Course Description

It has been said that revolutions die just at the time they attain victory. Whether this assumption is true or not, this course will apply it to the case of the Chinese revolution. In doing so, we will examine the problems facing China in light of the internal goals of a socialist society set by the leadership itself. Some questions that will be asked in this regard are: What is the role of the state in a socialist society? What is the relationship between the requirements of modernization specifically bureaucracy and the revolutionary aspirations of an egalitarian society? What role do the intellectuals play in a society where the wisdom of the people as a whole are valued? What role does the Leninist Party play in a Maoist vision?

Apart from evaluating the record on the basis of internal goals, we may also consider external standards of evaluation applicable to any society. What are different models of modernization and how does China compare? How does China stand with respect to human rights issues and the role of women? It is not expected that a consensus of opinion will be reached on these broad issues, but in the process of discussion and debate, the class may reach a deeper understanding of the dilemmas facing a socialist society in the modern world.

Format

As a seminar course, class participation and preparation are essential. Readings should be prepared for each class discussion. Each week, one student will take responsibility for being discussion leader, preparing a short presentation (10-20 min.) outlining the main issues (not a summary of facts). Another student will be designated as a discussant, responding to the main presentation with additional material or insights and or arguing for a different position on the subject. The discussion will then be open to the rest of the class.

Six short papers (2-3) pages will be required for the course. Every two weeks, the class will hand in a paper, examining the main arguments presented in the preceding
discussion and provide a critical analysis of the readings. At the end of the seminar, a take-home exam on the main questions of the course will be given.

**Grades**

Grades will be determined as follows: 25% will be given to the quality of class participation and to the individual oral presentations, 50% will be based on the papers. Grading the written work will rely on the quality of analysis and insight into main questions as opposed to mere summary of material, 25% will be based on the final exam.

**Seminar Schedule**

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Readings</th>
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<tr>
<td>Sept. 4</td>
<td>Introduction</td>
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<td>Sept. 25</td>
<td>Critique of the State</td>
<td>Lenin, &quot;Better Fewer But Better&quot;</td>
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<td>Franz Neumann, The Democratic and Authoritarian State cp. 1, 6, 9</td>
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<td>Ralph Miliband, &quot;Marx and the State,&quot; The Socialist Register, 1965</td>
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<td>Oct. 2</td>
<td>Economic Strategy -- Land Reform and the Comparison With the Soviet Union</td>
<td>Vogel, Canton Under Communism, cp. 3 Schurmann, Ideology and Organization, pp. 365-380, 404-442, 220-283 Isaac Deutscher, Marxism in Our Time</td>
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Oct. 16  Problem of the Intellectuals
Readings: Merle Goldman, *Literary Dissent in Communist China*, cp. 5-7

Robert Jay Lifton, *Thought Reform and the Psychology of Totalism*

Oct. 23  Problem of the Intellectuals -- Hundred Flowers
Readings: Vogel, cp. 5

Mao Zedong, "On the Correct Handling of Contradictions Among the People"
*Chairman Mao Talks to the People*, 84-90

Oct. 30  Great Leap Forward
Readings: Vogel, cp. 6

Schurmann, *Ideology*, pp 464-500

*Chairman Mao Talks to the People*, 91-157

Nov. 6  The Leninist Party and the Theory of Totalitarianism:

Schurmann, *Ideology*, cp. 2 (105-172)

Maurice Meisner, "Leninism and Maoism: Some Populist Perspectives on Marxism-Leninism in China,"

Carl Friedrich and Zbigniew Brezinski, *Totalitarian Dictatorship and Autocracy*, cp. 2 (31-84)

Nov. 13  Women and the Family in China

Andrew J. Watson, "A Revolution to Touch men's souls: the family, interpersonal relations and daily life," in Schram, *Authority, Participation*
Nov, 20 Cultural Revolution
Readings: Esmein, The Chinese Cultural Revolution
Chairman Mao Talks, 91-157
Schurmann, Ideology and Organization, 464-500

(week of Thanksgiving?) Cultural Revolution
Schram, Introduction: The Cultural Revolution in Historical Perspective
Schwartz, "Upheaval in China" in Communism and China

David and Nancy Milton, The Wind Will Not Subside

Dec. 4 Post-Cultural Revolution -- Modernization and Socialism

Dec. 11 Post-Cultural Revolution -- Human Rights and Democracy