

POU44423 — Topics in Political Science 11: Making Sense of China

Module Information	
Module Code	POU44423
Module Title	Making Sense of China
Department	Political Science
Year Group	Senior Sophister
Module Personnel	Jiwon Baik
Academic Year	2026–27
Credit Weighting	5 credits
Semester	Semester 1
Contact Hours	2 lectures per week (100 minutes)

Module Content	
Module Description	This course covers the major scandals, political events, and policy debates that every China watcher needs to know. As a modern state, the People's Republic of China (PRC) continues to amaze and confound observers both inside and outside its borders. More than four decades after opening its doors to the outside world, China remains as important as it is misunderstood, especially in recent years, as it has reversed some of these fundamental trends toward reform and opening up. This course is designed to provide you with a road map to help understand the fascinating world of Chinese politics and the contemporary Chinese state by providing different perspectives on China's past achievements, its political and economic futures, and the global implications of China's rise. The course presumes no prior knowledge of China.
Learning Outcomes	• Have an understanding of key events in Chinese politics and the various political, economic, and societal institutions behind these events. • Sharpen skills such as reading scholarly articles critically and articulating thoughts into words both verbally and in writing.

Module Content

- Be able to independently assess new events and developments in Chinese politics using concepts and material from the course

Assessment

Assessment Components

Participation 20%; Midterm essay 30%; Final essay/exam 50%

Additional Information

Prerequisites

None

Co-requisites

None