

Professor: Guthrie

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World Cultures: China, V55.0512

Introduction

It is no longer controversial to state that China has now emerged as one of the most powerful economies in the world. Understanding China's role in the global economy is absolutely crucial for understanding the shifting balance of power that is currently underway in the world. However, while the fact of China's emergence as a global economic superpower is widely recognized, how the process has occurred is less well understood. In order to examine China's current place in the world, this course is divided into three parts. In the first part of the course, we look at some crucial aspects of Chinese history and culture that must form the backdrop for an analysis of Chinese society today. Following that, we will delve into the logic of the economic reforms that have unfolded there over the last 25 years. In the final part of the course, we will consider what these changes mean for several key issues that China and the world face—from the fate of communism in China, to the prospects for democracy, to issues of human rights and China's military strength.

Texts

W. Scott Morton and Charlton M. Lewis, *China: Its History and Culture*, 4th edition, New York: McGraw-Hill (2005).

Suzanne Ogden, ed., *Global Studies: China*, 11th edition. New York: Dushkin/McGraw Hill (2006).

Doug Guthrie, *China and Globalization: The Social, Political, and Economic Transformation of Chinese Society*, New York: Routledge (2006).

Lecture

Attendance at lecture is required. You are responsible for material covered in the lecture as well as the material covered in all assigned readings. In other words: anything in lecture or the readings is fair game for the mid-term and final exams. In addition, if I happen to give a pop quiz in lecture and you are not there for it, there will be no make-ups.

Section

Discussion section will be divided into two parts. In the first few minutes of section, your preceptor will lead a (short) class discussion, the goal of which is to answer any questions you have from the readings or the lectures. The remainder of the time will be occupied by group work on specific issues. These discussions will cover an issue your group has selected, developing research strategies for learning more about the issue and developing arguments that will help you formulate an educated opinion on the issue. These issues are broad and deep, so it

should take multiple class periods as well as work outside of class to fully explore a given issue. Your group will focus on a group-written opinion article on an important debate issue that is relevant in Chinese society today (topics are listed at the end of the syllabus). These papers will be handed in during section on the week in which your group is scheduled to present on the topic. Your group will present your analysis and findings in a formal, professional 15-minute presentation, with a 5-minute Q&A session to follow (most students use powerpoint for the presentations, though other presentation methods will also be acceptable). Attendance in section is required. Failure to attend section will result in a low participation grade, which will have a significant impact on your grade overall.

Grading

The final grade is based strictly on a distribution curve. This means that final grades are calculated *relative to the performance of the rest of the class*. Thus, grades have no meaning independent of the performance of the rest of the class. Note that this means that there is no inherent grade attached to a given percentage score on a given exam or paper. Two different distribution curves are employed in the calculation of your grades: first, for in-class exams where the relevant comparison group is the entire class (i.e., the in-class midterm and final), I use a class-wide distribution curve; second for grades for which there is a subjective component (i.e., those grades that are judged by your TA) and the relevant comparison group is your section, I use an intra-section distribution curve. These curves are then rated accordingly to calculate a final grade. The distribution curve I employ is the following: 10% of the class will receive a grade of A; 15% will receive A-; 20% will receive B+; 25% will receive B; 20% will receive B-; 10% C+ or lower.

Grading for the course will be based on the following criteria:

1. Section (1/3 of grade), comprised of:
 - ✓ Attendance
 - ✓ Participation in group work
 - ✓ Written work for the group project
 - ✓ Group presentation

2. Mid-term (1/3 of grade), comprised of:
 - ✓ First in-class mid-term exam
 - ✓ Second in-class mid-term exam
 - ✓ In-class pop-quizzes

3. Final exam (1/3 of grade), comprised of:
 - ✓ Take-home final essay
 - ✓ In-class final exam

I. Introduction

1. Wednesday, 9/6 Introduction to the study of history, culture, politics, and economic reform in China

No Section this week

II. Historical Context: Cultural Forces and Institutional Change

2. Monday, 9/11 Classical Background: Confucianism
Readings: Morton and Lewis, pp. xxi-xxii, Introduction, Chapters 1-3

Section this week: Overview of section activities

3. Wednesday, 9/13 Classical Background: Daoism and Beyond
Readings: Morton and Lewis, Chapters 4-5

4. Monday, 9/18 The Western Encroachment and the Opium War
Readings: Morton and Lewis, pp. 137-57

Section this week: Research strategies; visiting library

5. Wednesday, 9/20 The Crisis Within
Readings: Morton and Lewis, pp. 157-74

6. Monday, 9/25 Fifty Years of Upheaval and War
Readings: Morton and Lewis, Chapter 13

Section this week: Group assignments; discussion of group projects

7. Wednesday, 9/27 Chinese Society under Mao
Readings: Morton and Lewis, Chapters 14-15

8. Monday, 10/2 Movie: *To Live*, Part I

Section this week: Work on group projects

9. Wednesday, 10/4 Movie: *To Live*, Part II

III. The Era of Economic Reforms

10. Monday, 10/9 Economic Reform: The Early Years
Guthrie Chapters 1-2; Morton and Lewis, Chapter 16

Section this week: Work on group projects

11. Wednesday, 10/11 China in the Global Economy I
Readings: Guthrie, Chapter 4

12. Monday, 10/16 China in the Global Economy II
Readings: Guthrie, Chapter 8, Morton and Lewis, Chapter 17, Ogden, 180-89

Section this week: Work on group projects

13. Wednesday, 10/18 First Midterm

14. Monday, 10/23 Population Changes and Changing Life Chances
Readings: Ogden, pp. 114-130, 147-57; Guthrie, Chapter 5

Section this week: Work on group projects
15. Wednesday, 10/25 Private Interests and the New Middle Class
Readings: Ogden, pp. 158-63
16. Monday, 10/30 Economic Change and New Freedoms
Readings: Morton and Lewis, Chapter 18; Ogden, 155-57

Section this week: Group presentations
17. Wednesday, 11/1 The Transformation of Labor Relations
Readings: Guthrie, Chapter 6
18. Monday, 11/6 The Emergence of the Rule of Law
Readings: Ogden, pp. 28-38

Section this week: Group presentations
19. Wednesday, 11/8 Guanxi and Corruption
Readings: Guthrie, Chapter 3
20. Monday, 11/13 Tiananmen
Readings: Ogden, pp. 166-68
Movie: The Gate of Heavenly Peace (excerpts)

Section this week: Group presentations
21. Wednesday, 11/15 Prospects for Democracy
Readings: Guthrie, Chapter 7
22. Monday, 11/20 Second Midterm

No section this week
23. Wednesday, 11/22 No Class: Thanksgiving Recess
24. Monday, 11/27 Energy, Oil, and the Environment
Readings: Ogden, pp. 131-143
Class-wide student presentations

Section this week: Review for final
25. Wednesday, 11/29 Religious freedom
Readings: TBA
Class-wide student presentations
26. Monday, 12/4 Sovereignty: Taiwan, Hong Kong, and Tibet
Readings: Ogden, 46-92
Class-wide student presentations

Section this week: Review for final

27. Wednesday, 12/6 Foreign Investment, International Pressure, and the Human Rights Debate
Readings: Guthrie, Chapter 8
Class-wide student presentations
28. Monday, 12/11 Review for Final

Final exam:

The final exam will have two parts: (1) An essay question will be posted on Blackboard 48 hours before in-class final; you should complete this at home and bring it with you to the in-class final. This is not a 48-hour essay question; it is more like a 2-3 hour essay question. You will have a 48-hour window in which to complete it, so that you can better arrange your schedule to do so. (2) There will also be an in-class final exam, which will be the same format as the midterms. The exam will take place in the Schimmel lecture hall, date and time TBA.

Debate Topics

Topic I: Environment, Development, and the Three-Gorges Project

Topic II: Energy Consumption and Environmental Sustainability

Topic III: One-Child Policy

Topic IV: Religious Freedom in China

Topic V: Taiwan Independence

Topic VI: Tibetan Independence

Topic VII: Foreign Investment and International Pressure for Political and Social Change

Take-Home Final Exam Topics

Topic I: Engagement and Human Rights in China

Topic II: Economic Development, Stability, and Democracy

Topic III: Debate: Religious freedom in China