The Overall Idea
This course will provide students with an opportunity to consider trends in Chinese politics and how China is changing what we know about the world. The course will provide basic information about China and will be accessible to those who have no prior background in China, but will also offer those with more background new perspectives and challenging questions. As a senior experience seminar, we will draw on themes considered in students' previous classes to answer these questions. By the end of the class, the world should seem like a different place.

Objectives
1. Acquire a basic knowledge of contemporary Chinese politics
2. Improve grasp of key issues in world politics
3. Improve research skills
4. Improve written and oral communication skills
5. Improve critical reasoning skills
6. Improve ability to synthesize knowledge from diverse sources

Assignments and Grading
1. Map assignment. (required, but not graded).
2. Group research and presentation. Each student will be in one small group which will do a 10 minute presentation telling the story of an important Chinese person. In grading presentations I will look for an engaging story that effectively presents the most important facts of the subject's life and impact. (15%).
3. Short Essays. Students will write four three-page essays due at the dates specified below. Questions for the essays will be distributed about a week before they are due. The questions will concern issues raised in the readings and lectures. Additional research is not required but will help. While grading I will look for a grasp of readings and lectures and a persuasive and original answer. (40%)
4. Research paper. Topics will involve a significant question relevant to Chinese politics. All topics must be approved by the instructor. A 1-2 page proposal will be due at mid-term (required but not graded). Drafts will be due late in the semester. The final draft will not exceed 15 pages and is due on the day scheduled for the final exam. Grading criteria will include the quality of your ability to pose a significant and appropriate question, your ability to marshal relevant information, the persuasiveness and originality of the answer to your question, and the quality of your writing. (35%)
5. Class participation. Students are expected to attend regularly and to be prepared to discuss the readings, questions raised in lectures, and current events. Grading criteria include the ability to answer questions asked in class about assigned readings and the ability to ask and answer questions in ways that raise the level of discussion and help other students to learn. Grades will be informed by peer and self assessment. (10%)

Notes
Students may receive email updates on class requirements at their account listed in D2L. Students who miss deadlines will only be allowed to make-up the work if the circumstances are truly exceptional, tragic and/or beyond their control. Some leniency may be shown if problems are discussed in advance. Regular attendance is expected as specified by university policy and failure to attend regularly may be sanctioned as specified by university policy. Academic dishonesty
may receive the harshest sanctions allowed by university policy. Students who would like to improve their grade may do extra assignments or revise their papers, but must first consult with the instructor. Students seeking honors credit and graduate students will be required to complete additional assignments and should consult with the instructor.

**Tentative Schedule of topics and readings**

(Readings marked with '*' are recommended, all others are required.)

I. Introduction (September 1 & 3)

II. History & Culture: Opium War & Empire (Sept. 8 & 10)
   Jonathan D. Spence, *The Search for Modern China* (New York: W.W. Norton & Company, 1990) 143-64.

III. The Revolution and the Origins of the Leninist State (September 15 & 17)

IV. Great Leap and Cultural Revolution (September 22 & 24)

V. Reform to June 4 (September 29 & October 1)
   First Short Essay Due October 1

VI. Politics and Administration Post-June 4 (October 6 & 8)
VII. China's Economy (October 13 & 15)
*---, “The Scramble to Maintain Growth” China Leadership Monitor (27) 1-9


IX. Ideology and Social Thought: Nationalism and Liberalism (October 27 & 29)

X. Media and Civil Society: The Internet (November 3 & 5)
*Geremie R. Barmé and Sang Ye, “The Great Firewall of China” Wired 5:6 (June, 1997) [http://www.wired.com/wired/5.06/china.html].

XI. Farmers (November 10 & 12)

XII. Religion (November 17 & 19)
XIII. TBD (November 24)  (Thanksgiving Holiday on November 26)

IV. Xinjiang (December 1 & 3)
   Rebiya Kadeer and Alexandra Cavelius (with), Dragon Fighter: One Woman's Epic Struggle for Peace with China (San Diego: Kales Press, 2009) 291-349, 377-90.

XV. The Future of Chinese Politics and the US-China Relationship (December 8 & 10)
   “Niall Ferguson and James Fallows on 'Chimerica’” Aspen Institute (July 2009)  
[http://fora.tv/2009/07/01/Niall_Ferguson_and_James_Fallows_on_Chimerica]

Fourth Essay & Research Paper due at the time scheduled for our Final Exam which is 1-3 on Monday, 14 December