

TEXAS SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY

# TOPICS IN CHINESE HISTORY I: CONTEMPORARY CHINA

**HIST 461-01A    22177    Spring 2025    Online Asynchronous**

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## I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

Specialized topics in Chinese History. This is an upper division course in Chinese History.

Spring 2023 topic—contemporary China, including political systems, economics, society, and law.

*Please note: This syllabus may be revised over the course of the term. Any changes to the syllabus will be announced on Blackboard.*

## II. PREREQUISITES HIST 1301 and HIST 1302.

## III. STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

Through successful completion of this course, students will achieve the following:

1. An understanding of the basic facts about contemporary China in their historical context, including important facts about the social, political, economic, and cultural features.
2. An ability to summarize and evaluate secondary sources.
3. Students will complete a ten-page (double-spaced) critical essay on one aspect of contemporary China (to be specified), analyzed in historical context. The paper should present (i) a well-formulated thesis, (ii) clear supporting arguments, (iii) persuasive evidence for each supporting argument, and (iv) a conclusion that synthesizes the central arguments.

## IV. REQUIRED TEXTS

**Required texts** The following texts are required for the course:

Tamara Jacka, Andrew B. Kipnis, and Sally Sargeson, *Contemporary China* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2013), ISBN-13: 978-1107600799.

Barry Naughton, *The Chinese Economy: Adaptation and Growth*, 2nd ed. (Cambridge: MIT Press, 2017), ISBN-13: 978-0262534796. (Please make sure you purchase the second edition, *not* the first edition, titled *Chinese Economy: Transitions and Growth*, which was published in 2006, and so is very much out of date.)

**Additional texts** In addition, students will be required to read sections from the following texts, which will be available through Blackboard and the TSU Library:

Central Intelligence Agency, *The World Factbook* (Washington, DC: Central Intelligence Agency, 2021).

Robert Benewick and Stephanie Donald, *The State of China Atlas: Mapping the World's Fastest-Growing Economy*, rev. and updated (Berkeley: University of California Press, 2009).

Patricia Buckley Ebrey, *The Cambridge Illustrated History of China*, 2nd ed. (1996; Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2010).

William A. Joseph, *Politics in China: An Introduction* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2010).

Yukon Huang, *Cracking the China Conundrum: Why Conventional Economic Wisdom is Wrong* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2017).

Richard P. Appelbaum et al., *Innovation in China: Challenging the Global Science and Technology System* (Cambridge: Polity Press, 2018).

**V. CLASS ORGANIZATION** Students are responsible for all assigned readings and for all material presented.

In online classes, students must demonstrate attendance by completing at least one assignment in the first twelve days of class. For attendance purposes, students *must* log on at least once per week (the week begins on Sunday at 12:00 AM and ends on Saturday at 11:59 PM).

**VI. TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS** This course is offered online only, and therefore students are required to use the following technology:

- *Computers* Due to the nature of this course, all students will need access to a computer, internet connection, word processing software, and a PDF reader. Students who do not own a laptop or desktop computer can access computers on the TSU campus at various computer labs. For TSU computer lab locations and hours of operation, see <http://oit.tsu.edu/index.php/computer-labs/> Students off-campus can access computers through local branches of public libraries. All students must have a TSU computer account, an e-mail account linked to Blackboard, and a TSU Blackboard account. If you do not have a TSU computer account, you must acquire one as soon as possible.

- *Blackboard* Assignments and communications will be through Blackboard, available at <https://texsu.blackboard.com> Students are required to check Blackboard daily.

- *E-mail* Students are required to check their TSU e-mail daily.

Student engagement is mandatory. Students are responsible for logging onto the course regularly and completing assignments in accord with the guidelines posted. Students are responsible for reading all course announcements, readings, and materials presented online. Students are responsible for completing all assignments within the timeframes given. As this is a 3-credit course, students must be prepared to spend at least 12 hours per week on class readings and assignments.

**VII. COURSE OUTLINE AND CALENDAR**

**Week 1 (Jan. 13–17): Course Introduction**

**Week 2 (Jan. 21–24): Overview of Contemporary China**

“China,” in CIA, *World Factbook*: <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/ch.html>

### **Week 3 (Jan. 27–31): Mapping Contemporary China**

Benewick and Donald, *State of China Atlas*, pp. 12–87.

## **Part I. History**

### **Week 4 (Feb. 3–7): Recent Chinese History**

Ebrey, *History of China*, chap. 9 “Manchus and Imperialism: The Qing Dynasty 1644–1900” and chap. 10 “Taking Action: The Early Twentieth Century 1900–1949,” pp. 220–291.

## **Part II. Government and Politics**

### **Week 5 (Feb. 10–14): Government and Political Structure**

Joseph, *Politics in China*, chap. 5, William Joseph, “Ideology in Chinese Politics” and chap. 6, Cheng Li, “China’s Communist Party-State: The Structure and Identity of Power,” pp. 129–191.

### **Week 6 (Feb. 17–21): Society and Culture (part 1)**

Jacka, Kipnis, and Sargeson, *Contemporary China*, “Introduction” and “Part 1: Social Institutions,” pp. 1–126.

### **Week 7 (Feb. 24–28): Society and Culture (part 2)**

Jacka, Kipnis, and Sargeson, *Contemporary China*, Part 2, “Cultures, socialization and the formation of identities,” chap. 8 “Education and the cultivation of citizens” and chap. 9 “Modernity, youth identities and popular culture,” pp. 161–198. Part 3. “Inequalities, injustices and social responses,” chap. 10 “Social class and stratification,” chap. 11 “Regional, rural-urban and within-community inequalities,” and chap. 12 “The ‘woman question’ and gender inequalities,” pp. 199–256.

## **Part III. Economics**

### **Week 8 (March 3–7): Chinese Economy: Overview**

Naughton, *Chinese Economy*, Introduction and Part I “Legacies and Setting,” pp. 1–152.

### **Spring Break, March 10–15**

### **Week 9 (March 17–21): Growth and Development**

Naughton, *Chinese Economy*, Part II “Patterns of Growth and Development,” pp. 153–256.

### **Week 10 (March 24–28): Rural Economy**

Naughton, *Chinese Economy*, Part III “The Rural Economy,” pp. 257–330.

### **Week 11 (March 31–April 4): Urban Economy**

Naughton, *Chinese Economy*, Part IV “The Urban Economy,” pp. 331–394.

### **Week 12 (April 7–April 11): China and the World Economy**

Naughton, *Chinese Economy*, Part V “China and the World Economy,” pp. 395–450.

### **Week 13 (April 14–April 18): Reassessing the Chinese Economy**

Yukon Huang, *Cracking the China Conundrum*, chap. 7 “China’s Trade and Capital Flows,” chap. 8 “China’s Foreign Investment in the United States and European Union,” chap. 9 “China’s Impact on the Global Balance of Power,” and chap. 10 “Conclusion: Cracking the China Conundrum,” pp. 120–200.

### **Week 14 (April 21–April 25): Science and Technology**

Appelbaum et al., *Innovation in China*, chap. 3 “China’s Science and Technology Enterprise: Can Government-Led Efforts Successfully Spur Innovation?” chap. 4 “China’s International S&T Relations: From Self-Reliance to Active Global Engagement,” chap. 5 “How Effective Is China’s State-Led Approach to High-Tech Development?” and chap. 6 “Xi Jinping’s Chinese Dream: Some Challenges,” pp. 48–185.

## **Part IV. Future**

### **Week 15 (April 28–30): Final Paper**

**The final term paper is due May 1.**

## **VIII. ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING POLICIES**

1. Short quizzes will be given to assess students’ understanding of the assigned readings.
2. Students must complete a five-page (double-spaced) term paper.
3. The grade will be based on short quizzes (60%), midterm (10%), final term paper (10%), and final exam (20%).
4. Final grades will be assigned as follows: A+ 97–100; A 93–96; A– 90–92; 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 below 60.
5. Make-up work will be permitted only for documented emergencies.
6. Athletes, band members, and members of other outside activities must submit official documentation from their coaches or directors and make arrangements with the instructor prior to any assignments they miss.

**IX. ADDITIONAL COSTS** This course has no additional costs.

## **X. UNIVERSITY POLICIES**

**Academic Integrity** The *Texas Southern University 2019–2020 Undergraduate Catalog* states the following:

Students must maintain a high standard of honesty in their academic work. They should avoid all forms of academic dishonesty, especially the following:

- **Plagiarism.** The appropriation of passages, either word for word (or in substance) from the writing of another and the incorporation of these as one’s own written work offered for credit.
- **Collusion.** Working with another person in the preparation of notes, themes, reports, or other written work offered for credit unless such collaboration is specifically approved in advance by the instructor.
- **Cheating on an Examination or Quiz.** Giving or receiving, offering or soliciting information, or using prepared material in an examination or testing situation is expressly

forbidden. On examinations and quizzes students are expected (a) to remain in the examination room until the examination is finished, (b) to refrain from talking, and (c) to refrain from bringing notes and books into the examination room.

- **Impersonation.** Allowing another person to attend classes, take examinations or to do graded assignments for an enrolled student under his or her name is strictly forbidden.

**A violator of any of the above offenses will incur severe disciplinary action ranging from suspension to expulsion from the University. Specific guidelines will be administered by each dean.**

See <http://www.tsu.edu/registrar/pdf/2019-2020-undergraduate-catalog.pdf>, pp. 32 – 33 (emphasis in original).

**Grade of I** The grade of “I” is given only when a student’s work is satisfactory in quality, but due to reasons beyond his or her control, the work has not been completed. The missing work may be a midterm or final examination, a term paper, or other work. It is not given in lieu of an F. The instructor will stipulate, in writing, at the time the grade is given the conditions under which the “I” may be removed. This temporary grade of “I” is non-punitive and semester hours for the course are not considered in the computation of the quality-point average. Removal must be within one calendar year after the “I” is assigned, or the “I” grade shall become an “F”. The grade “I” is not assigned if the student must retake the course. In the event a student who earns a grade of “I” decides to retake the course, the student is required to pay for that course.

**Students with Disabilities** Texas Southern University (TSU), Student Accessibility Services Office (SASO) provides individualized, reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, the Americans with Disabilities Amendment Act of 2008, and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. Students who may need accommodations are asked to contact the Student Accessibility Services Office (SASO) at (713) 313-4210 or (713) 313-7691. The SASO office is located in the Student Health Center, room 140. Business hours are Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Please note Instructors are not required to provide classroom accommodations without approved verification from the Student Accessibility Services Office (SASO). Please schedule an appointment during my office hours to discuss approved accommodation provisions. TSU and SASO are committed to providing an inclusive learning environment. For additional information, please contact the SASO.

**Title IX Information** Texas Southern University is committed towards encouraging and supporting a welcome inclusive university community where all community members enjoy a community free from sex discrimination, harassment and violence. As a result, you should know that university faculty members and staff are required to notify the University Title IX Coordinator of any instances of sex discrimination and harassment, sexual violence, dating violence, domestic violence, or stalking. Sharing this information ensures that those harmed are provided support resources. What this means is that as your professor, I am required to report any incidents that are directly disclosed to me, or of which I am somehow made aware. The University’s Counseling Center is available to you if you want to speak with someone confidentially. Please visit the University’s Counseling Center’s website <https://www.tsu.edu/ucc> for additional information.

## **XI. STUDENT ACCESSIBILITY SERVICES OFFICE (SASO)**

### **Classroom Accommodations for Students with Disabilities**

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), Texas Southern University (TSU) is committed to providing equitable access to learning opportunities to students with documented disabilities (e.g., mental health, attentional, learning, chronic health, sensory, or physical). For each class/

term/semester where a student needs academic adjustments/accommodations, the qualified student must work with SASO. Contact with the SASO should be made as soon as possible to ensure academic needs are met in a reasonable time. **Only the SASO can grant, modify, or withdraw academic adjustments/accommodations.**

If you have not yet established services through SASO but have a temporary health condition or permanent disability that requires accommodations, you are welcome to contact SASO by using the information listed on the following webpage: <https://www.tsu.edu/studentsservices/departments/disability-services/register-with-the-ods>. The SASO office offers resources and coordinates reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities and/or temporary health conditions qualifying for accommodations/academic adjustments. Reasonable accommodations are established through an interactive process between you, your faculty, and SASO. Only those academic adjustments/reasonable accommodations granted by the SASO are recognized by TSU. TSU's policy and practice is to create an inclusive and accessible learning environment consistent with federal and state law.

## **XII. TITLE IX/PREGNANT AND PARENTING STUDENTS**

### **Addressing Incidents of Title IX Sexual Harassment**

In accordance with Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, Texas Southern University (TSU) prohibits unlawful sexual harassment against any participant in its education programs or activities. Title IX requires schools to take steps to prevent and remedy sexual harassment, hostile environment, including sexual violence, gender-based harassment, dating/domestic violence, and stalking. This prohibition against sexual harassment - including sexual violence - applies to TSU students, employees, and visitors to campus.

TSU's policy is to provide an educational, employment, and business environment free of sexual violence, unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal or physical conduct or communications constituting sexual harassment as prohibited by state and federal law. Incidents of Sexual Misconduct should be reported to the college Title IX Coordinator, as outlined in policy. Reports of alleged Title IX violations may be made by visiting: <https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/4e1d5ba471ee442082f477910cb1b4c4>. Reports may also be made directly through email to [TitleIX@TSU.edu](mailto:TitleIX@TSU.edu).

**Pregnant and parenting students** should expect to obtain reasonable academic adjustments/ accommodations based on their pregnant and parenting status to maintain access to the educational environment. These students should work with the Title IX Coordinator for appropriate academic adjustments/accommodations. TSU cannot grant retroactive adjustments, so reaching out early with requests is important. Discrimination against pregnant and parenting students is also prohibited under Title IX. For more pregnant and parenting information, please visit the Title IX webpage found at: <https://www.tsu.edu/about/administration/office-of-compliance/title-ix/>