www.policylibrary.gatech.edu/student-affairs/academic-honor-code); [www.catalog.gatech.edu/rules/18/](http://www.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
Group Presentation	200	10
Reading Report	200	20
Research Paper	400	30
Total	1,000	100

**Group Presentation** will be a research project exploring one aspect of Chinese politics by the students. Each presenting group should select a research topic to be approved by the instructor by Week 5. Sample topics are: China's political parties; leading factions inside the CCP; the political role of the PLA; corruption; the trade war with the US; and the PRC's management of the Covid-19 pandemic. Each group should conduct a collective research and write a report and, finally, make an oral presentation of no longer than 15-19 minutes to the class, including Q & A. A written report (3 pages, single space or 5 pages, double space) is due on the day of the presentation. The format of the presentation may be modified later depending on logistic conditions.

**Participation/attendance** will be based on the quality and the quantity of your participation in class discussions and the Q&A sessions of 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 (2-3 pages, single space) reading reports on Joseph, Wang I or Wang II. The reports should be critical summaries of the book(s). No outside reading or research is needed. You are required to make an oral presentation (including Q&A) of one of your reports and lead class discussion.

**Research Paper:** You are required to write a research paper addressing one aspect of Chinese politics. Your paper topic must be submitted with a brief justification to the instructor by Week 5. It should have 14-15 double-spaced pages, excluding bibliography and cover page. The completed paper is due on the last day of class.

**Learning Outcomes:**

Through those and other class activities, we aim at the following Learning Outcomes:

Student 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)

William A. Joseph ed., *Politics in China: An Introduction*, Third Edition, Oxford University Press. 2019 (Joseph)

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

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

**Course Outline:**

Week 1 Introduction: The study of Chinese politics  
8/20, 8/22 Joseph, 3-35 (Intro), Wang 1-38 (Intro and Chapter 1)

Week 2 Part I – Political History and Tradition  
The Qin-Han Polity

	8/27, 8/29	Wang I, 39-74 (Chapter 2), skim Chapters 3-4
Week 3	The Defining Century: Progress and Humiliation 9/3, 9/5	Joseph 45-73 (Chapter 2), Wang I, 135-158 (Chapter 5)
Week 4	The Great Leap Backward 9/10, 9/12	Wang I, 159-193 (Chapter 6), skim Chapter 7
Week 5	From Mao Zedong to Deng Xiaoping and Xi Jinping 9/17, 9/19	Joseph 76-120 (Chapters 3), 124-150 (Chapter 4) <b>(Presentation topic due 9/19); (Research paper topic due 9/19)</b>
Week 6	Part II – The Party-State Chinese Political Ideology 9/24, 9/26	Joseph 157-197 (Chapters 5), Wang II 15-34 (part of Chapter 1)
Week 7	The Party-State: The Structure 10/1 10/3	Joseph 201-234 (Chapter 6) <b>First reading report due</b>
Week 8	Chinese Legal System 10/8, 10/10	Joseph 237-266 (Chapter 7)
Week 9	10/15 10/17	No class – Enjoy the Fall Break Assessing the Party-State Wang II 1-13 & 34-83 (Intro and part of Chapter 1)
Week 10	Part III –Policies and Records PRC Political Economy 10/22, 10/24	Joseph 274-307 (Chapter 8), skim chapter 9 &10
Week 11	China’s Socioeconomic Record 10/29, 10/31	Wang II 85-174 (Chapters 2-3)
Week 12	Arts, Environment, and Population 11/5, 11/7	Joseph 371-380, 381-396 & 418-437 (Chapters 11, 12 & 14)
Week 13	Chinese Spirit, Education, and Ecology 11/12, 11/14	Wang II 175-225 (Chapter 4), skim Joseph chapters 13 & 15.
Week 14	The Periphery and the Minorities 11/19, 11/21	Joseph 257-482, 487-510 (Chapters 16 & 17), skim chapters 18 & 19
Week 15	Part IV - Conclusion 11/26 11/28	<b>Second reading report due</b> No class—Happy Thanksgiving!
Week 16	12/3	<b>Group Presentation; Research paper due</b>