

**University of Toronto**  
**Department of Political Science**

POL 302H  
State and Society in 20<sup>th</sup> Century China

Summer, 2024  
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SS3029

### **Course Content and Format**

This course will examine China's efforts to reconstitute its political institutions following the collapse of the imperial system in 1911. Particular attention will be paid to the clash between competing conceptions of political development and the rival political movements and forces that espoused them. The search for an effective and stable political order in the face of external pressures and internal fragmentation will receive extended discussion. The failed effort to create legitimate and popularly grounded political institutions will be a major focus of the course. A secondary focus will explore the impact of rapid economic, social and cultural change on the political system. The course will be organized in a lecture format, though class discussion will be encouraged.

**Grades will be based on *two term tests (takehome), weighted equally at 50% each. Test # 1 will be posted on July 18, due July 25. Test # 2 TBA.***

All readings will be posted on Quercus in **Modules** by date and topic.

### **Topics and Readings:**

July 2      **The Rise of China: Historical Perspectives and the Problem of Change**

1. Martin Jacques, When China Rules the World, Chapter 3 ("China's Ignominy") pp.
2. Lieberthal, Governing China, Chapter 1, pp.3-19.
1. Video: *Pacific Century* Part I.

July 4      **Revolution and Reform**

1. Martin Jacques, "China's Ignominy," pp.
1. Bianco, Origins of the Chinese Revolution, Chapters 1 and 2..
2. Lieberthal, Governing China, pp.19-31
3. Chen Duxiu, "Call to Youth"

4. Mao's 'Autobiography' (Edgar Snow, Red Star Over China)

July 9      **The CCP and the KMT (GMD): 1921-1949**

1. Bianco, Origins of the Chinese Revolution, Chap. 3, 5& 6.
2. Kenneth Lieberthal, Governing China, 31-39
3. Mao Zedong, "Analysis of Classes in Chinese Society" (1926)

July 11     **The CCP in Power: The Mao Years: I8**

1. Kenneth Lieberthal, Governing China, 60-77; 86-99.
2. Maurice Meisner, Mao's China and After, Selections.
3. Mao Zedong, "On People's Democratic Dictatorship." (1949)
4. Video ("The Mao Years:I)

July 16     **The Cultural Revolution and the End of the Mao Era: II**

1. Maurice Meisner, Mao's China and After, Chapters 17, 19.
2. Andrew Walder, "The Mao Era in Retrospect"
3. Phillip Pan, "The Cemetery"

July 18     **The Deng Era: Economic Reform and Market Authoritarianism**

1. Maurice Meisner, Mao's China, Chapter 23-25.
2. Kenneth Lieberthal, "The Reform Era" 123-148.
3. William Overholt, "Reassessing China: Awaiting Xi Jinping" (2012)
4. Video ('Born Under the Red Flag')

July 23     **The Xi Jinping Era: Back to the Future ?**

1. Evan Osnos, "Born Red," New Yorker,
2. Alfred Chan, Xi Jinping: Political Career, Governance and Leadership, Oxford, 2022. (Conclusion).
3. Minxin Pei, "The Long Shadow of Totalitarianism," Journal of Democracy, Journal of Democracy, 2021

July 25     **Party and State Institutions in Flux**

1. Patricia Thornton, "Party all the time: The CCP in Comparative and Historical Perspective," China Quarterly, 2021.

2. Lance Gore, "The Communist-Party-Dominated Governance Model of China," *Polity*, 2019.
3. Daniel Bell, "Chinese Democracy isn't Inevitable," *Atlantic*, 2018
4. Congressional Research Service, China's Political System in Charts: A Snapshot before the 20th Party Congress, 2021.

July 30 **Political Leadership in Flux**

1. .Cheng Li, "Leadership Politics in the Xi Jinping Era" (2018)
2. Joseph Fewsmith, "Authoritarian Resilience Revisited."
3. Daniel Bell and Eric Li "Meritocracy"
4. Susan Shirk, "Return to Personalistic Leadership,": *Journal of Democracy*, 2016

August 2 **State and Society in Flux**

1. Ian Johnson, "The Death and Life of China's Civil Society," 2003.
2. Gilboy and Read, "Political and Social Reform in China," 2008
3. Andrew Nathan, "The Puzzle of the Chinese Middle Class." Video (China from the Inside)

August 6 **Ideology and Value Change in Contemporary China**

1. Daniel Bell, "From Marx to Confucius: Changing Discourses on China's Political Future," *Dissent*, 2007.
2. Anne Marie Brady, Marketing Dictatorship, Chapter 1.
3. Rebecca MacKinnon, "Networked Authoritarianism" *Journal of Democracy* (2011)
4. Timothy Cheek, "Xi Jinping's Counter Reformation" (2021)

August 8 **China Challenges the World**

1. Ian Johnson, "Will China Become Supreme?"
2. Frank Pieke, Knowing China, Chapter 6
3. Minxin Pei, "China under Xi Jinping" (2018)
4. Graham Allison, "Destined for War: Can China and the US Escape the Thucydides Trap?" *Atlantic*,
5. Video (China from the Outside)