

Spring 2011
PS 734: Readings on Chinese Politics

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Time: Tu 3:30 – 6:18pm
Location: Denney Hall 0245
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This course provides a graduate level introduction to the study of Chinese politics. The course explores both the content of 20th and 21st century Chinese political history with an emphasis on the past thirty years of reform as well as the methods and approaches used by scholars trying to peer into this often opaque society. Substantive topics include the transition to Communist rule, economic reforms, contemporary social movements, development, urbanization, and inequality. Methodologically, the course focuses on how to conduct research in today's China by assessing the tools of "China Hands" past and present.

Course Requirements

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|--------------------------------|-----|
| 1. Reactions and Participation | 50% |
| 2. Research Prospectus | 50% |

Each student is responsible for writing short reactions (< 2 pages) to the readings each week of the quarter to be shared with the class and instructor by noon on Monday before the session. They should be full of questions, comments, and synthesis (not summary) on the readings of the week and your take on them. The research prospectus is described in the Week 1 piece by Roeder with the addendum that I would like for you to at least begin some analysis of data if possible.

Policies and Procedures

This course follows all normal University procedures, including those related to disability services and academic misconduct. Language regarding those policies is below.

Academic Misconduct

It is the responsibility of the Committee on Academic Misconduct to investigate or establish procedures for the investigation of all reported cases of student academic misconduct. The term "academic misconduct" includes all forms of student academic misconduct wherever committed; illustrated by, but not limited to, cases of plagiarism and dishonest practices in connection with examinations. Instructors shall report all instances of alleged academic misconduct to the committee (Faculty Rule 3335-5-487). For additional information, see the Code of Student Conduct (http://studentaffairs.osu.edu/resource_csc.asp).

Disability Services

Students with disabilities that have been certified by the Office for Disability Services will be appropriately accommodated, and should inform the instructor as soon as possible of their needs. The Office for Disability Services is located in 150 Pomerene Hall, 1760 Neil Avenue; telephone 292-3307, TDD 292-0901; <http://www.ods.ohio-state.edu/>.

Schedule of Readings

Available on Carmen, linked, on reserve at the library, or available at a bookstore of your choosing. If you have a problem obtaining the materials, please let me know immediately. The following two textbooks may be useful for those without extensive background in Chinese politics.

Kenneth Lieberthal. 2004. *Governing China: From Revolution Through Reform*. Second Edition. ISBN: 0-393-92492-0

Barry Naughton. 2007. *The Chinese Economy: Transitions and Growth*.

Week 1

Mar. 29

Introduction

Film

[1] Phil Roeder, On Writing a Research Prospectus

Week 2 – Introduction

Apr. 5

[1] Harry Harding. 1984. "The Study of Chinese Politics: Toward and Third Generation of Scholarship," *World Politics* 36, pp. 284-307

[2] Michel Oksenberg. 1974. "Communications Within the Chinese Bureaucracy," *China Quarterly* No. 57, pp. 1-39

[3] Robert Bates. 1997. "Area Studies and the Discipline: A Useful Controversy?" *PS: Political Science and Politics*, 30:2, pp. 166-169.

[4] Perry Link. 2002. "The Anaconda in the Chandelier," *New York Review of Books*.

[5] Dali Yang. 2006. "Economic Transformation and Its Political Discontents in China: Authoritarianism, Unequal Growth, and the Dilemmas of Political Development," *Annual Review of Political Science*, Vol. 9, pp. 143-64.

[6*] Lynn White III. 2009. "Chinese Political Studies: Overview of the State of the Field." *Journal of Chinese Political Science*.

Week 3 –Data Sources and Resources

Apr. 12

[1] Roderick MacFarquhar 1971. "On Photographs," *China Quarterly*. No. 46, pp. 289-307

[2] Alan Carlson, et al. (ed). 2010. *Contemporary Chinese Politics: New Sources, Methods, and Field Strategies*. Cambridge University Press.

Week 4 – Factions and Elite Politics

Apr. 19

- [1] Andrew Nathan. 1973. "A Factional Model of Chinese Politics," *China Quarterly*, No. 53.
- [2] Tsou Tang 1976. "Prolegomena to the Study of Informal Groups in CCP Politics," *China Quarterly*, No. 65, pp. 98-114.
- [3] Lowell Dittmer. 1978. "Bases of Power in Chinese Politics: The Fall of the Gang of Four," *World Politics*, 31(1), pp. 26-55.
- [4] Lowell Dittmer. 1995. "Chinese Informal Politics" & "Informal Politics Reconsidered," *The China Journal*, 34, pp. 1-34, 193-208.
- [5] Richard MacGregor. 2010. *The Party*. Harper Collins.
- [6*] Special Issue of the [China Journal](#) 34 (July 1995)

Week 5 – Fiscal Reforms

Apr. 26

- [1] Christine Wong. 1991. "Central-Local Relations in an Era of Fiscal Decline: The Paradox of Fiscal Decentralization in Post-Mao China," *China Quarterly*, No. 128, pp. 691-715.
- [2] Gabriela Montinola, Yingyi Qian, & Barry Weingast. 1995. "Federalism, Chinese Style: the Political Basis for Economic Success in China," *World Politics*, Vol. 48(1), pp. 50-81.
- [3] Yasheng Huang. 1996. "Central-local relations in china during the reform era: The economic and institutional dimensions," *World Development*, Vol. 24(4), pp. 655-72.
- [4] Susan Shirk 1993. *Political Logic of Economic Reform in China*, University of California Press.

Week 6 – Industrialization and Reform

May 3

- [1] Barry Naughton. 1992. "Implications of the State Monopoly over Industry and its Relaxation," *Modern China* 18.
- [2] Jean Oi. 1992. "Fiscal Reform and the Economic Foundations of Local State Corporatism in China," *World Politics*. Vol. 45(1), pp. 99-126.
- [3] Ed Steinfeld. 2000. *Forging Reform in China: The Fate of State-Owned Industry*, Cambridge University Press. [Selections.]
- [4] Yasheng Huang. 2008. *Capitalism with Chinese Characteristics*. Cambridge University Press.

Week 7 – Protests & Social Movements

May 10

- [1] Kevin O'Brien & Lianjiang Li. 2006. *Rightful Resistance in Rural China*. Cambridge Univ. Press.
- [2] Yongshun Cai. 2004. "Managed Participation in China," *Political Science Quarterly*, Vol. 119(3), pp. 425-51.
- [3] Kevin O'Brien [ed.]. 2008. *Popular Protest in China*.

Week 8 – China in Top Journals Today

May 17

- [1] James Kung & Shuo Shen. 2011. "The Tragedy of *Nomenklatura*." *American Political Science Review*.
- [2] Gang Guo. 2009. "China's Local Political Budget Cycles." *American Journal of Political Science*, 53(3), pp 621-632.
- [3] Lily Tsai. 2007. "Solidary Groups, Informal Accountability, and Local Public Goods Provision in Rural China," *American Political Science Review*, 101(2), pp 355 -372.
- [4] Xi Chen. 2009. "The Power of 'Troublemaking': Protest Tactics and Their Efficacy in China." *Comparative Politics*. Vol. 41(4).
- [5] Pierre Landry, Deborah Davis, and Shiru Wang. 2010. "Elections in Rural China: Competition Without Parties." *Comparative Political Studies*. Vol. 43(6). pp 763-790.

Week 9 – International Relations

May 24

Week 10 – Presentations and Future Directions

May 31