

Political Science 4/607 Chinese Politics

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Meeting Time: Monday and Wednesday 1:00 pm-2:15 pm (WRB 2009)

Office Hours: Wednesday 3pm-4pm (MSS 223)

Course Description:

This course provides a comprehensive introduction to the political history and the political system of the People's Republic of China. It also provides a cursory examination of the key issues confronting the CCP regime. The first part of the course will introduce students to China's revolutionary past, which gave rise to the current system of Communist Party rule. The middle part of this course will examine some prominent features of the Communist regime, including both its formal and informal aspects. Finally, several key issues in the reform era will be examined.

Prerequisite: No prerequisite is required.

Course Objectives:

1. Students will get an overview of Chinese political changes before and after the CCP came into power as well as the transformation of Chinese politics from Mao's regime to the reform era in the 21st century.
2. Students also get to know some major political figures, their life and deeds, in Chinese history and politics, including Mao Zedong, Deng Xiaoping, and several current leaders, as well as many ongoing policies in China.
3. This course will serve as an introductory course on China so that students would have a better understanding on daily news coverage about China and also set the foundation for students who want to study further on China.

Teaching Methods:

Lecture and class discussion are combined. Students should do the readings before coming to classes. The instructor will use PowerPoint to show students major points, pictures, maps, and also videos while giving the lecture.

Evaluation Methods:

Participation: 15%

Mid-term: 25% -- **on Monday September 28th in class**

1 response paper (5-7 pages): 25%-- **Monday, November 2nd**

Media Presentation: 10% -- **Wed November 25th, Mon November 30th**

Sign up Deadline: Wed October 7th

See Guidelines on WebCampus-Discussion

Final: 25% -- TBA

Required Texts:

Lieberthal, Kenneth. 2004. *Governing China: From revolution through reform*. 2nd ed. New York: W.W. Norton.

MacFarquhar, Roderick, ed. 1997. *The Politics of China: The Eras of Mao and Deng*. 2nd ed. New York: Cambridge University Press.

Political Science 4/607 Course packet, available at Knowledge Center electronic reserve.

*in front of reading means that it is in the course packet.

Mon August 24

Lecture 1 Introduction: Why are we interested in Chinese politics?

Part I Imperial China and the Rise of the CCP

Wed August 26, Mon August 31

Lecture 2.1 The Imperial Tradition: The Unification of China and Confucianism

Lecture 2.2 Imperial Tradition (Cont'd): Imperial Decline and the Rise of Republican China

-What explains the rise and fall of imperial China? What was the political and historical environment that gave birth to the CCP?

Lieberthal: 5-26.

*Fairbank, John King, and Merle Goldman. 1998. *China: a New History*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press: 46-71; 206-234

Movie recommended: *The Last Emperor* (1987), 164 minutes

Wed September 2, Mon September 7 Labor Day-No Class, Wed September 9

Lecture 3.1 & Lecture 3.2 The Rise of the CCP

-How did the CCP originate in a traditional society? How did the CCP win the competition with the KMT? What characteristics did the CCP achieve through the revolutionary hardship? How did Mao rise to the power inside the CCP?

*Dirlik, Arif. 1989. *The origins of Chinese Communism*. New York: Oxford University Press: 156-190.

Lieberthal: 27-76

*Snow, Edgar. 1961. *Red Star over China*. New York: Grove Press.: 190-213.

*Mao, Zedong. 1966. *On protracted war*. Beijing: Foreign Language Press: 57-64.

Part II The Mao Era

Mon September 14, Wed September 16, Mon September 21, Wed September 23

Lecture 4.1 The Mao Era: from Socialist Transformation to Great Leap Forward

Lecture 4.2 The Mao Era (Cont'd): the Cultural Revolution

Lecture 4.3 The Cultural Revolution (Cont'd): Documentary and Discussion: Though I Was Dead (2006), 66 minutes

-What are the major policies under Mao's regime and their implications to later Chinese politics?

Lieberthal: 84-103

MacFarquhar (ed.): 87-113; 148-247.

*Li, Zhisui. 1994. *The private life of Chairman Mao: The memoirs of Mao's personal physician*. Translated by H.-c. Tai. Edited by A. F. Thurston. 1st ed. New York: Random House: 114-136.

Mon September 28 MIDTERM in class

Part III Formal and Informal Politics in China

Wed September 30, Mon October 5

Lecture 5.1 & 5.2 Formal Political Structure

-Are the Party and State systems equally important in Chinese formal politics? What are the differences in formal political structures between the Chinese and the American systems?

Lieberthal: 169-205; 233-242; 385-406

Wed October 7, Mon October 12

Lecture 6.1 Informal Politics: Factionalism

Lecture 6.2 Informal Politics (Cont'd): Implications of Factional Politics

-How does factional politics work in China? What are the implications? Compare the informal politics between the Chinese and American systems.

Lieberthal: 148-167; 206-232

*Nathan, Andrew, and Kellee Tsai. 1995. Factionalism: a new institutionist restatement. *China Journal* (34).

*Shih, Victor. 2004. Factions matter: personal networks and the distribution of bank loans in China. *Journal of Contemporary China* 13 (38).

October 7th, Deadline to Sign up on Media Research Group

Part IV Economic Reform

Wed October 14, Mon October 19

Lecture 7.1 Rural Reform

Lecture 7.2 SOE Reform

-Why did the reform first start from rural areas? What are the reform policies in rural and urban areas? Are there common patterns in the reform policies?

MacFarquhar (ed.): 311-339

Lieberthal: 245-272

*Shirk, Susan. 1993. *The Political Logic of Economic Reform in China*. Berkeley, CA: The University of California Press: 129-145

Wed October 21, Mon October 26

Lecture 8.1 Financial and Banking Reforms

Lecture 8.2 Fiscal Policies and Reform

-What are the financial and fiscal policies and their effects on local economy and politics? How was the reform carried out? What is the central-local relation during the reform?

*Qian, Yingyi, and Barry Weingast. 1997. Federalism as a commitment to preserving market incentives. *Journal of Economic Perspectives* 11 (4):83-92.

*Ma, Jun. 1996. Monetary management and intergovernmental relations in China. *World Development* 24 (1):145-153.

*Huang, Yasheng. 1996. *Inflation and Investment Controls in China : the Political Economy of Central-Local Relations During the Reform Era*. New York: Cambridge University: 1-23.

Shih, Victor. 2004. Dealing with Non-performing loans: political constraints and financial policies in China. *China Quarterly*. (180). [download from WebCT].

Part V Public Support and Political Reform

Wed October 28

Lecture 9 Tiananmen

-Why is it still a taboo topic in China today? Is the massacre avoidable?

MacFarquhar (ed.): 340-471.

*Calhoun, Craig. 1994. *Neither Gods nor Emperors: Students and the struggle for*

democracy in China. Berkeley, CA: UC Press: 1-19; 111-151

*Nathan, Andrew, and Perry Link. 2001. *The Tiananmen Papers*. London: Little Brown & Company: 368-382.

Documentary recommended: Tien-an men The Gate of Heavenly Peace (1997): 189 min

Mon November 2, Wed November 4

Lecture 10.1 The “Red Capitalist”: Private Entrepreneurs in China

Lecture 10.2 Documentary and Discussion: The Dragon Ascends? (2003): 53 minutes

-Have changes in the structure and ownership of Chinese firms, business-government relations, and the Chinese economic system changed politics and political system in China? Which actors have been strengthened and which weakened? What are the likely implications for the dominant role of the Communist Party? Where is the Chinese business-government relation going? Is it moving to look more like Japanese, Taiwanese, and South Korean model?

****SHORT PAPER due in class on Monday, November 2nd**

Pearson, Margaret M. “The Janus Face of Business Associations in China: Socialist Corporatism in Foreign Enterprises” *The Australian Journal of Chinese Affairs*, No. 31, (Jan., 1994), pp. 25-46 [download from WebCT]

Dickson, Bruce J. “Cooptation and Corporatism in China: The Logic of Party Adaptation”, *Political Science Quarterly*, Vol. 115, No. 4, (Winter 2000-2001), pp.517-540 [download from WebCT]

Wang, Xin “Divergent Identities, Convergent Interests: the rising middle-income stratum in China and its civic awareness” *Journal of Contemporary China* (2008), 17 (54), February, 53-69 [download from WebCT]

Mon November 9 Guest Speech:

Consul Shao Wei from Consulate General of the People’s Republic of China in San Francisco

Wed November 11 Veteran Day-No Class

Mon November 16

Lecture 11 Political Corruption in China

-What is corruption in China? How serious is it compared to other countries in the world? Why is corruption serious in China? What are the effects of corruption in China?

He, Zengke “Corruption and Anti-corruption in Reform China” *Communist and Post-Communist Studies* 33 (2000) 243-270 [download from blackboard]

Wedeman, Andrew “The Intensification of Corruption in China” *China Quarterly* (2004) pp. 896-921 [download from blackboard]

Zhu, Jiangnan “Why are Offices for Sale in China? A Case Study of the Office-Selling Chain in Heilongjiang Province” *Asian Survey* (2008). [download from blackboard]

Wed November 18

Lecture 12 Political Reform

-Why is political reform left behind? What are the reform policies and their effects?

Lieberthal: 289-314.

*O'Brien, Kevin J. 1995. The politics of lodging complaints in rural China. *The China Quarterly* 1995 (143):756-783.

*Dickson, Bruce J. 2000. Membership has its privileges: the socioeconomic characteristics of Communist Party members in urban China. *Comparative Political Studies* 33 (1):87-112.

Part VI Special Topics of China

Mon November 23

Lecture 13 The Judicial Control of Bureaucracy: Chinese Legal System

-What role do the state and the CCP play in the judicial procedure? What are the changes of Chinese legal system? How does the court respond to the party control? What are the possible outcomes of those changes in the legal system?

*Yi Zhao, “Judicial Control of Bureaucracy: Conflicting Preferences and Strategic Interactions within Chinese Courts”

Landry, Pierre F. “Suing the Authoritarian State: Administrative Disputes in China”, *Paper presented at the workshop on Law & Order and Survey Research in China*, 2005 [download from WebCT]

Trevaskes. Susan “The Death Penalty in China Today: Kill Fewer, Kill Cautiously” *Asian Survey* (Jun 2008), Vol. 48, No. 3: 393–413. [download from WebCT]

Wed November 25, Mon November 30

Lecture 14 Media Control, Group Presentations

-How does the Chinese government respond to the rising challenge of the

commercialization of media during the economic reform? Is the government able to maintain its control over the media?

Hassid, Jonathan "Controlling the Chinese Media: An Uncertain Business", *Asian Survey* (June 2008), Vol. 48. No. 3: 414-430 [download from WebCT]

Esarey, Ashley "Concerning the Market: State Strategies for Controlling China's Commercial Media" *Asian Perspective* 29:4 (Winter 2005) pp.37-83 [download from WebCT]

Wed December 2

Lecture 15 Ethnicity and Religion: Tibet

-What makes the Tibet issue so complicated?

Mackerras, Colin. 2004. "What is China? Who is Chinese? Han-minority relations, Legitimacy, and the state," in Peter Hays Gries and Stanley Rosen, eds., *State and Society in 21st Century China*. RoutledgeCurzon (Electronic Reserve)

Gladney, Dru. 2004. *Dislocating China: Reflections on Muslims, Minorities, and Other Subaltern Subjects*. University of Chicago Press. Chapter 2 (Electronic Reserve)

Goldstein, Melvyn C., et al. "Development and Change in Rural Tibet: Problems and Adaptations," *Asian Survey*, Vol. 43, No. 5, (Sep. – Oct., 2003), pp. 758-779

Li, Tieh-Tseng, "The Legal Position of Tibet," *The American Journal of International Law*, Vol. 50, No. 2, (Apr., 1956), pp. 394-404

Alexandrowicz-Alexander, Charles Henry, "The Legal Position of Tibet," *The American Journal of International Law*, Vol. 48, No. 2, (Apr., 1954), pp. 265-274

Mon December 7

Lecture 17 Chinese Foreign Policy and Sino-US Relations

-What factors have driven Chinese foreign policies and the Sino-US relations?

Ross, Robert S. "International Bargaining and Domestic Politics: U.S.-China Relations since 1972" *World Politics*, Vol. 38, No. 2. (Jan., 1986), pp. 255-287 [download from WebCT]

Fewsmith, Joseph and Stanley Rosen. 2001. "The Domestic Context of Chinese Foreign Policy: Does 'Public Opinion' Matter?" in *The Making of Chinese Foreign and Security Policy in the Era of Reform 1978-2000*, David M. Lampton, ed. Stanford University Press (Electronic Reserve)

Xie, Tao "Congress and China Policy: An Analysis of China Bills" *Journal of Contemporary China* (2008), 17 (54), February, 141-165 [download from WebCT]

Wed December 9 Prep Day - No Class

**Grading System and Guidelines for Political Science 4/607, Chinese Politics
Fall, 2009**

Grading System

You are graded on a 100-point scale. All the items in the class add up to 100 points. There will be no standardization (curving) at the end. Thus, you should have a clear idea about where you stand in the class throughout the quarter. I periodically give decimal grades (e.g. 9.5) for individual assignments, and I will only round up your final grade (.5 or above gets rounded up to the next integer). I will assign final letter grades according to the scale below:

A: 95-100
A-: 90-94
B+: 87-89
B: 83-86
B-: 80-82
C+: 77-79
C: 73-76
C-: 70-72
D: 60-69
F<60

Individual assignments in the course will be graded with this same grade scale in mind.

Guidelines

1. Unless you have a documented excuse allowable by UNR rules, your absence during the midterm or the final will result in a 0. For your midterm, final, and your paper, you are responsible for all the material covered in the course, including both the readings and the lectures. I will lecture on material not included in the readings.

2. A 10% per day grade reduction (10% of the paper grade) will apply to all unexcused late papers and assignments. For example, if a paper is worth 10 points, a perfect paper that is two days late with no excuse will receive only 8 points. Again, I will only accept documented excuses. As a general rule, if you anticipate problems with completing your assignment on-time, it is much better to contact me before the

due date to work out a solution.

3. Your participation in class is vital and is a substantial portion of your final grade. Both the quality and quantity of class participation matter. Everybody enjoys two absences without excuses in the whole semester, except during exams. After the grace any absence or early leave without permission from the instructor will result in a whole letter grade reduction. For example, if originally you could get A, your final grade will be B caused by the absence. Any two absences without permission will result in an F for you. If you have trouble communicating in class for whatever reason, please contact me or come see me in office hours.

4. You are expected to finish the week's reading assignments by the Monday session of the week. Although we clearly will not discuss all the readings on Monday, the readings we discuss on Monday are not necessarily listed first on the syllabus. Your comprehension of the readings will reflect on the quality of your class participation and thus your participation grade. Please feel free to email me about any questions you have about the readings.