

Government/East Asian Studies 297: Introduction to Chinese Politics

Spring 2008
Tuesday and Thursday 9:00-10:20
PAC 136

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Office Hours: Wed. 9:00-10:00
Thurs. 10:30-11:30
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Overview

This is an upper-division course on Chinese Politics. You do not have to know anything about China, and some background in government would be helpful but is not necessary. The course is designed to give you a general understanding about the main features of contemporary Chinese politics and a more specialized understanding of a topic of your choice.

One of the core themes of the course is China as an (re)-emerging regional and global power. We will be paying particular attention to the tension between China's communist political system and an increasingly capitalist economy. We will spend considerable time examining the relationship between the Chinese state and its society as well as how China relates to other countries around the world.

While the focus of this course is China, an important theme will be international comparison. We will be investigating the dynamics of China's political institutions, but we will be doing so with an eye toward broader comparisons with other countries—those that are also developing countries, other Asian countries, and other large emerging market countries. Therefore, we will be asking questions like: “How is China different from other developing countries?” “How is China the similar?” “Is China becoming more or less like other countries?”

Objectives

There are five primary learning goals for this class:

- Understand the how government and politics works in China
- Develop a comparative perspective when analyzing politics around the world
- Expand independent research skills
- Improve oral presentation skills
- Improve academic writing skills

Expectations

This is an upper-division seminar, so I expect a high level of student involvement in the course. The course will involve in-class discussions of the reading, a take home midterm, and an independent research paper with an oral presentation about that research. I expect each student to come to class prepared and to participate actively.

Grading

There are three types of assignments in this course on which your grade will be based: quizzes, a take-home midterm exam, and a final research paper and presentation. This is a writing intensive

course, and we will be focusing on writing throughout the course and will put considerable emphasis on improving writing skills.

Quizzes:

An unspecified number of in-class quizzes will be given. The purpose of these quizzes is to make sure that you keep up with the reading and to help prepare you for the larger take-home assignments. I will drop the lowest quiz (this means that you can miss one quiz without penalty). No make-up quizzes will be given.

Midterm Exam:

The midterm exam will cover the broad conceptual material in the first half of the course. It will be a take home exam, and it is due on **Thursday, February 28, at the beginning of class**. Grades will be reduced by 1/3 (e.g. from A- to B+) for every 24hrs or part thereof that the exam is late (starting at 1:11 pm on February 28).

Research Paper

You will complete an independent research paper on the topic of your choice related to Chinese politics. The paper must be 18-20 pages long and use at least ten different academic sources (e.g., books, journal articles, primary sources. Non-academic sources such as newspaper articles, magazine articles, blogs, etc. can be used but do not count toward the ten). About a month before the paper is due you will hand in a thesis statement and a preliminary bibliography. Throughout the semester you will be meeting in “research groups” with peers conducting research on similar topics in order to discuss your progress, share resources, and circulate drafts. You will be required to contribute to your group’s wiki regularly in order to facilitate these exchanges. In the final week you will present your research to your peers in an academic conference format of themed panels. You will also conduct peer reviews of rough drafts of the paper before handing it in at the beginning of exam week.

I am **not tolerant** of cheating or plagiarism. See the Student Handbook’s section on the Honor System for an explanation of student responsibilities, the process involved in prosecuting an Honor System violation, and an essay on plagiarism. http://www.wesleyan.edu/studenthandbook/3_honorsystem.ctt. I take the Honor System very seriously and will take any violations to the Honor Board. I will give you all the tools you need to do well on all of your assignments throughout the semester, so there should be no need for unacceptable assistance. If you have questions about the appropriate way to use or cite a source, please do not hesitate to ask me **before** you hand in your paper.

Breakdown of grade:

The breakdown of the course grade is as follows:

Participation	
In class discussion and wiki participation	10%
Quizzes	10%
Take-home Midterm	35%
Final Project	
Oral Presentation	5%
Paper	40%

Grade Complaints:

Grade complaints will not be entertained until 24 hours after the exam/assignment is returned to you or more than two weeks after the exam/assignment has been returned. If you have a question concerning the grade you have received:

- 1) Wait 24 hours.
- 2) Write out an explanation of your question, including the reasons why you think your grade should be changed.
- 3) Submit your written complaint/question to me, and make an appointment to meet either during my office hours or at some other time.

Readings

There is one book assigned for the course available at the bookstore.

Elizabeth Perry and Merle Goldman eds. *Grassroots Political Reform in Contemporary China*. Harvard University Press. 2007.

All other readings are available either through e-reserves or through the library's online journal subscriptions. In general, book chapters will be on e-reserves while journal articles are accessible through various journal subscriptions.

Steps to find readings

- 1) Go to e-reserves <http://eres.olin.wesleyan.edu/eres/courseindex.aspx?page=search>
- 2) Type in course number (govt297) and the password
- 3) Look for the reading (alphabetical)

If it is not there...

- 4) Go to the "journal locator" on the library home page:
<http://www.wesleyan.edu/libr/php/journallocator/jlocate.php>
- 5) Type in the title of the journal (e.g., Foreign Affairs)
- 6) Press on one of the "connect" buttons and find the exact issue and article

A Final Note

I hope that you will look to me as a resource. I **highly encourage** you to take advantage of my office hours to stop by and talk about issues raised in the course, or other questions you have. I am very open to feedback about the course, and would appreciate you sharing any thoughts you might have for improvement *earlier* rather than later in the semester. I am very excited about this course on Chinese politics, and I hope that we can all have an interesting and productive semester!

I reserve the right to change this syllabus without notice.

Reading Schedule

Section 1: Chinese Political History in a Nutshell

- What elements of China's imperial history persist in contemporary politics?
- What was the Cultural Revolution and why did it matter?
- How were Mao Zedong and Deng Xiaoping different? How were they the same?

Jan. 24 *Introduction—China's Place in the World*

Jan. 29 *The Legacy of China's History on Contemporary Politics*
Kenneth Lieberthal. *Governing China: From Revolution Through Reform*. Pp. 3-26,
59-77
Grassroots Political Reform Ch. 1 (Perry and Goldman)

Section 2: The Structure of Government

- What is the difference between the Communist Party and the Chinese government?
- What is the relationship between local governments and the government in Beijing?
- What are the mechanisms of control—how does the state control society?
- What are the mechanisms of accountability/change—how does society make itself heard?

Jan. 31 The Communist Party
Joseph Fewsmith, "Elite Politics" in Merle Goldman and Roderick Macfarquhar, *The Paradox of China's Post-Mao Reforms* (Harvard 1999), pp. 47-75.
Mary Elizabeth Gallagher, "Reform and Openness": Why China's Economic Reforms Have Delayed Democracy," *World Politics*, Vol. 54, No. 3. (Apr., 2002), pp. 338-372.

Jan 31 at 4:30 p.m. EAST LECTURE: "From Mao to Now: Witness to Change" Sharon Crain, Visiting Professor of Sino-American Relations, Shaanxi Teachers University, Xian, China—submit 1 page-P.A.E.C. by Feb 5 for quiz credit

Feb. 5 *The National People's Congress*
Murray Scot Tanner, "The National People's Congress," in Merle Goldman and Roderick Macfarquhar, *The Paradox of China's Post-Mao Reforms* (Harvard 1999), pp. 100-128.
Melanie Manion, "Chinese Democratization in Perspective: Electorates and Selectorates at the Township Level," *The China Quarterly* no. 163 (Sep. 2000), pp. 764-782.

Feb. 7 *Local Government*
Grassroots Political Reform Chapters 3 (Kennedy), 4 (Oi and Shukai)

Turn in Paper Topic—The "Puzzle" You Want to Answer—and List 3 print sources.

EAST Senior Thesis Presentations
February 7 at 4:30 pm at the Mansfield Freeman Center for East Asian Studies

- Feb. 12 *The Legal System*
 Grassroots Political Reform, Chapter 8 (Cai)
Ian Johnson, *Wild Grass: Three Portraits of Change in Modern China*. New York:
 Pantheon Books. 2004. Pp. 11-86.

Guest Kevin Wiliarity to explain how to edit your research group wiki.

Section 3: Voices from Outside of the Center

- What is the relationship between party bosses in Beijing and those outside?
- How does reform happen?
- How “democratic” are these processes?

- Feb. 14 *Political Activism*
 Grassroots Political Reform Chapter 11 (Chen) and 12 (Litzinger)

- Feb. 19 *Local Advocacy Groups*
Vivienne Shue. “State Power and Social Organization in China,” in Joel Migdal, Atul
 Kohli and Vivienne Shue, *State Power and Social Forces: Domination and*
 Transformation in the Third World (Cambridge, 1997); pp. 65-88.
Grassroots Political Reform Chapters 6 (Tsai) and 7 (Reed)

- Feb. 21 *Minorities*
Uradyn Bulag. “Ethnic Resistance with Socialist Characteristics,” in Elizabeth Perry
 and Mark Selden, *Chinese Society: Change, Conflict and Resistance*
 (Routledge 2000); pp. 178-197.
Barry Sautman, “The Tibet Issue in Post-Summit Sino-American Relations,”
 Pacific Affairs, Vol. 72, No. 1. (Spring, 1999), pp. 7-21.

- Feb. 26 *Media*
 Grassroots Political Reform Chapter 13 (Zhao and Wusan)
Tina Huang, “Migrant Women in the Media: State-Authorized Mobilization in China”
 Working Paper 2008

MIDTERM DUE February 28th at the beginning of class

Section 4: Industrial and Financial Policy—Economic Growth

- What are the key components of China’s economic growth?
- What are some of the challenges?

- Feb. 28 Film—The Men Who Would Conquer China

- Mar. 4 *Industrial and Financial Policy*
Thomas Rawski, “Reforming China’s Economy: What have We Learned

Mar 6 *Environmental Challenges and Growth*
Elizabeth Economy, *The River Runs Black* (Cornell, 2004), pp. 59-90.

Mar. 13-22 **SPRING BREAK—no class**

Mar. 25 *Creative Capitalists*
Kellee Tsai. *Back-Alley Banking: Private Entrepreneurs in China*. (Cornell, 2002);
pp. 24-59.

**March 27 8:00 p.m. REQUIRED LECTURE: Mansfield Freeman Lecture—Richard Madsen,
UCSD “Religious Renaissance and Asian Modernity” EAST seminar room**

**March 28, 10:00 a.m. REQUIRED Colloquium with Madsen
P.A.E.C. covering both sessions due Apr.1 for quiz credit**

Section 5: Labor and Social Policy

- What is the relationship between the Chinese state and its society?
- How are citizens involved in China’s politics?
- How are citizen roles changing?

Mar. 27 *Labor Movement*
Grassroots Political Reform Chapter 10 (Lee)

Apr. 1 *One Child Policy*
Tyrene White, “Domination, resistance and accommodation in China’s one-child
campaign,” in Perry and Selden, *Chinese Society* (Routledge, 2000).

Apr. 3 *Democracy Movement*
Film—Tiananmen
Elizabeth Perry, “Casting a Chinese ‘Democracy’ Movement: Legacies of Social
Fragmentation” in Perry *Challenging the Mandate of Heaven: Social Protest and
State Power in China*. 2002. pp. 309-331.

Apr. 8 *Human Rights*
Stephen Angle and Marina Svensson eds. *The Chinese Human Rights Reader* (2001)
pp. 333-343.
Elizabeth Perry, “Chinese Conceptions of Rights: From Mencius to Mao – and Now”
unpublished paper (updated version forthcoming in *Perspectives on Politics*)

Guest Speaker Professor Angle

Section 6: Foreign Policy

- What are the core elements of China's Foreign Policy?
- How does China relate to other great powers?
- How does China relate to Asian neighbors?
- How does nationalism affect China's international relations?

Apr. 10 *Security Policy*

Hsün Tzu, "Debating Military Affairs," pp. 56-79 in *Hsün Tzu Basic Writings*. Trans. Burton Watson. New York: Columbia University Press, 1963.
Denny Roy, "The "China Threat" Issue: Major Arguments," *Asian Survey*, Vol. 36, No. 8 (Aug., 1996), pp. 758-771

THESIS STATEMENT, OUTLINE, AND BIBLIOGRAPHY DUE

Apr. 15 *Economic Policy*

Banning Garrett, "China Faces, Debates, the Contradictions of Globalization" *Asian Survey* Vol. 41, No. 3 (May, 2001), pp. 409-427

Apr. 17 *Nationalism*

Suisheng Zhao, "Chinese Nationalism and Its International Orientations," *Political Science Quarterly*; Spring 2000; 115; pp. 1-33.

Apr. 22 *Chinese Diaspora*

Amy Chua. *World on Fire: How Exporting Free Market Democracy Breeds Ethnic Hatred and Global Instability*. (Anchor, 2003); pp. 19-48.

Section 6: Student Presentations and Wrapping Up

Apr. 24 *Presentations*

April 24 at 4:30 pm EAST Lecture: "Perspectives on Neo-Confucianism: An Introduction"
Peng Guoxiang, Chinese Philosophy, Tsinghua University, Beijing, China
P.A.E.C. due by Apr. 29 for quiz credit.

Apr. 29 *Presentations*

May 1 *Presentations*

May 6 *Wrapping up*

Rough Draft Due to Research Group Members by May 4—Peer Reviews in Class

Final Paper Due: May 12 by 12:00 p.m.