POLI380: Contemporary Chinese Politics:
Domestic Politics

[Draft: August 1, 2019]
Instruction for assignments and the complete syllabus will be available through MyCourse

(Sept 3-Nov 28, 2019)

Location: ENGMD 280
Lecture Time: 14:35-15:55 Tuesday/Thursday

Course Description
This course examines key issues in contemporary Chinese politics, with a focus on domestic politics. (POLI 359 focuses on the foreign policy in China)
It is structured around three interrelated perspectives:

1. It unpacks the composition of the governors and the governed. It looks at the interactions between the governors and the governed. It traces the continuity and changes in both the composition and the interaction.
2. It introduces the toolkit for control and repertoires of resistance. It considers their changes and interactions.
3. It examines the policymaking as a result of ideology, elite politics, mass participation and resistance, vested interests, and bureaucratic incrementalism, and policy implementation as a reflection of agency problem, propaganda, censorship, and accommodation.

Learning Outcome
Reading a news event, students are able to identify possible power dynamics behind it, and provide different plausible explanations for it.

Assignments
1. Quizzes
   Map Quiz 4%
   Knowledge Quizzes 8% (4% *2)
2. Conferences:
   Participation 26%
3. Writing Assignment 62%

1. Quizzes:
   - Map quiz: No makeup quiz will be given.
   - Knowledge quizzes: basic factual knowledge on some historical events based on readings and the following two documentaries (see MyCourse for keywords)
     PBS documentary China: A Century of Revolution (1911-1976) (library reserve)

2. Participation: Discussion and presentations in conferences that are aimed to facilitate your understanding of lecture materials and homework assignments.

3. Writing assignment: see MyCourse. These writing assignments are two group projects that help you understand Chinese politics.


**Re-grading:** Students who wish to contest a grade for an assignment or exam must do so in writing (by email) providing the reasoning behind their challenge to the grade received within two weeks of the day on which the assignments are returned. The TA who graded the assignment will re-grade your assignment, and may raise or lower the grade. If you are still unsatisfied after the re-assessment, you can re-submit the assignment to me (original copy with TA comments), along with your justification. I will then re-evaluate the paper, but also reserve the right to raise or lower the grade. Please also see this [PSSA document](#).

**Miscellaneous Reminders**

A. For Student Support, Consult the [document on student resources](#).
B. McGill University values academic integrity. Therefore, all students must understand the meaning and consequences of cheating, plagiarism and other academic offences under the [Code of Student Conduct and Disciplinary Procedures](#).
C. In accord with McGill University Charter of Students’ Rights, students in this course have the right to submit in English or in French any written work that is to be graded.
D. If you have a disability please contact the instructor to arrange a time to discuss your situation. It would be helpful if you contact the Office for Students with Disabilities at 514-398-6009 before you do this.
E. McGill has policies on sustainability, paper use and other initiatives to promote a culture of sustainability at McGill.

Add/Drop Deadline: Tuesday, Sept 17

Thanksgiving: Monday, October 14
**Tue, Sept 3: Introduction**

*Let's start from the top.*

**Thur, Sept 5: Ideology, Mass Politics, and Power Struggle**


Recommend:


Watch the PBS documentary on China’s Revolution (1911-1976): *China: A Century of Revolution*

**Tue, Sept 10 New Politics of Power Struggle**


**Thur, Sept 12 Who is Governing China? #1**


**Reminder:** You should have completed watching the PBS documentary on China’s Revolution (1911-1976): *China: A Century of Revolution*

**Tue, Sept 17 Guest lecture**

Prof. Letian Zhang from Fudan University, China. (Time: Noon-1:30pm. Location: TBA)

**Thur, Sept 19 Who is Governing China? #2**


Recommend:

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**Conference:** Changes and Continuity from the Maoist era to the Reform era

**Writing assignment #1-1 (collect questions)**

**Tue, Sept 24 The Process of Policy Making**


Recommend:
Thur, Sept 26 The Building and Transition of The Bureaucracy


Knowledge Quiz #1

Conference: Changes and continuity from the Maoist era to the reform era.

Writing Assignment #1-1 due

Tue, Oct 1 A Variety of Local Governments


Recommend:

Thur, Oct 3 Agency Control


Recommend:
Youtube Video: South Morning Post: Chinese President Xi Jinping's ‘Little Red App'

Conference: Writing assignment #1-2 presentation
**Tue, Oct 8 Interest Groups**


*Now we turn to the governed society*

**Thur, Oct 10 Institutional Foundation of Social and Economic Inequality**


Reminder: you should have completed watching Richard Gordon and Carma Hinton, *The Gate of Heavenly Peace*.

Conferences: writing assignment#1-2 presentation

**Tue, Oct 15 Modes of Resistance #1**


Knowledge Quiz #2
Thur, Oct 17 Modes of Resistance #2


Conference: the legacy of rural-urban divide.

Mary Gallagher, “The Evolution of Workers’ Rights in China” (UPenn CSCC Podcast)

Writing assignment #1-2 due

Tue, Oct 22: Modes of Resistance #3


Thur, Oct 24 Modes of Responses #1


Conference:


Tue, Oct 29 Modes of Responses #2


**Thur Oct 31 Modes of Control: Propaganda**


**Conference:**


*Writing assignment #2-1 due*

**Tue Nov 5 Modes of Control: Censorship and News Media**


**Thur, Nov 7 Indirect Control**


**Conference:**
1) Internet Culture and Politics in China – Guobin Yang (UPenn CSCC podcast)
2) Inside a Chinese internet censorship Centre - South China Morning Post – (Youtube video)

**Tue, Nov 12 Political Space**


*Let’s shift gear to law, the system of rules.*

**Thur, Nov 14 Judicial (In)dependence**


**Conference:**

**Tue, Nov 19 Court Operation**


**Thur, Nov 21 (away for SSHA conference. Nov 21-23)**

**Conference:** writing assignment #2-2 presentation
Tue, Nov 26 Law as Weapons of the Weak


Thur, Nov 28 Reflection


Conference: writing assignment #2-2 presentation

Thur/Dec 5 writing assignment #2-2 due