

**City University of Hong Kong
Course Syllabus**

**offered by Department of Public Policy
with effect from Semester A 2017/18**

Part I Course Overview

Course Title: Contemporary Chinese Politics

Course Code: POL3710

Course Duration: One semester

Credit Units: 3

Level: B3

Arts and Humanities

Proposed Area:
(for GE courses only)

Study of Societies, Social and Business Organisations

Science and Technology

Medium of Instruction: English

Medium of Assessment: English

Prerequisites:
(Course Code and Title) None

Precursors:
(Course Code and Title) None

Equivalent Courses:
(Course Code and Title) SA3710 Contemporary Chinese Politics

Exclusive Courses:
(Course Code and Title) None

Part II Course Details

1. Abstract

(A 150-word description about the course)

This course aims to explain and analyse the complexity of politics in contemporary China, the ideology, the institutions and the actual operation. It explores the intriguing relationship between the party and the state as well as between the state and the society. It enables students to discover new knowledge and develop a critical attitude on the major political events, campaigns and policy moves in contemporary China. The course also enhances students' ability to understand and analyse political phenomena in China's economic transformation. Upon successful completion of this course, students are expected to have a higher interest in learning China's political issues, a better understanding on China's political system and reform, and a stronger ability to analyse political phenomena from theoretical perspectives.

2. Course Intended Learning Outcomes (CILOs)

(CILOs state what the student is expected to be able to do at the end of the course according to a given standard of performance.)

No.	CILOs	Weighting* (if applicable)	Discovery-enriched curriculum related learning outcomes (please tick where appropriate)		
			A1	A2	A3
1.	Understand and interpret the complexity of politics in contemporary China		√	√	
2.	Analyse and assess the ideology, institutions and actual operation of contemporary Chinese politics		√	√	
3.	Compare and contrast the major political events, campaigns and policy moves in contemporary China		√	√	
4.	Summarise and develop critical perspectives on the party-state and state-society relationships in contemporary China		√	√	
5.	Create new ideas and information after extensive reading of key literatures on Chinese politics		√	√	√
6.	Accomplish an individual research on critical issues in China's socio-political transformation		√	√	√
		100%			

* If weighting is assigned to CILOs, they should add up to 100%.

A1: Attitude

Develop an attitude of discovery/innovation/creativity, as demonstrated by students possessing a strong sense of curiosity, asking questions actively, challenging assumptions or engaging in inquiry together with teachers.

A2: Ability

Develop the ability/skill needed to discover/innovate/create, as demonstrated by students possessing critical thinking skills to assess ideas, acquiring research skills, synthesizing knowledge across disciplines or applying academic knowledge to self-life problems.

A3: Accomplishments

Demonstrate accomplishment of discovery/innovation/creativity through producing /constructing creative works/new artefacts, effective solutions to real-life problems or new processes.

3. Teaching and Learning Activities (TLAs)

(TLAs designed to facilitate students' achievement of the CILOs.)

TLA	Brief Description	CILO No.						Hours/week (if applicable)
		1	2	3	4	5	6	
Readings	Consolidate students' understanding on lecture information by reading assigned literature around 20 pages each week	√	√	√	√	√		
Lectures	Identify and interpret the related topics and issues, political ideology, institutions and events, party-state and state-society relationships, and official documents and position of the Chinese regime;	√	√	√	√			Two hours per week
Tutorial presentations and discussions	Apply knowledge learned from the lectures to analyse assigned topics, work with a team, present original ideas and findings on the specific topics, and organize class discussions;	√	√	√	√	√	√	Two hours every two weeks
Literature search & review	Create new ideas and information, using critical thinking, from a range of sources, including lectures, discussions, books, articles, television, internet, documentaries, and the mass media				√	√	√	
Essay-writing	Conduct independent research, develop original ideas and accomplish an individual essay on critical issues related to China's socio-political transformation				√	√	√	

4. Assessment Tasks/Activities (ATs)

(ATs are designed to assess how well the students achieve the CILOs.)

Assessment Tasks/Activities	CILO No.						Weighting*	Remarks
	1	2	3	4	5	6		
Continuous Assessment: 100%								
Tutorial presentations and discussions	√	√	√	√	√	√	20%	The discussions and presentations help students to reflect critically on the theories and literature, engage with professional scholarship, listen and respond to the views of others, communicate effectively and present arguments intelligently, respond to and critique ideas,

								and engage with audiences.
Individual essays	√	√	√	√	√	√	30%	The essays writing help students explain and compare the related theories and concepts, engage with professional scholarship, learn with independence and intellectual curiosity, think laterally, discover and analyse information from a range of sources, use critical reasoning, present arguments intelligently, and critique ideas with personal opinions.
In-class test	√	√	√	√	√	√	50%	
(duration: hours, if applicable)								

* The weightings should add up to 100%.

100%

5. Assessment Rubrics

(Grading of student achievements is based on student performance in assessment tasks/activities with the following rubrics.)

Assessment Task	Criterion	Excellent (A+, A, A-)	Good (B+, B, B-)	Fair (C+, C, C-)	Marginal (D)	Failure (F)
1. Tutorial presentations and discussions		High standard of knowledge, critical reasoning and original ideas of the complexity of politics in contemporary China. Strong ability to analyse the ideology, institutions and actual operation of contemporary Chinese politics, as well as to compare and evaluate the major political, economic, and social events and policy moves in China. Excellent analytic, writing and communication skills.	Fairly good knowledge and critical reflection of the complexity of politics in contemporary China. Ability to analyse the ideology, institutions and actual operation of contemporary Chinese politics, as well as to compare and evaluate the major political, economic, and social events and policy moves in China. Good analytic, writing and communication skills.	Rudimentary knowledge of the complexity of politics in contemporary China. Weak ability to explain the ideology, institutions and actual operation of contemporary Chinese politics, as well as to compare and evaluate the major political, economic, and social events and policy moves in China. Basic analytic, writing and communication skills.	Poor knowledge of the complexity of politics in contemporary China. Very weak ability to explain the ideology, institutions and actual operation of contemporary Chinese politics, as well as to compare and evaluate the major political, economic, and social events and policy moves in China. Weak analytic, writing and communication skills.	Little knowledge of the complexity of politics in contemporary China. Extremely weak ability to explain the ideology, institutions and actual operation of contemporary Chinese politics, as well as to compare and evaluate the major political, economic, and social events and policy moves in China. Extremely weak analytic, writing and communication skills. Failure of either course work or final examination.
2. Essay-writing		High standard of knowledge,	Fairly good knowledge and	Rudimentary knowledge of the	Poor knowledge of the complexity of	Little knowledge of the complexity of

		critical reasoning and original ideas of the complexity of politics in contemporary China. Strong ability to analyse the ideology, institutions and actual operation of contemporary Chinese politics, as well as to compare and evaluate the major political, economic, and social events and policy moves in China. Excellent analytic, writing and communication skills.	critical reflection of the complexity of politics in contemporary China. Ability to analyse the ideology, institutions and actual operation of contemporary Chinese politics, as well as to compare and evaluate the major political, economic, and social events and policy moves in China. Good analytic, writing and communication skills.	complexity of politics in contemporary China. Weak ability to explain the ideology, institutions and actual operation of contemporary Chinese politics, as well as to compare and evaluate the major political, economic, and social events and policy moves in China. Basic analytic, writing and communication skills.	politics in contemporary China. Very weak ability to explain the ideology, institutions and actual operation of contemporary Chinese politics, as well as to compare and evaluate the major political, economic, and social events and policy moves in China. Weak analytic, writing and communication skills.	politics in contemporary China. Extremely weak ability to explain the ideology, institutions and actual operation of contemporary Chinese politics, as well as to compare and evaluate the major political, economic, and social events and policy moves in China. Extremely weak analytic, writing and communication skills. Failure of either course work or final examination.
3. In-class test		High standard of knowledge, critical reasoning and original ideas of the complexity of politics in contemporary China. Strong ability to analyse	Fairly good knowledge and critical reflection of the complexity of politics in contemporary China. Ability to analyse the ideology, institutions and	Rudimentary knowledge of the complexity of politics in contemporary China. Weak ability to explain the ideology, institutions and actual operation of	Poor knowledge of the complexity of politics in contemporary China. Very weak ability to explain the ideology, institutions and actual operation of contemporary Chinese politics, as	Little knowledge of the complexity of politics in contemporary China. Extremely weak ability to explain the ideology, institutions and actual operation of contemporary Chinese politics, as

		the ideology, institutions and actual operation of contemporary Chinese politics, as well as to compare and evaluate the major political, economic, and social events and policy moves in China. Excellent analytic, writing and communication skills.	actual operation of contemporary Chinese politics, as well as to compare and evaluate the major political, economic, and social events and policy moves in China. Good analytic, writing and communication skills.	contemporary Chinese politics, as well as to compare and evaluate the major political, economic, and social events and policy moves in China. Basic analytic, writing and communication skills.	well as to compare and evaluate the major political, economic, and social events and policy moves in China. Weak analytic, writing and communication skills.	well as to compare and evaluate the major political, economic, and social events and policy moves in China. Extremely weak analytic, writing and communication skills. Failure of either course work or final examination.
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Part III Other Information (more details can be provided separately in the teaching plan)

1. Keyword Syllabus

(An indication of the key topics of the course.)

People’s Republic of China. Politics. Socialist State. Chinese Communist Party. Socialism. Communism. Marxism. Leninism. Maoism. Mass Campaigns. Cultural Revolution. Tiananmen Movement. Propaganda. Village Election. Performance Management. People’s Liberation Army. Chinese Constitution. Reform. Economic Transformation. Policy Making. Democratisation. Social Tension. Political Adaptation.

Authoritarianism; authoritarian control; authoritarian power-sharing; The China Communist Party; political elites; political reform; village elections; grassroots governance; public goods provision; government financing; the policymaking process; fragmented authoritarianism; cadre control; popular protest; rightful resistance; repression; social stability maintenance; entrepreneurs; co-optation; non-governmental organisations; the middle class; the media; Internet politics.

2. Reading List

2.1 Compulsory Readings

(Compulsory readings can include books, book chapters, or journal/magazine articles. There are also collections of e-books, e-journals available from the CityU Library.)

1.	Kesselman, Mark, Joel Krieger and William A. Joseph (eds). 2010. Introduction to Comparative Politics: Political Challenges and Changing Ideas (Fifth Edition). Wadsworth: Cengage. Chapter 13 ‘China’
2.	Svolik, Milan W. 2012. The Politics of Authoritarian Rule. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. Chapter 1
3.	Fewsmith, Joseph. 2013. “The 18th Party Congress: Testing the limits of institutionalization.” China Leadership Monitor 40.
4.	Miller, Alice. 2013. “The new Party Politburo leadership.” China Leadership Monitor 40.
5.	Shambaugh, David. 2008. China’s Communist Party: Atrophy and Adaptation. Berkeley: University of California Press. Chapter 3 ‘The Western Discourse on the Chinese Communist Party-State’
6.	Lieberthal, Kenneth G. 1992. “Introduction: the “fragmented authoritarianism” model and its limitations.” In David M. Lampton and Kenneth Lieberthal (eds) Bureaucracy, Politics, and Decision Making in Post-Mao China. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1–32.
7.	O’Brien, Kevin J. and Lianjiang Li. 2000. “Accommodating democracy in a one-party state: Introducing village elections in China.” The China Quarterly 162, 465–489.
8.	O’Brien, Kevin J. and Rachel E. Stern. 2008. “Introduction: Studying contention in contemporary China.” In Kevin J. O’Brien (ed.) Popular Protest in China. Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, 11–25..

9.	Cai, Yongshun. 2004. "Managed participation in China." <i>Political Science Quarterly</i> 119 (3), 425–451.
10.	Lee, Ching Kwan and Yonghong Zhang. 2013. "The power of instability: Unraveling the microfoundations of bargained authoritarianism." <i>American Journal of Sociology</i> 118 (6), 1475–1508.
11.	Teets, Jessica. 2013. "Let many civil societies bloom: The rise of consultative authoritarianism in China." <i>The China Quarterly</i> 213, 19–38.
12.	Qian, Gang and David Bandurski. 2011. "China's emerging public sphere: The impact of media commercialization, professionalism, and the Internet in an era of transition. In Susan L. Shirk (ed.) <i>Changing Media, Changing China</i> . Oxford: Oxford University Press, 38–76.

2.2 Additional Readings

(Additional references for students to learn to expand their knowledge about the subject.)

1.	China Net http://www.china.com.cn/chinese/index.htm
2.	China News Net http://www.chinanews.com.cn
3.	China On Line http://www.republicchina.com/
4.	China Today http://www.chinatoday.com
5.	China.50 http://www.cnn.com/SPECIALS/1999/china.50/
6.	Chinese Communist Party at 80
7.	Deng Xiaoping http://www.cbw.com/asm/xpdeng/contents.html
8.	Maoism http://www.maoism.org
9.	Mao's Thought http://www.mzdthought.com
10.	People Net http://www.people.com.cn
11.	USC of CUHK http://www.usc.cuhk.edu.hk
12.	Xin Hua Net http://www.xinhuanet.com