**Course Title** : Contemporary China: Economy, Politics and Society  
**Course Code** : SSC3202  
**Recommended Study Year** : 2, 3 and 4  
**No. of Credits/ Term** : 3  
**Mode of Tuition** : Lecture-Tutorial  
**Class Contact Hours** : Three hours per week  
**Category in Major Prog** : Stream required (CAPS)  
**Prerequisite(s)** : None  
**Co-requisite(s)** : None  
**Exclusion(s)** : None  
**Exemption Requirements(s)** : None  
**Instructors** : Prof. CP Chan and Dr. Wang Yanchen  
**Teaching Period** : 1st Term, 2019-20

**Brief Course Description**
This course provides an introduction to Chinese economy, politics, and society. The focus is on economic, political and social institutions; social and political movements and economic and social developments, and selected aspects of external relations such as China’s role in WTO. The course will cover developments of various regimes since 1949. Basic theories, interpretations and data related to the development of contemporary China will be discussed.

**Aims**
This course aims to prepare students for an understanding of and independent thinking about various aspects of contemporary China by introducing some of the current controversies and debates in the transition period of China. It is intended to provide a basic understanding of some of the thematic complexities surrounding major areas of economic, political and social changes and reforms, and to expose students to the practical issues facing contemporary China.

**Learning Outcomes**
Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

1) understand the fundamental institutions in China;
2) evaluate critically past and recent developments of the economic, political and social systems of China; and
3) appraise in both oral and written forms the significance of basic Chinese economic, political and social developments and processes.

**Teaching method**
Lectures, tutorial discussions and presentations, documentary showings
Assessment of learning outcomes
1. Lecture and tutorial performance based on attendance and participation in discussion (20%) (LO1, LO2, LO3).
2. Two term papers on assigned topics (15% each) (LO1, LO2, LO3).
3. A final examination aimed to test students’ overall understanding of course materials (50%) (LO1, LO2, LO3). Final examination will be held in the exam weeks according to the University’s exam schedule.

Student practices
1. Students are advised to have the relevant readings done before attending the lectures. Keeping up with the readings, especially from the main course textbook, is essential for achieving the learning objectives of this course. An important function of the tutorials is to reinforce the learning from the lectures and students’ readings.
2. Students are encouraged to pay attention and to analyze events on Chinese politics, economics and society, as we hope to connect real-world events to the themes and ideas raised in the class.
3. Penalty will be given to late term papers. Late Submission of term papers within 5 working days after the due date will be deducted by one grade, for example, if the submission is graded as B+, it will be recorded as B. Late submissions beyond 5 working days of the due date will receive "F" grade for the term papers.

Prof. Chan will teach the first half of the course from September 3 to October 15.
Office: WYL 321
Tel: 2616-7189
Email: chancp@ln.edu.hk
Office hours: Monday: 11:30-12:30 pm, Tuesday 1:30-2:30 pm; Wednesday: 1:30-3:30 pm; Friday: 2:30-4:30 pm and by appointment.
Tutorial: Wednesday 11:30-12:30 am (T3), 3:30-4:30 pm (T2); (Tutorial classes on September 11, 18, 25, October 2, 9; no tutorial: October 16, 21).

Dr. Wang will teach the second half of the course from October 22 to November 27.
Office: WYL 205
Tel: 2616-7173
Email: yannsonwang@ln.edu.hk
Office hours: Mondays: 13:30 - 14:30 pm
Tuesday: 14:00 - 15:00 pm
Wednesdays: 13:30 - 15:30 pm and by appointments
Indicative Content

Politics

I. Class struggle under Mao (Dreyer, chs. 5, 6; Wang, ch. 2)
   a) The early years
   b) The Cultural Revolution and its aftermath

II. The Chinese Communist Party since 1949 (Wang, chs. 3, 4)
   a) Party Ideology: from Marxism to the reform era pragmatism (Wang, ch. 3)
   b) The Party: organs and functions (Wang, ch. 4)

III. The PRC Government (Wang, ch. 4; Yin, chs. 3, 4, 5, 8)
   a) Structure and process
   b) Relationship with the CCP

IV. Democracy, dissent and rights-defense movement in China (Dreyer, ch. 6; Wang, ch. 10)
   a) The nature of dissident movement
   b) The 1989 Tiananmen mass movement
   c) The rights-defense (weiquan) movement since the last 2 decades

Economics

I. Introduction: Socialist Economy and Market Transition

II. An overview of China’s Economic Reform
   a) Rural Economy and Rural Reform
   b) Industrial Reform and State-Owned Enterprises
   c) Collectives and the private enterprises
   d) FDI inward and outward
   e) International trade and accession to the WTO

Society

I. Major social institutions (Zang, 1st Edition, 2011, chs. 9, 10)
   a) Religion (Zang, ch. 10)
   b) Ethnicity (Zang, ch. 9)

II. Major social developments
   a) Demographics
   b) The hukou system
   c) The migration of labor
   d) Income disparity
Term paper for the first part of the course (15 marks)

You have to write a book review as your term paper. You can choose any book (preferably a research monograph, English or Chinese, but the review should be written in English) as long as it is on the topic of Chinese society or politics. You cannot work on a textbook. Let me know the title of your chosen book on or before Wednesday, September 25. Send me an email and inform me the book title, author(s), publishing year and publisher of the book. I will return your email and tell you whether you can work on your chosen book. If you are not sure whether your chosen book is an appropriate one, come and discuss with me beforehand. (Bring me the book with you if possible.)

Book review is not just a summary. The review should be critical and with your own comments. Refer to the published book reviews in the academic journals (as listed on the later page of this course outline).

Book review should be typed in Word form, double-space, font size 12, Times New Roman and strictly limited to 4-5 pages in length and should be submitted in both soft (Moodle Turnitin) and hard copies. The due date for this first paper is Wednesday, October 30. More details will be explained in class.

Term paper for the second part of the course (15 marks)

Students have to do a critical book chapter review and can pick one chapter from one of the following two books for the review. Student’s choice has to be confirmed in the first tutorial of the second part of the course. No chapter can be chosen by more than two students.


1. China's great economic transformation
2. China and development economics
3. China in light of the performance of Transition economies
4. A political economy of China's economic transition
5. The demographic factor in China's transition
6. The Chinese labor market in the reform era
7. Education in the reform era
8. Environmental resources and economic growth
9. Science and technology in China
10. The political economy of private sector development in China
11. The role of law in China's economic development
12. China's fiscal system: a work in progress
13. Agriculture in China's development: past disappointments, recent successes and future challenges
14. China's financial system: past, present, and future
15. China's industrial development
16. China's embrace of globalization
17. Growth and structural transformation in China
18. Income inequality during China's economic transition
19. Spatial dimensions of Chinese economic development
20. Forecasting China's economic growth over the next two decades

Perry, Elizabeth J. and Mark Selden (eds), *Chinese Society: Change, Conflict and Resistance*, 3rd edition, New York: Routledge, 2010. (Chapters 2-5 and 7 only)

Introduction: Reform, conflict and resistance in contemporary China
1. Rights & resistance: The changing contexts of the dissident movement
2. Pathways of labor activism
3. Conflict, resistance, and the transformation of the hukou system
4. Contesting rural spaces: Land disputes, customary tenure and the state
5. To the courts or to the barricades? Can new political institutions manage rural conflict?
6. Women, marriage and the state in contemporary China
7. Domination, resistance and accommodation in China's one-child campaign
8. Environmental protests in rural China
9. The new cybersects: Popular religion, repression and resistance
10. Chinese Christianity: Indigenization and conflict
11. Alter/native Mongolian identity: From nationality to ethnic group
12. The revolution of resistance

The book chapter review should be typed in double space, font size 12, Times New Roman, and strictly limited to 4-5 pages in length. Students should submit both soft (Moodle Turnitin) and hard copies. More details will be explained in class. The book chapter review must be submitted **by 4pm on December 11, 2019 (Wednesday) to the Department of Economics General Office.**
**Attendance in lectures and tutorials**

According to the Academic Regulations for Undergraduate Program of the University, students should attend all lectures, tutorials and other class activities assigned by the instructors. Students are also expected to attend classes and other class activities punctually, regularly, and to the satisfaction of the instructors.

In the first part of the course, Prof. Chan will take attendance for both lectures and tutorials, maybe not every time but most of the time.

In the second part of the course by Dr. Wang, attendance in both lectures and tutorials will also be checked. Starting from the second-class meeting in this part of the course, each student will be given three non-accountable allowances of absence for all lectures and tutorials combined in the remaining of the semester. Each additional absence should be supported by valid documentation in hard copy in the following class meeting.

Throughout the course, each undocumented absence will result in a one percentage point (1%) reduction in the total course point before course grade assignment. Attendance with participation problems (such as sleeping, chatting, showing up late, using mobile phone disrespectfully and doing work of other courses) will be considered as absence.

**Documentaries in tutorials and reflective writings for the second part of the course**

Documentaries on China are great educational resources that can help students who are born in the 1990s to learn about economic, political and social transformations happened in contemporary China. Throughout the course, students will view some well-produced documentaries on China. Each time after viewing, students should take time to think about the documentary and also the related current affairs in China.

For Dr. Wang’s assignments, students are asked to submit a one-page reflective writing on the documentaries (about 250 words) in hard copy during lecture or tutorial in the following week. The reflective writing is part of the assessment on tutorial attendance and participation. The reflective writing should be typed in Times New Roman, font size 12, and double space.

**List of documentaries on China**

China: The rebirth of an empire
China: Through Mao's eyes
China from the inside
China rises
China upside down: The paradox of Chinese society
China's capitalist revolution
Red capitalism: China's economic revolution
The passion of the Mao
The People's Republic of Capitalism
**Required Readings (put on reserve in the library on the 2 days loan category)**


**Recommended Readings (on special topics and for your choice of book review)**

**Politics**


鄒讜 二十世紀中國政治：從宏觀歷史與微觀行動角度看 香港：牛津 1994

浦興祖等著 中華人民共和國政治制度 香港：三聯 1995 (Textbook)

宋曉軍著 中國不高興 香港：中華書局(香港)有限公司 2009


趙紫陽：改革歷程 香港：新世紀出版社, 2009

陳祖為 梁文韜(編) ：政治理論在中國 香港: 牛津大學出版社 2001

宗鳳鳴記述 趙紫陽軟禁中的談話 香港：開放出版社, 2007
Economy


September 1997.


**Society**


Kipnis, Andrew, L. Tomba and J. Unger (eds.), *Contemporary Chinese Society and Politics* (volumes 1-4), New York: Routledge, 2009. (A good reference on different topics on contemporary Chinese politics and society) (Textbook)


王耀宗、陳可勇編 神州六十年 香港：法住出版社 2009
Selected Journals on China

Asian Studies
Asian Survey
China Economic Review
China Information
The China Journal
China Quarterly
China Report
China Review
Issues and Studies
Journal of Contemporary China
Modern China
Important Notes:
(1) Students are expected to spend a total of 9 hours (i.e. 3 hours of class contact and 6 hours of personal study) per week to achieve the course learning outcomes.
(2) Students shall be aware of the University regulations about dishonest practice in course work, tests and examinations, and the possible consequences as stipulated in the Regulations Governing University Examinations. In particular, plagiarism, being a kind of dishonest practice, is “the presentation of another person’s work without proper acknowledgement of the source, including exact phrases, or summarised ideas, or even footnotes/citations, whether protected by copyright or not, as the student’s own work”. Students are required to strictly follow university regulations governing academic integrity and honesty.
(3) Students are required to submit writing assignment(s) using Turnitin.
(4) To enhance students’ understanding of plagiarism, a mini-course “Online Tutorial on Plagiarism Awareness” is available on https://pla.ln.edu.hk/.

Assessment rubrics (2 halves of the course follow the same assessment criteria)

Participation and performance (10% each)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Criteria</th>
<th>Excellent A, A-</th>
<th>Good B+, B, B-</th>
<th>Fair C+, C, C-</th>
<th>Pass – Failure D+, D, F</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Class attendance and participation</td>
<td>Class attendance is regular and the student speaks up regularly and enthusiastically</td>
<td>Class attendance is regular and the student speaks up now and then</td>
<td>Class attendance is quite regular but the student participates only when asked by the instructor</td>
<td>Class attendance is erratic and participation is nil or almost nil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Articulateness</td>
<td>Expression of ideas or opinions were consistently factually accurate, logical and clear</td>
<td>Expression of ideas or opinions were generally factually accurate, logical and clear. Lapses were rare and minor in nature.</td>
<td>Expression of ideas or opinions were generally factually accurate, logical and clear, but with a number of minor lapses</td>
<td>Ideas or opinions were not expressed logically, and were characterized by significant factual inaccuracies and lack of clarity</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Term paper (15% each)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Criteria</th>
<th>Excellent A, A-</th>
<th>Good B+, B, B-</th>
<th>Fair C+, C, C-</th>
<th>Pass – Failure D+, D, F</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Research Question</strong></td>
<td>Wrote clear, creative and interesting question which fit the topic.</td>
<td>Wrote clear but commonly raised question which fit the topic.</td>
<td>Wrote question which barely matched with the topic.</td>
<td>Wrote question which did not fit the topic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Argument</strong></td>
<td>Argument both well supported and genuinely compared to conflicting explanations</td>
<td>Main argument valid, systematic, and well supported</td>
<td>Argument fair, not particularly interesting, a common-sense, and partially supported</td>
<td>Weak, invalid, or no argument, perhaps just a simple assertion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Use of Data or Evidence</strong></td>
<td>Fully exploits the richness of the data/evidence/ideas, and is sufficiently persuasive</td>
<td>Feasible evidence appropriately selected and not over-interpreted</td>
<td>Some appropriate use of evidence but uneven</td>
<td>Draws on little or no evidence, mostly relies on assertions or opinions, or evidence not clearly presented</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Organization and Writing</strong></td>
<td>Structure enhances the argument, strong sections and seamless flow. Virtually no English error.</td>
<td>Structure supports the argument, clearly ordered sections fit together well. Some minor English errors.</td>
<td>Structure is of inconsistent quality, may have redundancies or disconnections. Frequent English errors.</td>
<td>Needs significant reorganization. English errors significantly impair readability.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Examination (25% each)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Criteria</th>
<th>Excellent A, A-</th>
<th>Good B+, B-</th>
<th>Fair C+, C-</th>
<th>Pass – Failure D+, D, F</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Comprehension of all the relevant concepts.</td>
<td>Demonstrates a deep insightful level of understanding</td>
<td>Demonstrates a good surface level of understanding</td>
<td>Demonstrates an adequate level of surface understanding</td>
<td>Demonstrates an inadequate level of understanding</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Application of concepts to the topic.</td>
<td>Appropriate concepts are all applied correctly, to provide in-depth analysis elaboration to all aspects of the topic</td>
<td>Appropriate concepts are correctly applied, to provide analysis to all important aspects of the topic</td>
<td>Appropriate concepts are, for the most part, correctly applied, to provide analysis to all important aspects of the topic</td>
<td>Concepts are not applied, or are generally applied inappropriately or incorrectly; important aspects of the topic unaddressed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Presentation</td>
<td>Expression of ideas were consistently accurate, logical and clear</td>
<td>Expression of ideas were generally accurate, logical and clear. Lapses were rare and minor in nature.</td>
<td>Expression of ideas were generally accurate, logical and clear, but with a number of minor lapses</td>
<td>Ideas were not expressed logically, and were characterized by significant inaccuracies and lack of clarity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quality of English in the Report</td>
<td>English is consistently excellent</td>
<td>English is proficient, with no major errors</td>
<td>English is of a fair standard but some errors are present</td>
<td>English is below standard, with many major errors</td>
</tr>
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### Mark Ranges

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mark Ranges</th>
<th>Grade</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>85 -100</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>80-84</td>
<td>A-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>75-79</td>
<td>B+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>70-74</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>65-69</td>
<td>B-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60-64</td>
<td>C+</td>
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<tr>
<td>55-59</td>
<td>C</td>
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<tr>
<td>50-54</td>
<td>C-</td>
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<tr>
<td>45-49</td>
<td>D+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40-44</td>
<td>D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0-39</td>
<td>F</td>
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</table>