PAAS 351: Contemporary Chinese Society

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Course description:

With China set to dominate the coming decades, it is more important than ever to understand how and why the country came to prosper. On this course we will journey through the revolution and turmoil of the Mao years, through to reforms of the 1980s and 1990s, and into the 2000s to examine how contemporary 21st Century Chinese society has been shaped by key historical, economic, political and international forces.

You will be introduced to a variety of revealing case studies, and invited to critically explore key concepts and debates around China’s unprecedented transformation.

By the end of this course you will be able to:

- Describe and critically analyze major patterns and processes of economic transformation, urban and rural development and social change in contemporary China
- Use appropriate information to evaluate the empirical realities of such phenomena in the context of relevant concepts and theoretical frameworks
- Identify assumptions, strengths and weaknesses of conventional interpretations of rapid change in China, and understand alternative conceptualizations
**Proposed assignments:**

- Journal article review 20%
- Presentation/Discussion leader 25%
- Course paper 35%
- Attendance and participation 20%

**Proposed reading list:**

Sample readings include the following:


