

Political Science 332 Chinese Politics

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Spring Semester 2004
Tues/Thurs 11:30-12:45
Office hours: M 9:30-12:30, F 2-4

Introduction

The purpose of this course is to introduce you to contemporary politics in the People's Republic of China. Understanding politics in the PRC today requires a good knowledge of Chinese history, so the first part of the course will be devoted to Mao's revolution. We will begin with the conditions underlying the revolution, then look at the period from 1949 through Mao's death in 1976. The rest of the course will consider Chinese politics from 1977 to 2001, under Mao's successors, Deng Xiaoping, Jiang Zemin and Hu Jintao.

Even if the People's Republic of China did not have the largest population of any country on earth, it still would be worth studying. When Europeans were living in caves before the Roman invasion and dying in wars and plagues during the Dark Ages, China was a flourishing commercial state with a stable government, highly-developed literary tradition and refined, self-confident culture. Many Chinese take heart from the belief that any problems they face today are but wrinkles in the rich fabric of their nation's history.

Much to the frustration of Westerners seeking to promote everything from instant coffee to liberal democracy, the Chinese by and large are unconvinced that the West has much to teach them, aside from scientific and technical skills. China has absorbed less of our culture, less of our religion, less of our philosophy, less of our economics than almost any other country, despite the unrelenting efforts of Western traders, politicians, thinkers and missionaries to "crack the China market." China's strong sense of nationalism — national strength, national unity and national autonomy — is a central theme of this course.

In short, when we study China we study a country that cannot be understood through the logic and assumptions we use to make sense of other nations. Learning about China is an adventure; it requires us to open our minds to a way of seeing the world that is new to us, although very old.

Readings

The central text for the course is *Governing China* by Kenneth Lieberthal. *The Promise of the Revolution*, by Daniel B. Wright, is a series of essays about the lives of rural farmers in a distant corner of China. The essays in *Rediscovering China*, by Cheng Li, paint a very different picture, one focused on China's flourishing coastal provinces. Finally, we will catch up with recent political events and issues by reading *China After Jiang*, a series of papers edited by Gang Lin and Xiaobo Hu, as well as selected articles. Supplementary readings on electronic reserve and email will cover topics not included in the texts. These readings are **mandatory**, as are the films. (This means there will be questions about them on the exams, and you will be expected to discuss them in class.)

Requirements

1. Above all, you must read. The course will incorporate discussion and lecture, and class participation will be an important part of your performance. While I expect you to participate, I recognize that some students are more gregarious than others. If you are not a big talker, you may take heart from the fact that quality is more important than quantity, and asking a good question is just as valuable as making a good comment. We will cover a great deal of unfamiliar material. Do not hesitate to raise questions.

2. There will be an in-class midterm review.

3. There will be one 5-7 page essay. The essay will require you to look at an issue (either international or domestic) from the point of view of Chinese authors whose work is available in English on the Internet. The assignment is designed to help you understand how Chinese political thinkers view the world, and also to expose you to the rich resources for the study of China that are available on the Internet.

4. For your final assignment, you may choose *either* a three-hour final exam *or* a research paper (15-20 pages) on a topic of your choice. Topics must be negotiated with me.

Please note: Whenever you hand in written work, please use a cover sheet with your name, the name of the course, the title of the paper and your telephone number. Staple the title page to the rest of the essay or exam. Please do not put your name on the other pages. If you use a blue book for your exams, write your name only on the cover(s) of any blue books you use. If you write your exams on loose paper, please make a cover sheet, and write your name on it only.

Participation:	5%	A = 95
Mid-term:	30%	A- = 91
Essay:	30%	B+ = 88
Final project:	35%	B = 85, etc.

Anything you hand in is pledged work. But as a reminder of the honor code's importance, I would like you to write out the honor code in full on the cover sheet of any work you hand in. ("On my honor I pledge that I have neither given nor received help on this work, nor am I aware of any violation on the part of others.") Please make sure you understand the honor code, especially the definition of plagiarism. If you have any questions, doubts or concerns about any aspect of the honor code, please come and talk to me. If you are unsure of how you should cite material used in an essay, please discuss it with me.

Lateness policy: Work that is handed in *after class* on the day an assignment is due will be penalized 1/3 of a grade for each day it is late. That means that if you hand in an A+ paper at noon on the day the paper is due, you will receive an A. But no matter how late a paper is, it is *always* to your advantage to hand it in. Computer failure is *not* an acceptable excuse for lateness. *Back up your work.* If you are having printer trouble, and your work is in an IBM format, you may bring me your disk and I will read your paper on screen. Do not assume you have secured my permission for something unless you have spoken to me *in person* or received an e-mail or voice mail message *from me*.

Extensions

Please do not ask for extensions because you have “too much work;” everyone does, and it’s unfair to give extensions to those who ask, while those who don’t ask end up with less time to do a good job. Also, no extensions will be granted for extracurricular commitments. Look at your athletic, musical, union and theatrical schedules in advance, and plan your work accordingly.

Honor Code

While I encourage you to talk about China and Chinese politics with your classmates and anyone else you can find who is interested in the topic, when the time comes to complete written work, it must be yours and yours alone. Ideas and phrases that originated with others need to be quoted or paraphrased, and cited. Bear in mind that one sign of conscientious research is an abundance of quotations and citations. If you ever, at any time, have a question about citation, plagiarism, or any other matter, please speak to me. I am happy to help you learn the proper techniques and procedures of scholarly research. You may use the spell and grammar checking features of your word processor, and you may ask friends to read your papers for clarity, but they should not correct your mistakes for you.

Course Schedule

(each reading assignment is due the day it appears on the schedule)

Week 1

1/13: China in the News

1/15: China's History to 1911
Lieberthal, pp. 1-26
Wright, pp. 1-7

Week 2

1/20: From Republic of China to People's Republic of China
Lieberthal, pp. 27-56
Wright, pp. 21-30

1/22: Mao Zedong Thought
Lieberthal, pp. 59-77
Wright, pp. 11-20

Week 3

1/27: The Institutional Framework of Mao's China
Lieberthal, pp. 77-103

1/29: Great Leap Forward and big step backward
Lieberthal, pp. 103-112

Week 4

2/3: The Cultural Revolution
Lieberthal, pp. 112-122
"The Blue Kite," dir. Tian Zhuangzhuang
"Morning Sun," dir. Carma Hinton, Richard Gordon & Geremie Barne

2/5: From Cultural Revolution to the Rise of Deng Xiaoping
Lieberthal, pp. 123-131

Week 5

2/10: Deng Xiaoping at the Helm
Lieberthal, pp. 131-167

2/12: Political Institutions in the Deng Era
Lieberthal, pp. 171-205

Week 6

2/17: Informal Politics in the Deng Era
Lieberthal, pp. 205-242

2/19: Guest Speaker: Andrew Morris
“Nationalism and Sports in Chinese History”

Week 7

2/24: Challenging the System: The 1989 Tiananmen Crisis
“Gate of Heavenly Peace”, dir. Carma Hinton & Richard Gordon

2/26: Economic Reform in the Deng Xiaoping Era
Lieberthal, pp. 245-249, 251-254, 263-272
Li, pp. 3-16, 53-74, 211-226

Week 8

3/9: Reforming Agriculture
Lieberthal, pp. 249-251
Wright, pp. 71-110

3/11: Reforming Industry: SOEs and TVEs
Lieberthal, pp. 259-263
Li, pp. 75-92, 149-164, 227-239
Wright, pp. 119-129

Week 9

3/16: Introducing Private Business to China’s Economy
Lieberthal, pp. 254-259
Wright, pp. 147-154
Li, pp. 93-108

3/18: Privatization and Property Reform
Lin & Hu, pp. 69-90
Wright, pp. 131-138
Li, pp. 193-210

Week 10

3/23: Mid-term Review

3/25: Religion in the PRC”
Wright, pp. 155-164

Week 11

- 3/30: Social Consequences of Economic Reform: Regional Disparities
Lieberthal, pp. 289-301, 305-308
Lin & Hu, pp. 91-114
Wright, pp. 51-70, 147-152
- 4/1: Social Consequences of Reform: Internal Migration
Li, pp. 17-49, 111-148
Wright, pp. 31-50

Week 12

- 4/6: Human Rights and Political Reform
Li pp. 243-261, 279-299
Lieberthal, pp. 301-305
Electronic Reserve Articles
- 4/8: Gender and Family
Lieberthal, pp. 308-314

Week 13

- 4/13: Easter Break
- 4/15: Environmental Issues
Lieberthal, pp.273-288
Li, pp. 165-190
ESSAY DUE

Week 14:

- 4/20: China's Foreign Relations
Lin & Hu, pp. 115-136
Li, pp. 301-316
- 4/22: China's Foreign Relations
Electronic Reserve Articles

Week 15:

- 4/27: Changes and Challenges
Lieberthal, pp. 315-336
Lin & Hu, pp. 1-68