CHES3010: Governing China

2019-20, Term 2

Instructor: Dr. Tim Summers (summers@cuhk.edu.hk)
Teaching Assistant (TA): Mark Sun (marksun@cuhk.edu.hk)
Lecture/tutorial: Tuesday 10.30-13.15 (CKB_108)
Office hours: To be announced on Blackboard or by appointment (YIA 1111)

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course introduces key issues and concepts in politics and governance in contemporary China. It begins by discussing the historical origins of China’s contemporary political system, its structures and processes today, and the main goals which the system is designed to achieve. Throughout, the course will examine debates about Chinese politics and governance.

Students are required to read the readings set for each lecture, and encouraged to read as much of the following books for this course as possible:

- David M. Lampton. *Following the Leader: Ruling China, from Deng Xiaoping to Xi Jinping* (University of California Press, 2014)
- David Shambaugh. *China’s Future* (Polity, 2016)

LEARNING OUTCOMES

By the end of the course students should be able to:

- Describe and evaluate key features of Chinese politics and governance across the themes covered in the course.
- Engage with the debates about Chinese politics through written and oral work.

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1 E-book available through CUHK library.
2 Some of the chapters of this book are available as separate articles. A Chinese language version of the book has been published by CUHK Press.
**ASSESSMENT**

1. Reading reflection 20%
2. Short paper 20%
3. Final essay 50%
4. Attendance and participation 10%

The reading reflection, of around 1,200 words, should be based on one or more of the books on the list above. Credit will be given for reflections which compare and contrast the approaches and conclusions of more than one of the books. The reading reflection can be submitted any time during the first half of term, but at the latest by **2pm on Tuesday 25 February 2020**.

The short paper, of around 1,200 words, should discuss the issue of contentious politics, and be submitted by **2pm on Tuesday 17 March 2020**.

The final paper should be an evaluation of (one aspect of) politics and governance in China (further guidance will be offered in class). It should be submitted by **6pm on Tuesday 21 April 2020**.

All written assignments should be submitted by PDF to the Lecturer (document title format s1155111888_CHES3010_reading reflection, etc) and uploaded onto Vereguide. Late submission will be penalised.

Demonstrating critical thinking, a good understanding of the readings and lectures, and the ability to present material clearly will be rewarded in all forms of assessment. Further details of assessment requirements and grading criteria will be posted on Blackboard in Week 1.

**ACADEMIC HONESTY**

Attention is drawn to university policy on academic honesty. Details are available at: [http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/policy/academichonesty/](http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/policy/academichonesty/)
LECTURE SCHEDULE AND READINGS

Each class will consist of a lecture and structured class discussion of the course content. Required and optional readings are set for each week.

1. **Introduction: course outline and requirements (7 Jan.)**

2. **Politics and governance in China: the agenda (14 Jan.)**
   Wright, chapter 1, ‘Sources of Stable Governance in China’

3. **Mao era legacies and Deng’s reforms (21 Jan.)**
   Lampton, chapter 1, ‘Evolution in the Revolution’

   *Note that there will be no class on 28 Jan. (Chinese New Year holiday)*

4. **Party and state institutions and structures (4 Feb.)**
   Wright, chapter 2, ‘Party and State, or Party-State?’

5. **The role of leadership and cadre selection (11 Feb.)**
   Lampton, chapter 2, ‘Governance and Leadership’
   Wright, chapter 3, ‘Who Serves in the Party-State?’

6. **Policy making (18 Feb.)**
   Lampton, chapter 3, ‘Policy Making’

7. **Policy goals: society and the economy (25 Feb.)**
   Wright, chapter 4, ‘Maintaining Public Relations’, and chapter 5, ‘Managing the Economy’

8. **Contentious politics (3 Mar.)**
   Lampton, chapter 5, ‘Nightmares’

9. **Urbanisation and changing society (10 Mar.)**
   Wright, chapter 6, ‘Providing Goods and Services’
10. China’s regions and centre-local relations (17 Mar.)
   [Optional] Li Mingjiang, ‘Central-local interactions in foreign affairs’. In Donaldson, ed., *Assessing the Balance of Power*

11. The military (24 Mar.)
   Lampton, chapter 6, ‘Soldiers and civilians’

*Note that there will be no class on 31 March (University reading week)*

12. Xi Jinping and governance of China: change or continuity? (7 Apr.)
   Lampton, ‘Conclusion: Driving beyond the Headlights’
   Wright, chapter 7, ‘Stable Authoritarianism?’

13. China in global context (14 Apr.)
   *Lampton, chapter 4, ‘The World’
   *Shambaugh, chapter 5, ‘China’s Future and the World’