PASS 351 – CONTEMPORARY CHINESE SOCIETY

Spring 2018 (CRN 22305)

Class time: Thursday 16:30 – 19:20 pm
Clearihue [CLE] A203

Instructor: Andrew Marton – amarton@uvic.ca
Office Hours: Monday and Thursday 11:20 am – 12:15 pm; CLE C225

Course Content
This course traces China’s economic development and socialist transformation since 1949. We will examine key historical, economic and political forces shaping contemporary China. While the discussions focus on the period of opening and reforms since 1978, linking key contemporary patterns of transformation to earlier historical trends will reveal the complex interplay between culture, society, the environment and development. The course will also explore the articulation between the ‘local’, ‘regional’, and ‘global’ as they are experienced in various sectors, at different locations and scales, and among diverse social groups in China. Topics listed in the outline are representative of an array of proposed themes and issues that will be discussed. While some sections emphasise cultural, social, and historical dimensions, others are informed by political economy and geographical perspectives. Case studies will be used extensively throughout the course to illustrate particular issues, and to confirm or challenge established concepts and theoretical frameworks.

Learning Outcomes – Students will be able to:
- Describe and critically analyse 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 conceptualisations
- Summarise, critically review and discuss key arguments from the readings
- Further develop organisational and writing skills to convey knowledge, critical analysis and understanding in clear concise terms
- Work effectively in groups, make individual and small group presentations, and lead discussions on particular issues

Evaluation

Class Participation 10% – Attendance and active participation in all classes is required; Students are expected to be familiar with the assigned readings and to provide informed and relevant contributions to class discussions. Attendance will be recorded via a sign-up sheet and marks will be deducted for repeated absences without a valid reason and relevant proof (e.g. Doctor’s note).

Midterm Exam 25% – In first half of class Thursday February 22nd
Format of the exam and detailed expectations will be discussed in class.

Panel Presentation 20% – In class beginning in early March
The class will be organized into small groups with each panel presenting on a common theme to be assigned by the instructor. Students will be evaluated on their individual presentations. Format and detailed expectations will be discussed in class.
**Course Paper 45%** – Due Thursday April 5th

2500 word essay chosen from a list of topics or in consultation with the instructor.

**Late submissions** – Late papers or delayed presentations will not be accepted without the prior permission of the instructor and only as a result of exceptional extenuating circumstances. Failure to make a presentation or to hand in the course paper will result in a grade of zero for that assignment.

**Originality of topics** – Papers or presentations prepared for another course may not be submitted. Anyone wishing to work on a topic addressed in another course must obtain the permission of the instructor at least two weeks before the presentation or due date.

**Academic integrity** – Students on this course are subject to University protocols on plagiarism and cheating. Offences will result in a grade of zero for the assignment, and may result in a failing grade for the course. Further details are on the last page of this outline.

**COURSE OUTLINE**

- Assigned readings for each major topic of the course are included in the outline. Other assigned and recommended supplementary readings will be provided during the term.

**Week 1 – Introduction; Precursors to revolution** (Jan 4)

a. Course overview and introductions
b. *The Idea of China* – recent history, and geography

**Week 2 – China’s Long March to reforms; Maoist legacies** (Jan 11)

a. China’s Long March to reforms and Maoist legacies
b. From central planning to the introduction of reforms under Deng

**Week 3 – Early reforms under Deng and China’s Open Door policy** (Jan 18)

a. The logic and geography of China’s Open Door policy
b. Special Economic Zones and “getting rich first”

**Week 4 – Domicide and displacement; Ghost cities** (Jan 25)

a. Domicide, displacement and ghost cities
Week 5 – Urbanization and social reform; Introduction to rural landscapes (Feb 1)

a. Social impact of displacement and social reforms
b. Collectivization of the rural economy and the shift to family farming

Week 6 – Rural landscapes of transformation and megaurbanization (Feb 8)

a. Rural industrialization
b. Megaurbanization and rural agglomeration

Week 7 – Reading Break – No classes

Week 8 – MIDTERM EXAM; The political economy of Chinese Urbanization (Feb 22)

a. Midterm Exam
b. Anti-urbanism under Mao: Walls, urban settlement and pre-reform socialist industrialization

Weeks 9 and 10 – Panel Presentations (Mar 1; Mar 8)

Weeks 11 – Panel Presentations cont’d; Development and globalization (Mar 15)

a. Panel presentations
b. Globalization and China’s Open Door

Week 12 – Pudong; Creative China (Mar 22)

a. Pudong
b. Creative spaces and urban transformation

Week 13 – Cultural landscapes; Education and contemporary society (Mar 29)

a. Landscapes as cultural text, capturing space and place in Chinese art
b. Teaching and learning in contemporary Chinese society

Week 14 – COURSE PAPER DUE – Thursday April 5th
PLAGIARISM AND CHEATING

The Department of Pacific and Asian Studies upholds and enforces the University’s policies on academic integrity and enforces the rules on plagiarism and cheating. These policies are described on pp. 46-48 of the current Undergraduate University Calendar (2017-18).

All students are required to read this section: http://web.uvic.ca/calendar2017-09/undergrad/info/regulations/academic-integrity.html#

**Practices that are NOT acceptable include:**

- Persuading or paying someone else to write your assignments, or otherwise presenting someone else’s work as your own
- Downloading essays or articles from the internet and submitting part or whole as your own work
- Copying and pasting passages from books, journals online resources or other sources, and presenting them as your own work
- Citing only a portion of a quotation, and presenting the remainder as your own work
- Copying from another student or sharing information in examinations or classroom exercises
- Bringing notes or other materials into an examination or test, except as authorised by the examiner or instructor
- The use of an editor – either as an individual or service, whether paid or unpaid – who manipulates revises, corrects or alters your written or non-written work

In addition, the following kinds of behaviour, unless specifically authorised by the instructor, are unacceptable in an examination or classroom exercise: talking or communicating by computer or other electronic device with another student; looking at the work of other students while writing an exam or classroom exercise; consulting books, electronic materials or other sources of information.

The instructor may choose to conduct an additional oral examination, in the presence of another faculty member from the Department, to ascertain the level of a student’s knowledge and understanding of the course material.

**Departmental Policy Regarding Penalties for Plagiarism and Cheating**

The possible penalties for plagiarism and cheating are outlined in the Calendar. An instructor will notify the Chair of the Department of cases of a suspected violation and the Chair will contact the student to arrange an interview with the student and instructor to review the case. If it is determined that a violation of University policy has occurred, the Chair will notify the Director of Academic Advising of the case and a letter of reprimand will be issued to the student. Any repeat offenses will be dealt with directly by the Dean.

**In the Department of Pacific and Asian Studies, the minimum penalty for a first offence will be a grade of zero for the assignment, examination or test. Depending upon the seriousness of the offence and the weight of the assignment, the instructor in consultation with the Chair may assign a failing grade (less than 50%, zero GPA) for the course.**

Students will not be permitted to rewrite an assignment, examination or test on which they have been found to have cheated or plagiarised, nor will they be permitted to complete supplemental assignments. A formal letter of reprimand will be issued to the student and kept on file. Records of any violation will be held by the Office of the Registrar. Such records are held for five years after the offence. A repeat offence may result in the additional penalty of Disciplinary Probation being placed on the student’s Official Transcript.

If you have any doubts about the University’s policies, or want to know if a practice is acceptable or not, you should raise your concerns with your course instructor.