



History of the Chinese Communist Party

HIST 301 / PSCI 303

COURSE DESCRIPTION

History of the Chinese Communist Party (HIST 301 / PSCI 303) explores the history, structure, hurdles, ideals, and potential future of the Chinese Communist Party (CCP). This course begins by examining the forces leading to the fall of the Qing Dynasty followed by creation of the CCP. Then the course traces the turmoil of the 1950s, 1960s and 1970s. The class next looks at the success of the reforms and concludes with predictions for China's next fifteen years. Throughout the course there will be a focus on the key individuals and theories that have created modern China.

GRADING

Any student who misses more than 1/3 of the classes will fail. Failure to complete any of these requirements will result in automatic failure for the course.

- Exam 1 30%
- Exam 2 30%
- Writing Assignments on the Readings 20%
- Classroom Participation and Readings 20%

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS AND FURTHER READINGS

- Spence, Jonathan D. *The Search for Modern China*. Norton, 2001.
- World Bank and Development Research Center PRC, *China 2030: Building a Modern, Harmonious, and Creative High-Income Society* (The World Bank 2012), [link](#)
- Kuhn, Robert Lawrence. *How China's Leaders Think*. John Wiley & Sons, 2010

SCHEDULE OF LECTURES AND READINGS

Week 1: Introduction to Class & Brief Review of Chinese History

- *The Search for Modern China*: Chapters 10-11

Week 2: Founding of the Chinese Communist Party, WWII, and Civil War

- *The Search for Modern China*: Chapters 14-18

Week 3: October 1st, 1949: The Birth of the PRC & the Chinese Constitution

- *The Search for Modern China*: Chapter 19

Week 4: Planning the New Society & The Cultural Revolution

- The Great Leap Forward
- *The Search for Modern China*: Chapters 20-21



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Week 5: Redefining Revolution

- The Four Modernizations & Economic Reforms
- The Search for Modern China: Chapters 24-25
- How China's Leaders Think: Chapter 6

Week 6: 1978 -2015 Reforms for a “Modern, Harmonious, Creative Society”

- China 2030: p. 77-115 & 140-147

Week 7: Socialism with Chinese Characteristics

- How China's Leaders Think: Chapters 8-9

Week 8: EXAM #1

Week 9: State Owned Enterprises & The Private Business Revolution

- How China's Leaders Think: Chapters 22-23

Week 10: Reforms of Education, Healthcare and Media

- How China's Leaders Think: Chapters 25-27

Week 11: Seizing the Opportunity of Green Development in China

- China 2030: p. 217-257

Week 12: Key Figures in the CCP (1990s to 2015)

- Jiang Zemin, Hu Jintao & Xi Jinping
- How China's Leaders Think: Chapters 10-11

Week 13: China's Future: Equality of Opportunity and Basic Security for All

- China 2030: p. 271- 315

Week 14: China's Future and the Rest of the World

- China 2030: p. 360-410

Week 15: Final Exam