In an era of reform that began in the late 1970s, China has followed a unique path of development to achieve extraordinary economic growth. Evidence of the economic transformation is striking, indeed, overwhelming. To see and understand the more modest political change requires more powerful analytic lenses, however. Equipping you with such lenses so that you can gauge the foundations and fault lines of political power in China now and in the future is the main goal of this course.

EXPECTATIONS AND EVALUATION

Required reading. Governance and Politics of China, 3rd edition, by Tony Saich (New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2011) serves as the basic textbook for the course—so you should buy this book. Supplementary required reading materials are in electronic form on the course website.

Course website. On the course website at Learn@UW, you will find supplementary required reading materials as well as other materials, including midterm and final examinations from previous years.

Respect for others. Please respect others in the classroom. Be in class and seated before 4:00 so that you do not disturb others, including me, with a late arrival. If you use a laptop to take notes in class, stay on task so that your laptop screen content does not distract those seated near you.

Special accommodation. If you need special accommodation to enable full participation in this course, let me know in the first few weeks of class. Information will remain confidential. You also may wish to contact the McBurney Disability Resource Center at 608.263.2741 regarding campus policies and services.

Absence due to illness. Students with influenza-like illness (fever of 100 degrees F or higher, with a cough or sore throat) should not come to class or to my office hours until fever-free for 24 hours without the aid of fever-reducing medications. If you experience symptoms of influenza-like illness, send me an e-mail explaining your absence. We will work something out.

EVALUATION

I evaluate your performance with ten in-class quizzes, a midterm and a final examination, and one writing assignment.

Quizzes are random events, decided with a coin toss at the beginning of each lecture; they focus on the lecture from the previous Monday or Wednesday. The writing assignment is due on November 10. The midterm examination is in class on October 15, the final examination is on December 15. Each quiz counts 1 percent toward your course grade, the writing assignment 20 percent, and the midterm and final examinations 30 and 40 percent, respectively. Do not make arrangements that conflict with
examination dates.

LECTURES, READINGS, ASSIGNMENTS

Introduction
• Saich, Governance and Politics of China, 1–33.

I. Weight of the Past

3 September: Imperial Legacies

8 September: Winning Power

10 and 15 September: Maoist-Era Development and Utopia
• Saich, Governance and Politics of China, 34–66.

17 September: Post-Mao New Deal
• Saich, Governance and Politics of China, 67–107, 262–296.

II. Political Elites and Elite Politics

22 September: Ideology

24 September: Communist Party Organization
• Saich, Governance and Politics of China, 108–141.

29 September: Leaders, Governance, Policy Processes
• Saich, Governance and Politics of China, 142–178.
• Melanie Manion, Chinese Political Structures, Chinese Policy Process (figures).

1 October: Getting Along and Ahead in Chinese Politics

• China Vitae, [http://www.chinavitae.com/](http://www.chinavitae.com/). Look up biographic information for any current member of the Politburo, be prepared to present in class.

**6 October: Center and Localities**


**8 October: Political Corruption**


**III. Managing Society: Fundamentals**


**13 October: Laws, Rights, Obligations**


**15 OCTOBER: IN-CLASS MIDTERM EXAMINATION**

**20 October: Stability Maintenance**


**22 October: Information Revolution, Information Control**


**27 and 29 October: “Acceptable” Channels of Interest Articulation**


IV. Managing Society: Issues

3 and 5 November: Political Dissidence and Everyday Protest


10 November: China and the World

*Guest lecturers: Ning Leng and Brandon Lamson, Doctoral Candidates in Political Science*

- Saich, Governance and Politics of China, 336–363.
  *Note: writing assignment due in class today!*

12 November: 習棋: The Chinese Game of Strategy

*Guest lecturer: Dr. David L. Weimer, Edwin E. Witte Professor of Political Economy*

17 November: Population Planning


19 November: Inequality


24 and 26: November: Religion and New Spiritual Movements


1 and 3 December: Minority Nationalities and the Question of Tibet

Australian National University, 2012).


V. Wrapping Up, Moving Forward

8 December: Sino-U.S. Relations

10 December: Studying China: How Do We Know What We Know?

15 DECEMBER, 5:05–7:05 p.m.: FINAL EXAMINATION
Check course website for location