POLI 371/HSTR 365D Chinese Politics

Instructor Spring 2022: Dr. Guoguang Wu

Course delivery: In the Spring 2022 term, this course will be delivered on campus and face-to-face.

Course description:
This course provides an introductory investigation of the domestic politics of the People’s Republic of China. Covering the historical continuity and change of Chinese politics from 1949 to the present, the course is organized into two parts: Mao Zedong’s reign with liberation and the proletarian dictatorship (1949-1976) and the post-Mao eras with reform and refreshed repression. We will consider China as a country case in comparative political perspectives, including comparisons with other communist states, transitional polities in East Asia, authoritarian politics in general, and, in terms of political economy of development, the Global South. A student taking this course does not need specialized background knowledge on Chinese politics, but, with the guidance provided by lectures and readings, is expected to experiment imagining of a political system that is perhaps fundamentally different from one in which he/she lives, and seizing of the concepts applicable to comprehending and analyzing the Chinese political system.

Prerequisites: None

Course outcomes/objectives:
- Understand the theoretical perspectives in contemporary Chinese politics
- Explore political institutions in revolutionary and transitional Chinese politics
- Analyze the dynamics of revolution, reform and repression embedded in state-society relations
- Develop core undergraduate skills such as effective writing, analysis, and argumentation

Topics may include:
The Maoist state
Rural reform and governance
Democratization
Socioeconomic change

This summary provides an overall sense of the course and is not considered an official course outline. Detailed course outlines will be available for all registered students on the first day of class.