

Contemporary China Studies Program  
Renmin University School of International Studies

Course Catalog

Note: CCSP does not produce an official course catalog. Each academic year the course offerings are adjusted based on faculty availability and evolving degree requirements. This catalog contains descriptions of CCSP's most recent course offerings.

**All courses are taught in English.**

In addition to the courses listed below, each term CCSP offers a thematic seminar series. Once per week a member of the Renmin University faculty, a visiting scholar, or a government or business leader from around Beijing gives a seminar and facilitates discussion related to that term's theme. Recent themes have included China's Reform (Spring 2009) and China's Grand Strategy (Fall 2009).

Course offerings:

**Contemporary Chinese Politics** (offered Spring 2009)

Professor Wang Zhengxu (Senior Research Fellow, China Policy Institute, School of Contemporary Chinese Studies, University of Nottingham)

Contact hours: 36 (over four weeks)

Course description:

This course provides an intensive survey of Chinese politics. By engaging students in various issues and topics in Chinese politics, such as the state-society relationship, urban life, peasant protests, village governance, and the politics of reforming China's economy, the course offers students a solid foundation in understanding political and governance issues in China and the necessary skills to conduct research on topics related to contemporary Chinese politics.

Students will develop: 1) a solid body of knowledge about Chinese politics; 2) a strong capacity in consuming large amount of information related to Chinese politics; 3) the ability to develop arguments and present them in a rigorous way.

**Sino-American Relations** (offered Spring 2009)

Professor Jin Canrong (Associate Dean, School of International Studies, Renmin University)

Professor Hua Shiping (Associate Professor of Political Science, University of Louisville)

Contact hours: 27.5 (over 3 weeks)

Course description:

International affairs in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century will largely be defined by the relationship between the world's most powerful and most populous countries. With growing economic interdependence, expanded strategic cooperation, and lingering tensions, the Sino-American relationship is increasingly dominant in each country's foreign policy. This course will thoroughly examine that relationship from both Chinese (Prof. Jin) and American (Prof. Hua) perspectives.

**The Politics of Transitional Economy** (offered Spring 2009)

Professor Guo Sujian (Director, Center for US-China Policy Studies, San Francisco State University)

Contact hours: 27 (over 4 weeks)

Course description:

This course compares and evaluates the evolution of Asian communist and post-communist economies, examine what has changed and what has not, in degree or in kind, and address the century-old question: Who will be the winner in the grand failure of

communism: market capitalism or market socialism? In other words, has socialism been entirely exhausted? Can the traditional goals and values of communists be recast under the rubric of markets? Have these Asian countries offered an alternative to the socialist planned economy and the capitalist market economy during the demise of communism at the “End of History?” Can market socialism, a market-based form of socialism within the political context of one-party communist rule, find a way out of the difficulties or crises of communism and compete successfully with market capitalism? A rethinking of socialism will not only help to address these questions but also provide a better understanding of the practical and theoretical implications of market socialism for the future of these East and Southeast Asian countries.

### **Chinese Foreign Policy** (offered fall 2009)

Dr. Di Dongsheng (Lecturer, School of International Studies, Renmin University)

Contact hours: 36 (over 7 weeks)

#### Course description:

The intent of this course is to give a broad understanding of the course of Chinese foreign policy since the establishment of the People's Republic in 1949 as well as to take a more intensive look at some of the major problems in Chinese foreign policy in the contemporary period. Our aim is to understand the international problems that China has faced, how it has conceptualized those problems, and how it has tried to deal with them.

In looking at Chinese foreign policy, we will attempt to assess how "rational" it has been. Has China based its foreign policy on a stable and well-defined sense of China's national interest or has it viewed the world through Marxist-Leninist ideological lenses? Most of the second half of the course is devoted to understanding China's international behavior in the contemporary period, including its emergence as a major economic power, its situation as an Asian and global actor, and its difficult and complex relationship with other big powers.

Thus, one question we will raise is that of continuity and change in China's foreign policy. How have the aims of China's foreign policy changed since the inauguration of reform in 1978? Has China become a status quo power? Will a wealthier and more powerful China challenge the institutions of the world? How does China's domestic political situation affect its foreign policy? Is China's succession bringing about a new foreign policy?

### **Methodologies in Social Science Studies** (offered fall 2009)

Professor Lu Chunlong (Assistant Professor of Political Science, Chinese University of Political Science and Law)

Contact hours: 39 (over 13 weeks)

#### Course description:

This graduate seminar is literature-review oriented and is designed to introduce students to: (a) the style of analytic thinking required for research in the social sciences; (b) the concepts and procedures used in the conduct of empirical research in political science. The objective is to give students a foundation in research design and empirical methods; therefore, they can become a more analytical student of political affairs, and a skilled user of political science methods for original empirical political inquiry of their own.

Specifically, this course covers the principles of the scientific method applied to the study of politics, and then emphasizes an approach to understanding politics that uses generalizing theory and testable hypotheses. The course then moves on to critical considerations in designing empirical tests of theories about political phenomena, including conceptualization and operationalization, measurement, sampling, and data collection. The remainder of the course focuses on a variety of techniques for qualitative (case study) and quantitative (simple descriptive statistics and graphs, tests of bivariate correlation, multivariate regression) analysis.

### **Methodologies in China Studies** (offered Fall 2009)

Dr. Cheng Xiaohe (Lecturer, School of International Studies, Renmin University)

Contact hours: 29 (over 10 weeks)

#### Course description:

This course is designed to examine a variety of models (approaches) developed by American scholars in the field of China studies. The course does not pretend to cover every aspect of China studies; rather, it will mainly focus on the studies of China's domestic politics and foreign policies.

The selection of reading materials is not intended to deny the importance of the similar academic works written and/or published in countries other than the United States. The high reputation that the selected books and articles does not necessarily warrant accuracy: some reading materials are biased, some distorted.

Students are required to do their reading assignments with caution and make aggressive critiques of the established models during their studies.

### **Chinese Economy and Finance** (offered Fall 2009)

Professor Xu Rong (Assistant Professor, School of Finance, Renmin University)

Contact hours: 27 (over 9 weeks)

#### Course description:

This course gives an overview of Chinese financial markets. It focuses on the financial instruments available in China: stocks, bonds and asset backed securities etc. For each type of instruments we will consider how it could be valued. We will look at how to calculate crucial details for each instrument. Our emphasis will be on a basic understanding on the methodologies involved and on applying these methodologies rather than rigorous proofs or derivations.

The course begins with a general look at modern financial system in the world. We then analyze each of the main types of financial instruments in turn, starting with stocks and bonds moving on to derivatives. Finally we will talk about some investment strategies.

Upon completion of the course a student will have a good grasp of the practical uses of financial instruments as well as being able to do some investments in China. (Of course, the investments could not be guaranteed to be successful. You could earn a lot and could lose a lot. Who knows?)