Course Title: Introduction to Chinese Politics

Aims and Objective

This is a foundation course that provides students with an overview of Chinese politics, which includes the evolutionary process of contemporary Chinese politics (from the final years of Qing to present day), political ideology, governing system, and political economy of modern China. Topics to be discussed in the course include the issues in Chinese domestic politics and the foreign policies of China in regional and global politics. The course is designed to develop students’ interest in contemporary Chinese politics.

Intended Learning Outcomes of the Course

On completion of the course, students should be able to

ILO1. describe the basic political developments and identify the major political events/figures in China from the mid 1800s to modern day;
ILO2. explain the major features of the political ideology, the party system, and the political economy of the People’s Republic of China;
ILO3. discuss issues related to domestic developments and problems in China and their causes;
ILO4. illustrate the theme of contemporary Chinese foreign relations in regional and global politics.

Syllabus

Political History
- From Empire to Republic (mid 19th Century – 1949)
- The Maoist Era (1949 – late 1970s)
- Deng and his Successors (late 1970s – present)

Political Thought and Governance for Domestic Politics
- Political Ideology
  - Ideological impacts of Marxism-Leninism on Chinese politics
  - Main features of Mao Zedong Thought
  - Core principles of Deng Xiaoping Theory
- Political System
  - Structure of China’s party-state
  - Organization of the Chinese Communist Party
  - Major state institutions
- Political Economy
  - Key drivers of economic growth
  - Approach to economic reform (rural and urban reform)
  - Internationalization of the Chinese economy

Cross-Strait Relations
- Causes of hostility and cooperation
- Implications to various stakeholders
China and the World
- Sources of foreign (regional and global) policies and behaviors in foreign relations
  - Relations with the U.S.
  - China’s peripheral diplomacy with states in Asia
  - China’s cross-regional diplomacy with states in Europe, Oceania, Africa, and Latin America

Assessment

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Assessment (Weighting)</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Continuous Assessment (60%)</td>
<td>Individual assignment (30%)</td>
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<td>Group project (20%)</td>
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<td>Participation (10%)</td>
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<td>Examination (40%)</td>
<td>Written Examination (40%)</td>
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Pre-requisite(s)
Nil

Required and Recommended Reading

Textbook:

Supplementary Readings:

19.6.2018