

# Government/East Asian Studies 297: Introduction to Chinese Politics

Spring 2006

Mon. Wed. 1:10-2:30

Office Hours:

Wednesday 2:30-3:30

Thursday 4:00-5:00

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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 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.

In addition to regular class participation, each student must pick one topic on which he or she would like to bring something to class (a news article, a poem, a video clip, a song, etc.) to add to the day's discussion. This assignment will be part of the overall participation grade.

## ***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 Friday, October 14, and 12:00 noon. 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 12:31 pm on Oct. 14).

### 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 (books, journal articles, primary sources—newspaper articles, magazine articles, blogs, etc. can be used but don't 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. 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](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	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.

Merle Goldman and Roderick MacFarquhar eds. *The Paradox of China's Post-Mao Reforms*. Harvard University Press. 1999.

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. 25      *Introduction—China's Place in the World*

Jan. 30      *The Legacy of China's History on Contemporary Politics*  
Kenneth Lieberthal. *Governing China: From Revolution Through Reform*. Pp. 3-26,  
59-77

**Jan 31. 4:30 Lecture (optional)**      *Extra Quiz Credit for P/A/E/ + 3 questions*  
William Rowe "Crimson Rain: Seven Centuries Of Violence In A Chinese County

Feb. 1      *Paradox* Ch. 1, 15 (Goldman and MacFarquhar, Baum and Shevchenko)

### **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?

Feb. 6      *The Communist Party*  
*Paradox* ch. 3 (Fewsmith)  
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.

Feb. 8      *The National People's Congress*  
*Paradox* ch. 5 (Tanner) and ch. 4 (Godwin)

**Feb. 9, 4:30 p.m.**      ***Senior Thesis Presentations (optional)***

Feb. 13      *Local Government*  
*Paradox* ch. 6 (Li and O'Brien)  
Zhang Jing. "Neighborhood-Level Governance: The Growing Social Foundation of a  
Public Sphere," in Jude Howell, *Governance in China* (Rowman & Littlefield  
Publishers, 2004), pp. 121-142.

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

- Feb. 15     *The Legal System*  
 Pitman B. Potter, “The Chinese Legal System: Continuing Commitment to the Primacy of State Power,” *The China Quarterly*, No. 159, Special Issue: The People's Republic of China after 50 Years, Sep., 1999 pp. 673-683  
 Ian Johnson, *Wild Grass: Three Portraits of Change in Modern China*. New York: Pantheon Books. 2004. Pp. 11-86.

**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. 20     *Interest Groups and Policymaking Paradox* Ch. 7, 13 (Shi, Goldman)

- Feb. 22     *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.  
 Richard Madsen, “The Public Sphere, Civil Society and Moral Community,” *Modern China* (April 1993): pp.183-198.

- Feb. 27     *Minorities—guest speaker from Tibet*  
 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.

- Mar. 1     *Review*

**MIDTERM DUE March 6 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?

- Mar. 6     Film—The Men Who Would Conquer China

- Mar. 8     *Environmental Challenges and Growth*  
 Elizabeth Economy, *The River Runs Black* (Cornell, 2004), pp. 59-90.

- March 9 4:30 LECTURE \*REQUIRED\*** Extra Quiz Credit for P/A/E/ + 3 Questions  
 Elizabeth Economy: “China's Environmental Crisis”

- Mar. 13-22 **SPRING BREAK—no class**

Mar. 27 *Industrial and Financial Policy*  
*Paradox* Ch. 2 (Naughton)

Mar. 29 *Creative Capitalists*  
Kellee Tsai. *Back-Alley Banking: Private Entrepreneurs in China*. (Cornell, 2002);  
pp. 24-59.

Apr. 3 *Corruption*  
*Paradox* Ch. 14 (Perry)

### **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?

Apr. 5 *Migration*  
*Paradox*. Ch. 10 (Solinger)

Apr. 10 *One Child Policy*  
Tyrene White, "Domination, resistance and accommodation in China's one-child  
campaign," in Perry and Selden, *Chinese Society* (Routledge, 2000).

Apr. 12 *Democracy Movement—Rising Civil Society*  
Film—Tienamin  
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. 17 *Human Rights—Guest Speaker Professor Angle*  
Stephen Angle and Marina Svensson eds. *The Chinese Human Rights Reader* (2001)  
pp. 333-363.

### **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?

Apr. 19 *Security Policy*  
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. 24 *Economic Policy*  
Banning Garrett, "China Faces, Debates, the Contradictions of Globalization" *Asian  
Survey* Vol. 41, No. 3 (May, 2001), pp. 409-427

Apr. 26     *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**

May 1     *Presentations*

May 3     *Presentations*

May 8     *Presentations*

*Wrapping up*

**Rough Draft Due to Research Group Members May 7—Peer Reviews in Class**

**Final Paper Due: May 17 by 12:00 p.m.**