PAAS 351: Contemporary Chinese Society

Term: SPRING 2020

Instructor: Andrew Marton

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 China was shaped by key historical, economic, political and social 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
• Identify assumptions, strengths and weaknesses of conventional interpretations of rapid change in China, and understand alternative conceptualizations
**Proposed assignments:**

- Critical reflections exercises 25%
- Panel presentation 25%
- Course paper 35%
- Attendance and participation 15%

**Proposed reading list:**

Sample readings include the following:


