

Course title: Reform and Resistance in Contemporary China, taught by Dr. Rebecca Clothey, School of Education.

Brief summary of the topic

This course discusses many of the inherent contradictions and new social issues that have emerged as a result of China's rapidly changing economic environment. The course also explores the modern historical factors that have contributed to these contemporary issues. In particular, the course will look at the marginalization of particular pockets of society since the economic reforms have begun to take effect. The course will look at the ways in which new economic policies are affecting groups such as ethnic minorities and rural communities. It will also look at social movements and responses that have emerged among different groups, and discuss possible consequences for China's future. The course will address questions such as:

1. In what ways have Chinese economic policies changed Chinese society? In what ways are these policies benefiting or marginalizing particular groups? From which pockets are tensions developing? What are the responses?
2. How is the Chinese government addressing the needs of marginalized groups? How is the Chinese government responding to social movements? What are the future political implications for China, locally and internationally?

Brief statement of the learning objective of the course

After completion of this course, students will have an understanding of the challenges facing China's leaders as the nation forges through the twenty-first century. The course aims to provide students with a deeper comprehension of the complexities of Contemporary China than is typically portrayed through western media focusing primarily positively on China's economic growth.

Approach

This course will use an interactive seminar format. Each week one student will be required to lead the class discussion.

Brief description of course materials (texts, other)

Two texts will be required reading.

- Gries, P. and Rosen, S. (Eds.) (2010). *Chinese Politics: State, society, and the market*. New York, NY: Routledge.
- Perry, E. and Seldon, M. (Eds.). (2010). *Chinese Society: Change, Conflict and Resistance, 3rd Edition*. London: RoutledgeCurzon.

In addition, the class will also view several films (including *Tiananmen: Gate of Heavenly Peace* and *China: A Century of Revolution*). Because this is a course on Contemporary China it will also draw a lot from current events, especially newspaper analyses of recent protest events.

Work requirements

Students will be required to read 2-3 chapters of the text each week, write two critical response papers, complete one final paper with presentation, and lead one class discussion.

Grading basis

This course utilizes different types of assessment in order to address different learning styles. In general, students will be graded on their ability to synthesize and critically analyze the issues.

Final Paper (20)

Final Presentation (15%)

Class Presentation/leading discussion (15%)

Attendance, Class Participation (10%)

2 Response Papers (40%) (20 points each)

Brief paragraph on the faculty member's relevant expertise

Dr. Rebecca Clothey has a PhD in Education with a certificate in Asian Studies from the University of Pittsburgh. She lived in China for five years and speaks Mandarin. Dr. Clothey has conducted extensive research in China, with support of a Fulbright grant, on the topic of China's higher education and economic reforms and its impact on education policy for ethnic minorities. In addition, she taught the course *Reform and Resistance in Contemporary China* for two years to American university students studying abroad in China, from 2004-6.