

**GEORGIA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY**  
**The Sam Nunn School of International Affairs**

**INTA 8803FW. Government and Politics of China**

Fall 2026

Instructor: Dr. Philip Fei-Ling Wang

Time: TuTh 17:00-18:15

Office Hours: TuTh 12:00-14:00 or by appointment

E-mail: [fw@gatech.edu](mailto:fw@gatech.edu)

---

**Course Description**

This course aims at examining the main aspects of Chinese politics—how the People’s Republic of China (PRC) is politically organized and governed. The emphasis will be a historical and comparative description of the governmental institutions, political culture, and political party—the Chinese Communist Party (CCP). We will also discuss and assess the CCP-PRC government’s policy-making in the areas of the economy, sociocultural affairs, disease-control, and foreign policy. The aim is to understand the internal sociopolitical structure and dynamics of the PRC as a rising world power, representing an alternative mode of sociopolitical governance and a distinctive model of economic development.

There is no special requirement for this course except a willingness to read, think, and learn. The class will be organized as a seminar with a clear emphasis on having an extensive classroom participation of the students. The student is expected to participate in classroom discussions. The assigned readings are expected to be finished before classes.

An effort of following the current events in the PRC is encouraged. Publications such as *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, and the *South China Morning Post* as well as the web-based news services list below are useful sources for the different views about China in English:

China Digital Times: <http://chinadigitaltimes.net>

China Media Project: <http://cmp.hku.hk>

China Watch: <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/sponsored/china-watch/>

The Atlantic-China: <http://www.theatlantic.com/photo/categories/china/>

China Daily: <http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/index.html>

**Course Rules**

Unless the student has an official letter from the GT administration certifying a need for special accommodation, audio or video recording is not allowed in class.

Cell phones are to be placed on vibrate mode or turned off and remain out of sight, unless you are expecting an emergency call (in that case, please alert the instructor before class). No texting during class.

Class attendance is mandatory unless excused for legit reasons with proper documentation (e.g., doctor’s note). Lecture slides will not be available online, nor made available unless there was an excused absence.

In addition to observation of class rules and carrying a professional conduct in classroom, Attentive and active contribution to class discussions will be awarded. All views are welcome!

## University Policies

The Ivan Allen College of Liberal Arts supports the Georgia Institute of Technology's commitment to creating a campus free of discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, or veteran status. We further affirm the importance of cultivating an intellectual climate that allows us to better understand the similarities and differences of those who constitute the Georgia Tech community, as well as the necessity of working against inequalities.

If you are a learner that requires adaptations for you to succeed in this course or are a student with disabilities that requires accommodations, please contact the Office of Disability (404) 894-2563 or [disabilityservices.gatech.edu](mailto:disabilityservices.gatech.edu) to make an appointment to discuss your needs and obtain the appropriate accommodation letter. Any student requiring such adaptation/accommodation should make inform the instructor as soon as possible so to make the appropriate arrangement.

We have all committed to upholding the ideals of honor and academic integrity. Please consult University policies for more information ([www.policylibrary.gatech.edu/student-affairs/academic-honor-code](http://www.policylibrary.gatech.edu/student-affairs/academic-honor-code); [www.catalog.gatech.edu/rules/18/](http://www.catalog.gatech.edu/rules/18/)). Any student suspected of violations of honor code including but not limited to cheating or plagiarizing behavior will be automatically reported to the Office of Student Integrity, which will investigate the incident and recommend penalties for the violations.

## Course Requirements

Requirement	Marks	(%)
Participation/attendance	200	20
Group presentation	200	20
Reading reports	200	20
Reading report presentation	100	10
Research essay	200	20
Essay defense	100	10
Total	1,000	100

**Group Presentation** will be a research project exploring one aspect of Chinese politics by the students. Each presenting group should select a research topic to be approved by the instructor by Week 5. Sample topics include: China's political parties; leading factions inside the CCP; the political role of the PLA; corruption; the trade war with the US; and the PRC's management of the Covid-19 pandemic. Each group should conduct a collective research and write a report and, finally, make an oral presentation of no longer than 15-19 minutes to the class, including Q & A. A written report (3 pages, single space or 5 pages, double space) is due on the day of the presentation. The format of the presentation may be modified later depending on logistic conditions.

**Participation/attendance** will be based on the quality and the quantity of your participation in class discussions and the Q&A sessions of the group project. The class will be a mixture of informal lecture and relaxed discussion. All views are welcome and those who participate actively will be rewarded appropriately. We all learn from each other's insights.

**Reading Reports:** You are required to write two (2-3 pages, single space) reading reports on Joseph, Wang I or Wang II. The report should be a critical summary of the book. No outside reading or research is needed. You are required to make an oral presentation (8-10 minutes, including Q&A) of one of your two reports. Your oral presentation of reading report will be scheduled for either 10/8 or at the beginning of a class during 10/13-12/1.

**Research Essay:** You are required to write a research essay of 8-10 double-spaced pages (excluding bibliography). Drawing from our class readings and discussions PLUS your extra research, the essay should describe ONE main “take-away” from the class about Chinese politics and explain your choice. Your essay topic (initial ideas on the take-away) is due week 5 but can certainly evolve and change. The final essay is due on 12/1. On 12/3, during an open Q&A session, you will be asked to orally discuss your take-away and defend its reasoning.

### **AI Policy**

Generative AI agents offer additional opportunities for learning, research and communication. It is therefore allowed in this class as long as the GT Honor Code and the guidelines below are met.

*Responsibility:* you are responsible for the work submitted/presented, and ensure that any factual statements produced by a generative AI tool are true and that any references or citations produced by the AI tool are correct.

*Transparency:* Any generative AI tools you use in the group presentation of the course should be clearly acknowledged, including not only content directly produced by a generative AI tool but also when a generative AI tool is used in the process of composition and translation.

*Documentation:* You should cite any content generated by an AI tool as you would when quoting, paraphrasing, or summarizing ideas, text, images, or other content made by other people.

### **Course Materials**

William A. Joseph ed., *Politics in China: An Introduction*, Third Edition, Oxford University Press. 2019 (Joseph)

Fei-Ling Wang, *The China Order: Centralia, World Empire, and the Nature of Chinese Power*, SUNY Press, 2017 (Wang I)

Fei-Ling Wang, *The China Record: An Assessment of the People's Republic*. SUNY Press, 2023 (Wang II)

Additional readings will be posted on Canvas.

### **Course Schedule and Assignments**

To be distributed to the students.