

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

**INTA 4332. Chinese Institutions and Ideations
Spring 2025**

**Instructor: Dr. Fei-Ling Wang
Time: TuTh 17:00-18:15
Office Hours: TuTh 11:00-13:30 or by appointment.
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This is a Core IMPACTS course that is part of the Social Sciences area

Core IMPACTS refers to the core curriculum, which provides students with essential knowledge in foundational academic areas. This course will help students master course content, and support students' broad academic and career goals.

This course should direct students toward a broad Orienting Question:
How do I understand human experiences and connections?

Completion of this course should enable students to meet the following Learning Outcome:
Students will effectively analyze the complexity of human behavior, and how historical, economic, political, social, or geographic relationships develop, persist, or change.

More specifically, students will be able to demonstrate knowledge of theories of international relations and apply them in analyzing events and outcomes in world affairs.

Course content, activities, and exercises in this course should help students develop the following Career-Ready Competencies:

- Intercultural Competence
- Perspective-Taking
- Persuasion

Course Description

This course is an in-depth study of some of the key institutions and ideations of the Chinese state and the Chinese society. After a brief discussion of the Chinese political history, it will focus on the structural and ideological characteristics of the Chinese way of governance, the Chinese view of world order, and the Chinese sociopolitical life. We will particularly examine the *Qin-Han* polity and the China Order, the *hukou* (household registration) system, and the Chinese Communist Party. In so doing, we will attempt to assess the so-called "Chinese Model" of economic development, the future of the rise of China, and the likelihood and impact of the PRC (People's Republic of China) as an alternative political organization and a new world leader.

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.

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 to make an appointment to discuss your needs and obtain the appropriate accommodation letter. Any student requiring such adaptation/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; 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.

AI Policy

Generative AI agents offer additional opportunities for learning, research and communication. It is therefore allowed in this class as long as the GT Honor Code and the guidelines below are met.

Responsibility: you are responsible for the work submitted/presented, and ensure that any factual statements produced by a generative AI tool are true and that any references or citations produced by the AI tool are correct.

Transparency: Any generative AI tools you use in the group presentation of the course should be clearly acknowledged, including not only content directly produced by a generative AI tool but also when a generative AI tool is used in the process of composition and translation.

Documentation: You should cite any content generated by an AI tool as you would when quoting, paraphrasing, or summarizing ideas, text, images, or other content made by other people.

Course Requirements

Requirement	Marks	(%)
Participation/Attendance	250	25
First presentation of critique	250	25
Second presentation of critique	250	25
Third presentation of critique	250	25
Total	1,000	100

The three **presentations** are three thematical exercises. Each student is required to write and submit three essays to critically reporting on the three segments of our class readings that

cover three subjects: the institutional and ideational tradition of politics and governance in China, the *hukou* system and the state-society relationship in China, and the nature and future of the Chinese Communist Party. Each essay should be 3 pages long (single space) or 5 pages long (double space). The instructor will then randomly designate some of the students to orally present their critiques and facilitate class discussions about the themes. We may adjust the format of the presentation later, depending on the size of the class and other logistic conditions.

Participation/attendance will be based on the quality and the quantity of your participation in class discussions. 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.

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 online or at GT Bookstore)

Richard McGregor: *The Party: The Secret World of China's Communist Rulers*, Harper, 2012 (McGregor 2012)

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

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

Additional materials posted on Canvas.

Course Outline:

Week 1 – 1/7, 1/9

Introduction

Wang 2017: 1-38; Wang 2023:1-12.

Week 2 – 1/14/, 1/16

Political Institutions – The New Qin-Han Polity

Wang 2017: 39-74; Wang 2023:15-54.

Week 3 – 1/21, 1/23

World Views – The China Order

Wang 2017: 99-134

Week 4 – 1/28, 1/30

What if? The Counterfactual

Wang 2017: 135-194

Week 5 – 2/4, 2/6

The Record

Wang 2023: 69-84, 91-229

Week 6 – 2/11, 2/13	Critique I: the Chinese State Essays due on 2/11
Week 7 – 2/18, 2/20	To Govern – Key Pillars Handout (Joseph 203-213; 237-262)
Week 8 – 2/25, 2/27	The <i>Hukou</i> System Handouts: (On hukou)
Week 9 – 3/4 3/6	Chinese Society and Demography Handout (Wang, Carrico, Myers); Watch <i>One Child Nation</i>
Week 10 – 3/11, 3/13	Critique II: the Chinese State-Society Relationship Essays due on 3/11
Week 11 – 3/18, 3/20	No class – enjoy the Spring Break!
Week 12 – 3/25, 3/27	The Party McGregor 2012: xvii-33; Wang 2023: 55-69; Handout (CFR Backgrounder)
Week 13 – 4/1, 4/3	The Leadership McGregor 2012: 135-193, skim 194-228
Week 14 – 4/8, 4/10	Mission and Vision McGregor 2012: 229-272; Xi 2021 (handout)
Week 15 – 4/15, 4/17	Critique III: the Chinese Party-State Essays due on 4/15
Week 16 – 4/22	The China Model and the China Dream Wang 2017: 195-218; Wang 2023: 85-91. Handout (<i>The China Race</i> 77-97)