

POL30011 Chinese Politics and Society

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| Credit Points: | 12.50 |
| Level: | 3 (Undergraduate) |
| Dates & Locations: | 2011, Parkville This subject commences in the following study period/s: Semester 1, Parkville - Taught on campus. |
| Time Commitment: | Contact Hours: Thirty contact hours per semester. 2 x one hour lectures and 1 x one hour tutorial per week for 10 weeks. The lecture and tutorial programs are staggered and cover the 12 weeks of semester. Total Time Commitment: Not available |
| Prerequisites: | None |
| Corequisites: | None |
| Recommended Background Knowledge: | Politics and International Studies at Levels 1 and 2 |
| Non Allowed Subjects: | 672-369 Chinese Politics and Society |
| Core Participation Requirements: | For the purposes of considering request for Reasonable Adjustments under the disability Standards for Education (Cwth 2005), and Students Experiencing Academic Disadvantage Policy, academic requirements for this subject are articulated in the Subject Description, Subject Objectives, Generic Skills and Assessment Requirements of this entry. The University is dedicated to provide support to those with special requirements. Further details on the disability support scheme can be found at the Disability Liaison Unit website: http://www.services.unimelb.edu.au/disability/ |
| Coordinator: | Dr Pradeep Taneja |
| Contact: | Dr. Pradeep Taneja ptaneja@unimelb.edu.au |
| Subject Overview: | This is a broad, historically-based survey course of Chinese politics. It is designed to offer an overview of and background to, contemporary Mainland Chinese politics and society. It is more historically oriented than many of the other survey courses offered in the Politics program. This emphasis on history is deliberate. We shall begin with the development of the Communist Party and its escape from the Shanghai massacre through to its period of governance in rural China, examining the background to the Long March in the process. This will be followed by a look at the Yan'an period in communist history - a time of ideological reformation and Mao Zedong's rise to power. The experience gained by the Party during this period served as a dream-model of how the country would be run in the future socialist state. This will bring us to the founding of the People's Republic of China in October 1949, and the adoption of the Soviet model of economic planning and governance. The study of the Great Leap Forward and the Cultural Revolution will focus on the intense, revolutionary and binary politics behind these two campaigns. Then we will look at the reasons Mao initiated these campaigns and why they failed. The transition China has undergone since the death of Mao Zedong in 1976 will form an important part of this course. From a state dominated by a revolutionary politics of commitment China has become a society that is almost entirely market driven. This transition from politics to economics is almost a parable of our post 9/11 times. Chinese politics gives us an opportunity to reflect upon the two types of politics that dominate our world. Chinese politics also gives us a chance to see how one state moved from a social dynamic that was intense, revolutionary and binary in form to one in which money and the commodity dominates. It also allows us to see how a politics of commitment can give way to the appearance of apolitical policy. |
| Objectives: | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> # have an understanding of the forces at play in contemporary Chinese social and political life. # have an appreciation of the political history of the Communist Party in framing contemporary policy. # developed the critical faculties so that they are more attuned to the political nuances of various standard accounts on Chinese politics. # gain an insight into how the empirical can shed light on the theoretical. |

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| Assessment: | A research essay of 2000 words (50%) due mid-semester, and a 2-hour exam (50%) scheduled during the examination period. This subject has a minimum Hurdle Requirement of 75% Tutorial attendance. Students who fail to meet this hurdle requirement will be deemed ineligible to submit the final piece of assessment or sit the final examination. Regular participation in tutorials is required. Assessment submitted late without an approved extension will be penalised at 10% per working day. In-class tasks missed without approval will not be marked. All pieces of written work must be submitted to pass this subject. |
| Prescribed Texts: | A subject reader will be available for purchase from the University Bookshop. |
| Breadth Options: | <p>This subject potentially can be taken as a breadth subject component for the following courses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> # Bachelor of Biomedicine (https://handbook.unimelb.edu.au/view/2011/B-BMED) # Bachelor of Commerce (https://handbook.unimelb.edu.au/view/2011/B-COM) # Bachelor of Environments (https://handbook.unimelb.edu.au/view/2011/B-ENVS) # Bachelor of Music (https://handbook.unimelb.edu.au/view/2011/B-MUS) # Bachelor of Science (https://handbook.unimelb.edu.au/view/2011/B-SCI) # Bachelor of Engineering (https://handbook.unimelb.edu.au/view/2011/B-ENG) <p>You should visit learn more about breadth subjects (http://breadth.unimelb.edu.au/breadth/info/index.html) and read the breadth requirements for your degree, and should discuss your choice with your student adviser, before deciding on your subjects.</p> |
| Fees Information: | Subject EFTSL, Level, Discipline & Census Date, http://enrolment.unimelb.edu.au/fees |
| Generic Skills: | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> # be able to research through the competent use of the library and other information sources, and be able to define areas of inquiry and methods of research in the preparation of essays. # be able to conceptualise theoretical problems, form judgements and arguments and communicate critically, creatively and theoretically through essay writing, tutorial discussion and presentations. # be able to communicate knowledge ideologically and economically through essay writing and tutorial discussion. # be able to manage and organise workloads for recommended reading, the completion of essays and assignments and examination revision. # be able to participate in team work through small group discussions. |
| Notes: | Available as a Breadth subject to non-Bachelor of Arts students |
| Related Course(s): | Bachelor of Arts(Media and Communications) |
| Related Majors/Minors/Specialisations: | <p>Asian Studies Asian Studies Asian Studies Asian Studies Major International Studies Major Political Science Major Politics and International Studies Politics and International Studies Politics and International Studies</p> |