

HURON UNIVERSITY COLLEGE
CHN2601A THE POLITICAL AND SCIO-ECONOMIC FOUNDATIONS OF
MODERN CHINA
Summer 2021
Course Outline

Instructor: Dr. Yuanfang Zhang
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Class: 9:30AM-12:30PM Tuesdays & Thursdays

Office Hour: 10:00AM-11:00AM Wednesdays or by appointment

Course Description:

This course will explore the political, economic, and social landscape of modern China through an examination of its systemic change in responses to capitalist modernization at the global level. It will introduce students to debates within the contemporary China studies on the image of China in the trend of globalization with the emphasis on China's engaging with transnational social, economic, and cultural dynamics, such as capitalism, democratization, urbanization, shaping of national identity, etc. The course will be taught in **English**.

Pre-requisites: N/A

Learning Objectives:

1. Gain an overview of the economic, social and political development in China's modern history.
2. Acquire a general understanding of contemporary Chinese studies.
3. Deepen the understanding of the relationship between China and the world.
4. Develop the skills of critical thinking and problematic consciousness.

Textbooks and Other Required Resources:

Textbook: Mitter, Rana. Modern China: A Very Short Introduction. Oxford: Oxford University Press 2008.

The textbook will be available online via Western libraries.

<https://ocul->

[uwo.primo.exlibrisgroup.com/discovery/fulldisplay?context=L&vid=01OCUL_UWO:UWO_DEFAULT&docid=alma991044858868405163](https://ocul-uwo.primo.exlibrisgroup.com/discovery/fulldisplay?context=L&vid=01OCUL_UWO:UWO_DEFAULT&docid=alma991044858868405163)

Other required readings will be provided on OWL course website.

Class Methods:

Classes are usually composed of synchronous lectures.

Methods of Evaluation:

Attendance and Active Participation:	15%
Weekly quizzes:	10%
Course presentations and outlines	15%
Midterm Test:	25%
Final Examination:	25%

Attendance and Participation

Attendance and participation do not simply mean that you attend all classes, coming to class on time and staying until the end. It is most important that you read the texts and come to class prepared. You must actively participate in the discussion and interact with the instructor and your fellow students.

One component of participation includes yours posting on the forum at OWL. The forum posting involve finding texts, then posting what you have found/made and writing and posting a short commentary about it in relation to the course content. The “text” can be an essay, a book chapter, an excerpt from any form of a literary work (fiction, poem, etc.), or a short video clip. It could be either the readings from this course or external sources you find by yourself. Once you have selected and posted your text, I then want you to add a paragraph or two of your reflections on it and on its relevance to the issue/subject assigned.)

Presentation and Report

Students will sign up for the session that they plan to do their presentation. The presentation topics will be available on a first-come, first-served basis. You should prepare a short oral presentation for 10 minutes and one or two questions for discussion. You are required to submit a report of your presentation and discussion questions one week after your presentation. Instructions on presentation and topics will be given during the class.

Reflection Paper

This reflection paper is a self-reflective paper to express the effect of this course in supplementing (or changing) your ideas about China’s political and economic structure. Your paper should be **no longer than one page (single space)** and contains:

1. the topic that you want to address;
2. the conventional understanding you have of this topic before taking the course.
3. explain how this course has refreshed your understanding of this topic.

Weekly quizzes:

There will be 5 weekly quizzes in this course, each worth 2%. The quizzes will be posted in the subpage of the relevant unit in “Tests.” Each quiz must be finished before the designated deadline.

Tests

The mid-term test will take place in class on **July 27**. It is two hours in length and covers lectures and readings in the past sessions. You will choose two consecutive hours from the 24-hour window on that day to finish the exam. The final exam will be scheduled during the exam period. It will cover lectures and readings after the mid-term test. Exam format will be given in class prior to the exam.

Film Screening

There will two rounds of in-class film screening, on July 29 and Aug 12, respectively. You should consider the films as required texts and deal with these two films in the same way as you do with all class reading materials.

Special Instructions:

1. Once you sign up your presentation, you cannot change your topic without the permission of the instructor. There will be no grade given in the case of no-show without prior notice.
2. There will be no make-up for the missed presentation, quizzes, and exams. Failure to complete your presentation, quizzes and the two exams will result in a grade of zero without proper documentation. A student who misses the presentation, quizzes or tests must provide documentation to the counseling office (not the professor). If this documentation is accepted as a valid reason for missing a presentation, quizzes, or tests, then (and only then) the weight of the missed presentation will be reallocated to the report, the weight of the missed quiz will be relocated to other quizzes, and that of missed test will be reallocated to the final exam. This is the only method of accommodation for missed sessions.

Schedule of Classes

July 6 Introduction

July 8 Modern China

Readings: Rana Mitter. *Modern China* (hereafter MC). Chapter 1,
Sections: “The New World” “The Crisis of Republic”, in chapter 2, pp. 28-39.

July 13 Modern China II

Readings: MC. “The Nationalists in Power”, in chapter 3, pp. 41-50
Karl, Rebecca. Chapter 5 “1935-49”. In *Mao Zedong and China in the Twentieth-Century World: A Concise History*. Durham NC: Duke University Press.

July 15 Capital accumulation in Mao’s China and Beyond

MC. Sections “Mao in Power” “Gaijie kaifang”, in chapter 3. pp. 51-62;
Sections “Mao’s China”, in chapter 5, pp. 86-7.
Lin, Chun. *The Transformation of Chinese Socialism*. Section “The Imperative of “Internal Accumulation””, Duke University Press. pp. 65-9.

July 20 The Politics of Nation Building

Mullaney, Thomas. *Coming to Terms with the Nation: Ethnic Classification in Modern China*. University of California Press. Chapter 1

July 22 Political Reform as a Question in the Post-Socialist China

MC. Sections “China since 1989” in chapter 3 pp. 61-2.
“Is China free?” in chapter 4. pp. 73-5.
Zhao, Suisheng. Sections from “Political Liberalization Without Democratization”, in Zhao et al. *Debating Political Reform in China: Rule of Law vs. Democratization Rule of Law vs. Democratization*. London; New York: Routledge 2015.

July 27 Mid-term Exam

July 29 Urbanization and Its Limit

Ordos: The Biggest Ghost town in China
<https://www.bbc.com/news/magazine-17390729#:~:text=In%20Inner%20Mongolia%20a%20new,astonishing%20economic%20growth%2C%20is%20over.>

Zhu, Jieming. “A Transitional Institution for the Emerging Land Market in Urban China”, in *Urban Studies*, Vol. 42, No. 8, 1369– 1390, July 2005.

Aug 3 The Urban/Rural Divide

Cheng, Tiejun and Mark Selden. “The Origins and Social Consequences of China's Hukou System”. In *The China quarterly*, 1994-09, Vol.139 (139), pp.644-68.

Aug 5 “Involution” or “Slacking the Job”? (“内卷”or “躺平”)

Xiang Biao interview “How One Obscure word Captures Urban China’s Unhappiness”
<https://www.sixthtone.com/news/1006391/how-one-obscure-word-captures-urban-chinas-unhappiness>

Aug 10 Censorship

Jonathan Benney, ““The corpses were emotionally stable”: Agency and Passivity on the Chinese Internet”, in Peter Marolt and David Kurt Herold. Ed, *China Online: Locating Society in Online Spaces*. London: Taylor and Francis, 2014.

Aug 12 Environment Problems

Landsberger, Stefan. Chapter 4 “garbage pickers”. In *Beijing Garbage: A City Besieged by Waste*. Amsterdam: Amsterdam University Press. 2019.

Final exam will be scheduled during the examination period.



Appendix to Course Outlines: Academic Policies & Regulations 2021 - 2022

Prerequisite and Antirequisite Information

Students are responsible for ensuring that they have successfully completed all course prerequisites and that they have not completed any course antirequisites. Unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.

Student Code of Conduct

Membership in the community of Huron University College and Western University implies acceptance by every student of the principle of respect for the rights, responsibilities, dignity and well-being of others and a readiness to support an environment conducive to the intellectual and personal growth of all who study, work and live within it. Upon registration, students assume the responsibilities that such registration entails. While in the physical or online classroom, students are expected to behave in a manner that supports the learning environment of others. Please review the Student Code of Conduct at:

<https://huronatwestern.ca/sites/default/files/Res%20Life/Student%20Code%20of%20Conduct%20-%20Revised%20September%202019.pdf>.

Attendance Regulations for Examinations

A student is entitled to be examined in courses in which registration is maintained, subject to the following limitations:

- 1) A student may be debarred from writing the final examination for failure to maintain satisfactory academic standing throughout the year.
- 2) Any student who, in the opinion of the instructor, is absent too frequently from class or laboratory periods in any course will be reported to the Dean of the Faculty offering the course (after due warning has been given). On the recommendation of the Department concerned, and with the permission of the Dean of that Faculty, the student will be debarred from taking the regular examination in the course. The Dean of the Faculty offering the course will communicate that decision to the Dean of the Faculty of registration.

Review the policy on Attendance Regulations for Examinations here:

https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/exam/attendance.pdf.

Statement on Academic Offences

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following website:

https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf. The appeals process is also outlined in this policy as well as more generally at the following website:

https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/appealsundergrad.pdf.

Turnitin.com

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com (<http://www.turnitin.com>).

Statement on Use of Electronic Devices

It is not appropriate to use electronic devices (such as, but not limited to, laptops, cell phones) in the classroom for non-classroom activities. Such activity is disruptive and distracting to other students and to the instructor, and can inhibit learning. Students are expected to respect the classroom environment and to refrain from inappropriate use of technology and other electronic devices in class.

Statement on Use of Personal Response Systems (“Clickers”)

Personal Response Systems (“clickers”) may be used in some classes. If clickers are to be used in a class, it is the responsibility of the student to ensure that the device is activated and functional.

Students must see their instructor if they have any concerns about whether the clicker is malfunctioning. Students must use only their own clicker. If clicker records are used to compute a portion of the course grade:

- the use of somebody else’s clicker in class constitutes a scholastic offence
- the possession of a clicker belonging to another student will be interpreted as an attempt to commit a scholastic offence.

Academic Consideration for Missed Work

Students who are seeking academic consideration for missed work during the semester may submit a self-reported absence form online provided that the absence is **48 hours or less** and the other conditions specified in the Senate policy at

https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_illness.pdf are met.

Students whose absences are expected to last **longer than 48 hours**, or where the other conditions detailed in the policy are not met (e.g., work is worth more than 30% of the final grade, the student has already used 2 self-reported absences, the absence is during the final exam period), may receive academic consideration by submitting a Student Medical Certificate (for illness) or other appropriate documentation (for compassionate grounds). The Student Medical Certificate is available online at https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf.

All students pursuing academic consideration, regardless of type, must contact their instructors no less than 24 hours following the end of the period of absence to clarify how they will be expected to fulfill the academic responsibilities missed during their absence. **Students are reminded that they should consider carefully the implications of postponing tests or midterm exams or delaying submission of work, and are encouraged to make appropriate decisions based on their specific circumstances.**

Students who have conditions for which academic accommodation is appropriate, such as disabilities or ongoing or chronic health conditions, should work with Accessible Education Services to determine appropriate forms of accommodation. Further details concerning policies and procedures may be found at: <http://academicsupport.uwo.ca/>.

Policy on Academic Consideration for a Medical/ Non-Medical Absence

(a) Consideration on Medical Grounds for assignments worth *less than 10%* of final grade: Consult Instructor Directly and Contact Academic Advising

When seeking consideration on **medical grounds** for assignments worth *less than 10%* of the final course grade, and if the student has exceeded the maximum number of permissible Self-Reported absences, the student should contact the instructor directly. The student need only share broad outlines of the medical situation. The instructor **may** require the student to submit documentation to the academic advisors, in which case she or he will advise the student and inform the academic advisors to expect documentation. If documentation is requested, the student will need to complete and submit the [Student Medical Certificate](#). The instructor may **not** collect medical documentation. The advisors will contact the instructor when the medical documentation is received, and will outline the severity and duration of the medical challenge as expressed on the Student Medical Certificate and in any other supporting documentation. The student will be informed that the instructor has been notified of the presence of medical documentation, and will be instructed to work as quickly as possible with the instructor on an agreement for accommodation.

(b) Consideration on Non-Medical Grounds: Consult Huron Support Services/Academic Advising, or email huronsss@uwo.ca.

Students seeking academic consideration for a **non-medical** absence (e.g. varsity sports, religious, compassionate, or bereavement) will be required to provide appropriate documentation where the conditions for a Self-Reported Absence have not been met, including where the student has exceeded the maximum number of permissible Self-Reported. All consideration requests must include a completed [Consideration Request Form](#). Late penalties may apply at the discretion of the instructor.

Please review the full policy on Academic Consideration for medical and non-medical absence at: https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_illness.pdf. Consult [Huron Academic Advising](#) at huronsss@uwo.ca for any further questions or information.

Support Services

For advice on course selections, degree requirements, and for assistance with requests for medical accommodation, students should email an Academic Advisor in Huron's Student Support Services at

huronsss@uwo.ca. An outline of the range of services offered is found on the Huron website at: <https://huronatwestern.ca/student-life/student-services/>.

Department Chairs, Program Directors and Coordinators are also able to answer questions about individual programs. Contact information can be found on the Huron website at: <https://huronatwestern.ca/contact/faculty-staff-directory/>.

If you think that you are too far behind to catch up or that your workload is not manageable, you should consult your Academic Advisor. If you are considering reducing your workload by dropping one or more courses, this must be done by the appropriate deadlines. Please refer to the Advising website, <https://huronatwestern.ca/student-life/student-services/academic-advising/> or review the list of official Sessional Dates on the Academic Calendar, available here: <http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/SessionalDates.cfm>.

You should consult with the course instructor and the Academic Advisor who can help you consider alternatives to dropping one or more courses. Note that dropping a course may affect OSAP and/or Scholarship/Bursary eligibility.

Huron Student Support Services: <https://huronatwestern.ca/student-life/student-services/>
Office of the Registrar: <https://registrar.uwo.ca/>
Student Quick Reference Guide: <https://huronatwestern.ca/student-life/student-services/#1>
Learning Development and Success: <https://www.uwo.ca/sdc/learning/>
Accessible Education: <http://academicsupport.uwo.ca/>
Western USC: <http://westernusc.ca/your-services/#studentservices>

Mental Health & Wellness Support at Huron and Western

University students may encounter setbacks from time to time that can impact academic performance. Huron offers a variety of services that are here to support your success and wellbeing. Please visit <https://huronatwestern.ca/student-life-campus/student-services/wellness-safety> for more information or contact staff directly:

Wellness Services: huronwellness@huron.uwo.ca
Community Safety Office: safety@huron.uwo.ca
Chaplaincy: gthorne@huron.uwo.ca

Additional supports for Health and Wellness may be found and accessed at Western through, <https://www.uwo.ca/health/>.