



School of History, Philosophy and Political Science and International Relations

POLITICAL SCIENCE AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS PROGRAMME

**POLS 378 /INTP 378 SPECIAL TOPIC**

**CHINA FIELD STUDY**

2008 Course Outline (CRN 15532/15518 Trimester 3)

## **COURSE OVERVIEW**

This course is a study of Chinese politics with special emphasis on how government and politics function in practice in China. This is a special summer course with an international field study component. The course will be offered full time for 3 weeks based in Beijing, China, from 16 November-7 December (Part II); and for the last two weeks of Trimester 3, from 2 February to 13 February 2009, based in Wellington at VUW (Part II).

## **COURSE ORGANIZATION**

*Coordinators:* Dr Xiaoming Huang and Professor Stephen Levine

Email: [Xiaoming.Huang@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:Xiaoming.Huang@vuw.ac.nz) and [Stephen.Levine@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:Stephen.Levine@vuw.ac.nz)

Appointment by email

*Tutor:* Jason Young [jason.young@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:jason.young@vuw.ac.nz)

*Time and Places* **Part I:** 14 November – 6 December 2008 (CUPL, Beijing)

**Part II:** 1:00- 3:00pm Tuesday and Thursday (MY LT102)

(3, 5, 10 and 12 February)

*Additional & updated course information & material*

To be available on Blackboard and distributed at regular group meetings.

## **COURSE AIMS**

The aim of this course is to help students to acquire basic knowledge of government and politics of China through field experiences and classroom learning.

## **COURSE OBJECTIVES**

Students passing the course should

- have developed a general knowledge of the historical, social, economic, cultural and international context for Chinese government and politics;
- have a good understanding of the institutions and processes in Chinese government and politics;
- be familiar with the basic concepts and issues covered in this course;
- have acquired basic skills in studying Chinese politics (locating information, choosing a topic, discussing an issue, etc.); and
- be able to write an academic essay on an aspect of Chinese government and politics.

## **COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

### *In-Term Work*

This course requires that you take part in the field study programme in Beijing, read the required readings before the lectures, participate actively in lectures, site visits, group discussions and seminar presentations, and submit an essay as part of the assessment.

### *Work Load*

This course is a special summer course with an international field study component. The course work is concentrated in Part I (three weeks of full time study at CUPL, Beijing). But the overall workload for the whole trimester is in accordance with Faculty Guidelines, and the course has been constructed on the assumption that students will devote 18 hours per week on average to the course.

### *Mandatory Course Requirements*

- Participate in the full programme of Part I;
- Sit the in-class test at the end of Part I.

## **COURSE CONTENT**

This course has two components:

Part I: *China Field Study*. Students will have this part of the course at the China University of Political Science and Law (CUPL), Beijing, China. Lectures, given in English by staff from CUPL, will introduce students to the politics and government of China. Topics include the structure and functions of the central government, the Chinese Communist Party, the National People's Congress, the Supreme Court, the public administration system, the military, municipal government, the neighbourhood system, the electoral system, civil society, China's foreign policy and issues of international relations and regional security.

Lectures will generally take place in the morning. In the afternoon, students are organised to visit and have discussions with people at sites such as the National People's Congress, the Supreme Court, the Foreign Ministry, the National Union of Women, the National Communist Youth League, branches of local government and the Communist Party, as well as at other politically significant sites such as the Great Wall, the Imperial Palace, Tiananmen Square, etc.

The actual content of the lectures and sites to visit will be finalized by CUPL.

An in-class test will be given at the end of the programme in Beijing, organized and marked by the course coordinators.

Part II: *Extended Seminar and Research Essay*. Two weeks at VUW before the summer trimester ends. Students will be asked to give a presentation to the class on a topic covered during their time at CUPL. Students will write up a 4000 word essay which is on a topic developed during and arising from Part I; the essay is to be submitted at the end of the course.

At the end of the course, students will be issued a CUPL certificate of study for the course.

### **SET TEXT:**

Tony Saich, 2005. *Governance and Politics of China*, Palgrave (available from University Bookstore).

### **ASSESSMENT:**

This course has 100% internal assessment:

- In-class test, 20%, at the end of Part I;
- Seminar presentation, 20%, in Part II;
- Research essay 60%, due 12 February 2009

## **COURSE SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS**

There are special course requirements regarding the course special fees, application and selection process, enrolment procedure, medical and legal declaration for the field trip. Related information is distributed to students before the course starts.

## **ACADEMIC INTEGRITY AND PLAGIARISM**

Academic integrity is about honesty – put simply it means *no cheating*. All members of the University community are responsible for upholding academic integrity, which means staff and students are expected to behave honestly, fairly and with respect for others at all times. Plagiarism is a form of cheating which undermines academic integrity. The University defines plagiarism as follows:

*The presentation of the work of another person or other persons as if it were one's own, whether intended or not. This includes published or unpublished work, material on the Internet and the work of other students or staff.*

It is still plagiarism even if you re-structure the material or present it in your own style or words.

*Note: It is however, perfectly acceptable to include the work of others as long as that is acknowledged by appropriate referencing.*

Plagiarism is prohibited at Victoria and is not worth the risk. Any enrolled student found guilty of plagiarism will be subject to disciplinary procedures under the Statute on Student Conduct and may be penalized severely. Consequences of being found guilty of plagiarism can include:

- an oral or written warning
- cancellation of your mark for an assessment or a fail grade for the course
- suspension from the course or the University.

Find out more about plagiarism, and how to avoid it, on the University's website:

<http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/plagiarism.aspx>

## **GENERAL UNIVERSITY STATUTES AND POLICIES**

Students should familiarise themselves with the University's policies and statutes, particularly the Assessment Statute, the Personal Courses of Study Statute, the Statute on Student Conduct and any statutes relating to the particular qualifications being studied; see the Victoria University Calendar available in hardcopy or under "about Victoria" on the Victoria homepage at:

[http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about\\_victoria/calendar\\_intro.html](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about_victoria/calendar_intro.html)

Information on the following topics is available electronically under "Course Outline General Information" at:

<http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/newspubs/universitypubs.aspx#general>

- Student and Staff Conduct
- Academic Grievances
- Academic Integrity and Plagiarism
- Meeting the Needs of Students with Impairments
- Student Support