

**WOODSWORTH COLLEGE**  
**University of Toronto**  
**Summer 2025 Program at the University of Hong Kong,**  
**Saturday, June 7 to Sunday July 6, 2025 (4 weeks)**

**EAS395Y0 – Leadership and Governance in China**

**Instructors:**

**Professor R. Guisso**

Professor R. Guisso is Emeritus Professor in the Department of East Asian Studies where he has taught for more than thirty years, serving two terms as Departmental Chair. His research interests lie in the sphere of Chinese social and cultural history with a special emphasis on gender, and he has published a number of books and articles on subjects related to these areas in the pre-modern period.

**Professor V. Falkenheim**

Victor Falkenheim holds a joint appointment as Professor Emeritus in the Departments of East Asian Studies and Political Science, specializing in the political economy of contemporary China. He has previously served two terms as Chair of the Department of East Asian Studies and has worked for more than a decade on a number of Canadian development assistance projects in China as well as a consultant on World Bank China projects. His recent work focuses on municipal and rural governance in China.

**Course Description**

The course will focus on the role of China's state and political leaders in reshaping Chinese society and politics during the past century. It will examine briefly China's imperial legacy and the emergence of a new revolutionary regime under Mao Zedong. It will also explore China's changing political institutions, the role of China's Communist Party, the relationship between Beijing and the provinces and local authorities and China's citizenry. Specific topics of interest will include village elections and democratic reform, migration and social controls, the changing role of China's intellectuals, the growing importance of the internet and social networks. In the first half of the course, taught by Professor Guisso, students will explore traditions of imperial leadership, Mao's role as a transformative leader and case studies of urban change. In the second half of the course, taught by Professor Falkenheim, the focus will be on governmental policies and grassroots urban and rural social and political change.

**Field Trip**

There will be one field trip in the middle of the course to Jiangxi Province in East China. We will visit Nanchang capitol of Jiangxi, a city rich in historic sites and at the heart of a rapidly modernizing economy. We will visit Jingdezhen famous for its ceramics, Ganzhou and early CCP revolutionary base area as well as nearby cities and sites that illustrate the rapidly changing role of society and government.

## **Evaluation**

Grades will be based on the following:

Participation (Including student reports)	15%
Trip Report	25%
Final Test	30%
Research Paper	30%

## **Course Readings:**

A list of required readings will be circulated to all registered students in the Spring, before the end of class.

## **Schedule of Lectures and Topics:**

Session One- Course Introduction (one hour)

Session Two-Governance and Leadership in Pre-modern China (I)

Session Three-Governance and Leadership in Pre-modern China (II)

Session Four-Governance and Leadership in the First Chinese Revolution (1911-1949)

Session Five-Ideology of Governance in the Second Revolution (1949-1976)

Session Six-Practice of Governance in the Second Revolution (1949-1976)

Session Seven-Student Reports and Introduction to Jiangxi Province in the Context of the Course

## **Field Trip**

Session Eight-The Chinese Communist Party

Session Nine-China's New Leaders

Session Ten-Central-Local Relations

Session Eleven-Village level Politics

Session Twelve-Governance and Civil Society

Session Thirteen-Changing State-Society Relations

Session Fourteen-Final Test