1 Course Description

This course provides an overview of China’s political system. We will begin with a brief historical overview of China’s political development from 1949 to the present. The remainder of the course will examine the PRC’s institutions and key challenges facing the current generation of CCP leadership, such as economic reforms, regime stability, and foreign policy. We will also discuss prominent theories of authoritarian politics. Among other topics, we will examine elite conflicts, corruption, political participation, public opinion, and media and internet control.

2 How to “attend” POLI 130B

Due to the extraordinary circumstances that Covid-19 has created, this course will be conducted entirely online. There will be a total of 10 lectures available as pre-recorded podcasts on Canvas. Everyone is expected to “attend” all lectures and discuss them online via Piazza.

To qualify as having attended a lecture, you need to do the following:

• Complete the assigned readings before lectures
• At our designated lecture time (5:00pm Mon and Wed), log into Canvas to download and view the latest podcast. Please do so at your pace within 24hrs of the upload date.
• After you’ve finished viewing the podcast, log into Piazza and ask/discuss questions raised during the lecture. A student’s respectful and constructive participation on the forum will count toward his/her class participation grade.

– You can sign up to the Piazza course page directly from this address: https://piazza.com/ucsd/ss2020/poli130b. Both the TA and the instructor will regularly check the board and answer questions posted, although everyone else is also encouraged to contribute to the discussion. Do not email your questions directly to the instructors or TAs (unless they are of personal nature)—we will not be answering your questions regarding course materials or assignments through email.
3 Office hour

- We expect you to rely mostly on Piazza for substantive questions. However, should you need individualized assistance, both the instructor and the TA are more than happy to talk to you via Zoom.

  - Special note on regrade: If you seek a re-grade, you must email the TA within 24 hours of the assignment being returned to the class, and explain—in that email and in detail—why you believe you deserve reconsideration. The TA then has the ability to review the entire assignment, and he might increase your grade, decrease your grade, or keep the grade unchanged.

- To see us during office hours, first go to our respective appoint.ly sign-up link and register for a meeting slot. Please do so at least 1 hour before your desired meeting time.

  - Duy Trinh: [Sign-Up Link]
  - DG Kim: TBA

- Then, log into Zoom and go to our respective Zoom meeting rooms at your registered timeslot.

  - Duy Trinh: [Zoom Link]
  - DG Kim: TBA

4 Evaluation

- Participation: 20%
- Research Paper: 40%
- Midterm Exam: 40%

5 Course Outline and Readings

I strongly believe in affordable and equitable higher education. As such, no purchase is required for this course. All materials will be available as pdf on Canvas.

6 Course Schedule

Lecture 1: Historical Backgrounds


Lecture 2: Politics in the Mao era

- Walder, Andrew G. 2015. *China Under Mao*, Chapters 1 (skim through for context), Chapter 8-10
- (Recommended) Chapter 11-12

Lecture 3: The Reform era and Tiananmen


Lecture 4: China’s Political System: The Party and the State


Lecture 5: Internal Political Conflict


Lecture 6: The Party and the Economy


Lecture 7: The Party and Corruption


**Lecture 8: The Party and its People**


**Lecture 9: The Party and the World**


**Lecture 10: Outlook: Authoritarian Resilience**

