Course Description: This is course provides a comprehensive introduction to politics in the People’s Republic of Chinese. This course should appeal to a broad audience, including those with personal or professional experience in China as well as those with no background in Chinese studies but with a curiosity and concern for the country and its future. The course has two objectives:

1) To understand China’s political institutions and understand why its political system has been so resilient and what risks it faces in the future. How do Chinese political institutions operate? How did these institutions contribute to China’s rapid economic development? What is the relationship of the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) and the state? What are the prospects for political reforms and democratization in China?

2) To understand the policy process in China today. How are policies in different issue arenas formulated and implemented? How do economic interest groups influence the policy process? How are Chinese leaders chosen and its officials promoted? What are the main threats domestically and internationally to China’s political stability? Can the CCP maintain its sway over a society undergoing massive change as a result of economic reform and opening to the world? This part of the course will be organized thematically around policy challenges in: economics and finance, state society relations, national security, and foreign policy.

Course Requirements and Grading: This course will be conducted in lecture/discussion format. Students are expected to come to class having done the reading and encouraged to participate actively in the discussion. Course grading will be divided into four components:

- **Participation** (reading quiz 10% and participation 10%) = 20%
- **Midterm** (in-class on July 16) = 40%
- **Final Paper** (due on August 3) = 40%

The in-class midterm exam will consist of short IDs, essay, and a blank map question. A final paper worth 40% of the course grade will be due on August 3. Paper prompts will be posted after the midterm. In enrolling for this course, students agree that the papers they turn in as a requirement for the course will be submitted for textual similarity review to Turnitin.com for the detection of plagiarism. There will be no final exam for this course.

Required Reading Assignments are either available online through the links provided on the syllabus or on the course TritonEd (TED) page. There is no textbook assigned for this course, all readings will come from books, magazines, and academic journals.
July 2: Introduction to Modern China

Lecture 1.1 Why study Chinese politics?
Required readings:

Lecture 1.2 Geographic and Historical Context

Recommended readings:
- Alice Miller, China Leadership Monitor, Hoover Institution.

No class July 4

Unit 1: Political Institutions & Political Change

July 9: Chinese Political Institutions

Lecture 2.1 The Chinese Communist Party and government
Required readings:

Lecture 2.2 How do Chinese political institutions operate? Why does the CCP persist?

Recommended readings:
• Lawrence & Martin. 2013. “Understanding China’s Political System,” Congressional Research
• Minxin Pei, China’s Trapped Transition: The Limits of Developmental Autocracy. (2006)

July 11: Debating Modernization & Democratization

Lecture 3.1 Reform and Opening
Required reading:
• Susan L. Shirk, The Political Logic of Economic Reform in China (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1993), Chapters 3 and 4 (pp 53-91)

Lecture 3.2 Democratization in China: “the end of history”
• “225m reasons for China’s leaders to worry,” The Economist. July 9, 2016.
• Gallagher, Mary E. “Reform and openness”: why China's economic reforms have delayed democracy.” World Politics 54.3 (2002): 338-372.
• Link, Perry “Anaconda in the Chandelier: Chinese Censorship today”

Recommended readings:
• Bueno de Mesquita, Bruce, and Alastair Smith. The dictator’s handbook: Why Bad Behavior is Almost Always Good Politics. (New York: Public Affairs 2011).

July 16: Midterm Exam

4.1 – In-class midterm exam: short IDs, essay, and a blank map question (90 minutes)
4.2 – Watch The Chinese Mayor (2015) and write response for extra-credit (90 minutes)

Unit 2: Policy-making Challenges

July 18: Economics and Finance

Lecture 5.1 A Chinese model of economic development? Opening and Reform, State-market relations, the Chinese economic miracle.
Required readings:


Lecture 5.2: Will the Chinese economic miracle last? Structural imbalances, the debt problem, the “new normal economy,” and industrial policy


Recommended readings:


July 23: State-Society Relations

Lecture 6.1: How does the government keep citizens happy? Performance, accountability, meritocracy, and rule of law

Required readings:


Lecture 6.2: The human costs of growth: Corruption, inequality, urban-rural migration (hukou), demography, and the environment

Recommended readings:


### July 30: National security

#### Lecture 7.1 State Security and Civil-Military Relations

**Required readings:**


**Lecture 7.2 Frontier challenges: Tibet, Xinjiang, Hong Kong, and the Taiwan issue**


**Recommended readings:**


**August 1: Foreign Policy**

**Lecture 8.1 Domestic politics of foreign policy**

**Required readings:**

**Lecture 8.2 From Hide and Bide to Belt and Road**
- Xuetong Yang, "From Keeping a Low Profile to Striving for Achievement," *The Chinese Journal of International Politics*, 7, 2 (2014)
- Bonnie Glaser, “*China’s Island Building in the Spratly Islands*,” in *Examining the South China Sea Disputes*. CSIS. (2015) *skim*
- “*Mapping the Belt and Road initiative: this is where we stand*” Mercator Institute for China Studies. June 7, 2018

**Recommended readings:**

**August 3: Looking Ahead or Catching Up**