I. Course Description:

This course is designed for graduate students who are enthusiastic for learning about Chinese politics and society. This course will focus on the post-Mao era. The fundamental goal of the course is to help students lay their theoretical and empirical foundations for their in-depth understanding of the fundamental rules, prominent players, and major issues in contemporary Chinese politics. To achieve this goal, the course will:

A. Explore theoretical approaches to the study of Chinese politics;
B. Analyze the important debates and findings in the Western literature on the socioeconomic and sociopolitical changes in the Chinese society during the post-Mao era;
C. Help students design and conduct their own research on Chinese politics.

II. Background Knowledge:

Since this course is a graduate-level class, it assumes some basic, factual knowledge of Chinese society and history. Such knowledge will serve as the imperative contextual framework of class discussion. To acquire or refresh such knowledge, you are recommended to read the following two books (both on reserve in the Library):


* * This syllabus may be changed by the instructor, as he deems that any change is necessary for the appropriate conduct of the class.
II. Texts:

All of the books listed below are available for purchase at the ODU Bookstore; most of them are also put on reserve (for one-day checkout) in the Library.


III. Requirements:

In essence, this course as a graduate seminar requires extensive readings, active class participation, well-prepared presentation, and intensive writings. In the light of these essentials, the instructor will determine the final grade for each student based on his or her performance in the following areas:

A. Attendance: Attendance is absolutely imperative for each class session, since students are held responsible for all materials and topics discussed in class. Given the importance of attendance, therefore, the instructor will take attendance for each class session. Each student is allowed to miss one class session in the semester without suffering grade deduction. After the first absence, each additional absence will cause a deduction of 5% of the total grade. Please also note: Since the participation assumes attendance, each absence will naturally lead to proportional deduction of the participation score. Students are also expected to attend make-up classes on commonly agreed schedules, if any regularly-scheduled class sessions are canceled due to unexpected events and the instructor’s conference travel.
B. Course Website: Students are required to check the on-line “course updates,” and “review essays” on the course Website at least twice a week and before each class meeting. These on-line materials are posted and updated by the instructor on a regular basis. The course website serves as the most important tool for the instructor to communicate with students outside of the classroom.

C. Readings: Students are expected to read both the required materials (listed in the syllabus) and the review essays (written by other students) before each class. It is also expected that the students should keep themselves well informed about current developments in China, by reading major newspapers (e.g. The New York Times, Washington Post, South China Morning Post, and The Asian Wall Street Journal) and scholarly/informative journals (e.g. China Quarterly, Journal of Contemporary China, China Journal, Modern China, and Asian Survey). Current issues in China will be frequently incorporated into class discussion throughout the entire semester.

D. Class Participation: Students are expected to participate actively in class discussion. In order to earn credit in participation, a student is required to ask well-thought questions and/or make substantive comments on the topic covered in each class session. In each class session, the instructor will ask individual students to answer questions or to make comments. The quality of student’s response to the instructor’s question will affect the student’s final grade for participation. All in all, no one should have “free ride” in this course; active class participation in this course is absolutely NOT optional. Please note: you are also strongly encouraged to ask questions about and make comments on essays presented by other students.

E. Review Essays and Their Presentations: Each student is expected to write two short review essays (3-5 double-spaced pages) on readings selected from the syllabus. In each review essay, a student should (1) concisely summarize author’s major arguments, (2) explain evidence and methods used to support the arguments, (3) discuss the most interesting or/and “irritating” points of views in the reading, and (4) briefly comment on the significance and implications of the work reviewed for the general topic under discussion. Each essay should be sent as email attachment to the instructor at least one week before the class discussion on the topic(s) covered by the essay. The instructor will post each essay on the course website (as listed on the first page). No late paper will be accepted unless there is legitimate, documented medical excuse.

Each student is required to present the readings dealt with by her/his review essays. Each presentation should NOT exceed 15 minutes. When presenting, students should NOT simply read the essays (all of us will have read them already). Instead, they should try to keep eye contact with the audience and try to draw its attention using various techniques (e.g., giving examples/analogies, asking questions, and so on). You may provide the class with a one-page outline or use overhead transparency to assist your presentation. After presenting the essay, students should also be ready to answer questions raised by the instructor and other students.

F. Review or Research Paper: Each student is required to write a substantial paper: MA students are required to write 15-20 double-spaced pages, and Ph.D. students, 20-25 double-spaced pages. Students may take one of the following two options for this major assignment. One is to review works listed as “Recommended Readings” in this syllabus. M.A. Students are required to review at least 5 books or their equivalent in articles (1 book = 2 articles or chapters), and Ph.D. students are expected to review at least 7 books or their equivalent in articles. Upon
the instructor's approval, students may review up to two books or their equivalent in articles not listed in the syllabus. The other option is to write a stand-alone research paper on a topic relevant to this course. The detailed guidelines for both options will be distributed and explained later in class.

The topic and outline of the paper (for both options) will be due by October 17, and must be approved by the instructor. The final paper will be due on December 5, and no late paper will be accepted except for very extreme emergency.

F. Final Exam: There will be a final, comprehensive exam, which is designed to check students' mastery of major theoretical approaches and thematic issues in Chinese Politics. No make-up exam will be given.

H. Office-Hour Visit: Students are highly encouraged to talk to the instructor individually about any problems and concerns with the class, since open and healthy communication between the instructor and the students is one of the key factors to make this learning process successful. Each student, therefore, is expected to visit the instructor at least once within the semester either during the office hours or by appointment. This visit should be done as early as possible, but no later than November 17 in order to earn credit.

IV. Course Grading:

A final grade for this course will be determined as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Short Review Essays and Their Presentations</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research or Review Paper</td>
<td>35%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class Participation (including attendance)</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Office Hour Visit</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Grading scale used in this class is as follows (“+” and “-” grading system will be practiced in this class.):

- A: 94-100%
- A-: 90-93
- B+: 87-89
- B: 83-86
- B-: 80-82
- C+: 77-79
- C-: 73-76
- C-: 70-72
- D+: 67-69
- D: 63-66
- D-: 60-62
- F: 0-59

V. The Honor Code

You are reminded that you have signed “the honor code.” According to the code, “students are subject to disciplinary action for academic dishonesty, including but not limited to plagiarism and all forms of academic cheating, and failure to report known violations of the honor pledge” (Student Handbook, 1997-1998, p. 108). Academic dishonesty in completing any course requirement constitutes grounds for failing the course regardless of your grade on other assignments. Academic dishonesty includes (1) cheating on exams either through crib sheets or copying another student's answers, and (2) plagiarism. Plagiarism includes “making simple changes to borrowed materials while leaving the organization, content, or phraseology intact,”
turning in a paper written by someone else, failing to properly document quotations used in your paper, and so on. Any and all of these activities will result in an “F” grade for the course.

VI. Accommodation to Students with Special Learning Needs

In accordance with university policy, reasonable accommodations are provided for students with disabilities. A student who wishes to receive such accommodations, because of a documented sensory and/or learning disability, should inform the instructor as early in the semester as possible.

VII. On-Line Teaching Evaluation

Students should take their obligations to evaluate the course on-line at the end of the semester. Student evaluations provide important feedback for me. The University takes your input very seriously, which serves as a very critical means to assess teaching effectiveness.

VIII. Class Schedule: Topics and Readings

Part I: Introduction and Theoretical Approaches

Week 1 (8/29):
Topic: Introduction: Course Outline/Logistics, and Basics about China
Recommended readings:

Week 2 (9/5):
Topic: American Studies of Chinese Politics
Required Readings:
Reading(s) for presentation and discussion:
Recommended Readings:

Presenter 1: ______________________
Week 3 (9/12):

**Topic:** Political-Culture Approach

**Required Readings:**

**Reading(s) for presentation and discussion:**

**Recommended Readings:**

**Presenter 1: ____________________________

Week 4 (9/19):

**Topic:** State-Society Approach

**Required Readings:**
Reading(s) for presentation and discussion:

Recommended Readings:

Presenter 1: ____________________________
Presenter 2: ____________________________

Part II:
*Post-Mao Economic Reforms and Their Sociopolitical Consequences*

Week 5 (9/26):
Topic: Elite-Institution Approach

Required Readings:

Reading(s) for presentation and discussion:

**Recommended Readings:**

**Presenter 1:** ____________________________

---

**Week 6 (10/3):**
**Topic:** Why Economic Reform?
**Required Readings:**

**Reading(s) for presentation and discussion:**

**Recommended Readings:**


**Presenter 1:** ____________________________  
**Presenter 2:** ____________________________  

**Week 7 (10/17): Paper outline is due in class.**  
**Topic:** Rural Economic Reform  
**Required Readings:**  

**Reading(s) for presentation and discussion:**  


**Recommended Readings:**  


**Presenter 1:** ____________________________
Week 8 (10/24):
Topic: Urban Economic Reform
Required Readings:
Reading(s) for presentation and discussion:
Recommended Readings:

Week 9 (10/31):
Topic: Fiscal Reform
Required Readings:
Reading(s) for presentation and discussion:

Presenter 1: ____________________________
Presenter 2: ____________________________

**Recommended Readings:**

**Week 10 (11/7):**
**Topic:** The Role of Private Entrepreneurs
**Required Readings:**

**Reading(s) for presentation and discussion:**

**Recommended Readings:**

**Presenter 1: ____________________________________________**

**Week 11 (11/14):** **Last day for office-hour visit, 11/17.**
**Topic:** Official Corruption

**Part III:**
*Post-Mao Political Reforms and Their Consequences*
Required Readings:

Reading(s) for presentation and discussion:

Recommended Readings:

Presenter 1: ________________________________

Week 12 (11/21):
**Topic**: Legislative (and Legal) Reforms

**Required Readings**:

**Reading(s) for presentation and discussion**:

**Recommended Readings**:

**Presenter 1:** ___________________________________________________________________________

**Week 13 (11/28):**
**Topic:** Rural and Urban (local) Self-Government

**Required Readings:**

**Reading(s) for presentation and discussion:**

**Recommended Readings:**


**Presenter 1:** ____________________________  
**Presenter 2:** ____________________________

**Week 14 (12/5): Paper is due in class.**  
**Topic:** Mass Political Support and Participation, and Potential Political Changes  
**Required Readings:**  

**Reading(s) for presentation and discussion:**  


**Recommended Readings:**  


