

Politics in Contemporary China

GOV 322M (38425)

ANS 322M (32310)

Fall 2018

Time: Monday/Wednesday 1:00-2:30PM

Location: SZB 330

Instructor: Dr. Xiaobo Lü

Office: Department of Government, BAT 3.152

Office Hours: Tuesday/Thursday 1:00-2:30PM, or by appointment

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Course Homepage: <http://canvas.utexas.edu/>

Teaching Assistant: Siyun Jiang

Office Hours: TBA

Office Hours Location: TBA

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Course Description:

This Course is designed as an introductory course in Chinese politics primarily for upper-level undergraduates with a good background in political/social science, but not necessarily any background on China. The aim of the course is to provide a foundation that will enable the non-specialist to make informed use of China as a case in more general arguments and give the intended China specialist a solid footing from which to pursue more in-depth study of particular topics.

This course primarily focuses on domestic politics in post-1978 China. We start the course by introducing the key institutions and players in order to understand the distribution of political power in China. We then detail various forms of political participation by different individuals, which allow us to understand the political logic and consequences of policymaking and selective policy issues in China. We conclude the course by discussing the political reforms implemented in the last three decades and contemplating the potentials political development in the future. The course consists of lectures and in-class discussions in order to enhance students' learning.

Prerequisite:

Six semester hours of lower-division coursework in government.

Course Requirement and Grading:

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| 1. | Four quizzes | 15% |
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2.	First in-class midterm exam (Oct. 1):	25%
3.	Second in-class midterm exam (Nov. 5):	25%
4.	Third Midterm exam (Dec. 10):	25%
5.	Attendance	10%

Course Materials:

The readings for this course are based on book chapters and articles. All the readings, except for the required textbook, can be accessed through the Canvas website for this class.

Required Textbook:

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

Students with Disabilities:

Students with disabilities are welcome to request appropriate academic accommodations. Please contact Services for Students with Disabilities (471-6259) and the instructor for further information.

Honor Code:

Every student, graduate as well as undergraduate, is expected to adhere to the UT Honor Code. Any violation can result in receiving “0” for the assignment in question as well as further disciplinary action. Students are strongly urged to refer to the following link from the Dean of Students for an explanation of what plagiarism is and how it can be avoided:

http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/sjs/scholdis_plagiarism.php.

Class Guidelines

1. All quizzes and exams will be administered promptly at the beginning of the class. The quizzes may or may not be announced in advance. At the end of the semester, your lowest quiz grade will be dropped from your final quiz score for the semester.
2. **Make-up quizzes & exams will not be accommodated.**
3. Under special circumstance and with the approval from the instructor, you might be able to increase the weights of some of your mid-term exam’s grades in the calculation of the final grade. For example, if you miss the one midterm exam, the grade of your other two midterm exams will account for 37.5% instead of 25% of the final grade.
4. All lectures, discussions, and readings will be subject to examination.

Grading:

Letter Grade	GPA	Percentage Score
A	4.0	94-100%
A-	3.67	90-93
B+	3.33	87-89
B	3.0	84-86
B-	2.67	80-83
C+	2.33	77-79
C	2.0	74-76
C-	1.67	70-73
D+	1.33	67-69
D	1.0	64-66
D-	.67	60-63
F	0	59 & below

Weekly Themes:

The Legacy

Week 1: Introduction and Historical Background

Week 2: The Shadow of Mao

Who Governs? The Institutions & Players

Week 3: Formal Chinese Government Structure

Week 4: The Communist Party and Chinese Leadership

Week 5: Bureaucracy, Legislature, and Policy Making

Political Behaviors in China

Week 6: Political Elites and Elite Politics

Week 7: Local Politics

Week 8: Elections and Representation

Week 9: Political Participation of the Masses

The Political Logic and Consequences of Policymaking

Week 10: The Political Origins of Economic Reform in China

Week 11: Social Issues and Public Goods Provision

Week 12: Governance

Political Development in Changing China

Week 13: Political Development in China I

Week 14: Political Development in China II

Week 15: Political Development in China III

Week 16: Midterm #3

Lecture Schedule and Readings

Week 1 (August 29): Introduction

- Lieberthal, Kenneth. 2004. *Governing China: from revolution through reform*. 2nd ed. New York: W. W. Norton. (Chapter 3 “The Maoist System”)
- Film Screening (when time permits): **China: A Century of Revolution: Part Two: The Mao Years**

Week 2 (Sep 5): The Shadow of Mao

No class on Sep. 3 (Labor Day)

- Lieberthal, Kenneth. 2004. *Governing China: from revolution through reform*. 2nd ed. New York: W. W. Norton. (Chapter 4 “The Maoist Era”)

Recommended:

- MacFarquhar, Roderick. "The Succession to Mao and the End of Maoism, 1969-1982." In *The Politics of China: Sixty Years of the People's Republic of China*, edited by Roderick MacFarquhar, 246-336. New York: Cambridge University Press, 2011.
- Zhou, Xueguang, and Liren Hou. 1999. "Children of the Cultural Revolution: The State and the Life Course in the People's Republic of China." *American Sociological Review* 64 (1):12-36.
- Film Screening: **China: A Century of Revolution: Part Two: The Mao Years**

Week 3 (September 10 & 12): Formal Chinese Government Structure

No class on Sep. 12 (Instructor will be out of country for a conference)

- Lieberthal, Kenneth. 2004. *Governing China: from revolution through reform*. 2nd ed. New York: W. W. Norton. (Chapter 6 “The Organization of Political Power and its Consequences: The View from Outside”)
- Lawrence, Susan V. 2013. China’s Political Institutions and Leaders in Charts, *Congressional Research Service*. (pp. 12-19 Only)

Week 4 (September 17 & 19): The Communist Party and Chinese Leadership

- Lawrence, Susan V. 2013. China’s Political Institutions and Leaders in Charts, *Congressional Research Service*. (pp. 1-11 Only)
- Lieberthal, Kenneth. 2004. *Governing China: from revolution through reform*. 2nd ed. New York: W. W. Norton. (Chapter 7 “The Organization of Political Power and Its Consequences: The View from Inside”)
- Manion, Melanie. 1985. The Cadre Management System, Post-Mao: The Appointment, Promotion, Transfer, and Removal of Party and State Leaders.” *The China Quarterly*, No.102:203–233.
- Dickson, Bruce J. 2014. "Who Wants to Be a Communist? Career Incentives and Mobilized Loyalty in China." *The China Quarterly* 217:42-68.

Recommended:

- McGregor, Richard. 2010. *The Party: the secret world of China's communist rulers*. 1st U.S. ed. New York, NY: Harper. (Chapter 1 “The Red Machine: The Party and the State” and Chapter 3 “The Keeper of the Files: The Party and Personnel”)

Week 5 (September 24 & 26): Bureaucracy, Legislature, and Policy Making

- Lieberthal, Kenneth, and Michel Oksenberg. 1988. *Policy making in China: leaders, structures, and processes*. Princeton, N.J.: Princeton University Press. (Chapter 4: Salient Characteristics of the Structure of Power)
- Tanner, Murray Scot. 1995. How a Bill Becomes a Law in China: Stages and Processes in Lawmaking. *The China Quarterly* (141):39-64.

Recommended:

- Mertha, Andrew. 2009. "Fragmented Authoritarianism 2.0": Political Pluralization in the Chinese Policy Process. *The China Quarterly* 200:995-1012.

Week 6 (October 1 & 3): Political Elites and Elite Politics

Midterm Exam # 1 will be administrated on Oct. 1.

- Miller, Alice. 2008. Institutionalization and the Changing Dynamics of Chinese Leadership Politics. In *China's changing political landscape: prospects for democracy*, edited by C. Li. Washington, D.C: Brookings Institution Press.
- Pye, Lucian. 2001 "Jiang Zemin's Style of Rule: Go for Stability, Monopolize Power and Settle for Limited Effectiveness," *The China Journal*, No. 45, pp. 45-51
- Ewing, Richard D. 2003. "Hu Jintao: The Making of a Chinese General Secretary," *The China Quarterly*, No. 173: 17-34
- Economy, Elizabeth. 2014. "China's Imperial President" *Foreign Affairs*

Recommended:

- Miller, Alice. 2016. "The Road to The 19th Party Congress." *China Leadership Monitor*, No. 51.

Week 7 (October 8 & 10): Local Politics

- Edin, Maria. 2003. State Capacity and Local Agent Control in China: CCP Cadre Management from a Township Perspective. *The China Quarterly* 173:35-52.
- Kou, Chien-wen and Wen-Hsuan Tsai, "Sprinting with Small Steps Towards Promotion: Solutions for the Age Dilemma in the CCP Cadre Appointment System," *The China Journal*, No. 71 (January 2014), pp. 153-171
- O'Brien, Kevin J., and Lianjiang Li. 1999. "Selective Policy Implementation in Rural China." *Comparative Politics* 31 (2):167-86.

Documentary: The Chinese Major

<http://www.zhaoqifilms.com/the-chinese-mayor.html>

Week 8 (October 15 & 17): Elections and Representation

- O'Brien Kevin and Rongbin Han. 2009. Path to democracy? Assessing village elections in China. *Journal of Contemporary China* 18(60): 359–78.
- Manion, Melanie. 2008. When Communist Party Candidates Can Lose, Who Wins? Assessing the Role of Local People's Congresses in the Selection of Leaders in China. *The China Quarterly*, 195, pp 607-630.
- Film Screening (when time permits): **China From the Inside**

Week 9 (October 22 & 24): Participation of the Masses

- Shi, Tianjian. 1997. *Political participation in Beijing*. Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press. (Chapter 2: “Forms of Citizen Participation in Beijing”)
- Gobel, Christian and Lynette Ong. (2012) “Social Unrest in China,” *European China Research and Advice Network Report*. (Only Executive Summary pp.8-17)
- Li, Lianjiang. 2013. The Magnitude and Resilience of Trust in the Center: Evidence from Interviews with Petitioners in Beijing and a Local Survey in Rural China. *Modern China* 39 (1):3-36.

Recommended:

- Lei, Ya-Wen. 2012. The Political Consequences of the Rise of the Internet: Political Beliefs and Practices of Chinese Netizens. *Political Communication* 28 (3):291-322.
- Yang, Guobin. 2009. Online Activism. *Journal of Democracy*, 20(3): 33-36

Week 10 (October 29 & October 31): The Political Origins of Economic Development in China

- Naughton, Barry. 1993. “Deng Xiaoping: The Economist,” *The China Quarterly*, No. 135: 491-514
- Naughton, Barry. 2010. “China’s distinctive system: can it be a model for others?” *Journal of Contemporary China*, pp.437-460.

- Cai, Hongbin, and Daniel Treisman. 2006. Did Government Decentralization Cause China's Economic Miracle? *World Politics* 58 (4):505-535.

Recommended:

- Xu, Chenggang. 2011. The Fundamental Institutions of China's Reforms and Development. *Journal of Economic Literature* 49 (4):1076-1151.

Week 11 (November 5 & 7): Social Issues and Public Goods Provision

Midterm Exam # 2 will be administrated on Nov. 5.

- Cheng, Tiejun, and Mark Selden. 1994. The Origins and Social Consequences of China's Hukou System. *The China Quarterly* 139:644-668.
- Zheng, Siqu, and Matthew E. Kahn. 2013. Understanding China's Urban Pollution Dynamics. *Journal of Economic Literature* 51 (3):731-72.
- Xie, Yu, and Xiang Zhou. 2014. "Income inequality in today's China." *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* 111 (19):6928-33.

Recommended:

- Tsai, Lily L. 2007. Solidary Groups, Informal Accountability, and Local Public Goods Provision in Rural China. *American Political Science Review* 101 (02):355-372.
- Davis, Deborah and Wang Feng, eds., *Creating Wealth and Poverty in Postsocialist China* (Palo Alto, CA: Stanford University Press, 2008). (Chapter 1: "Poverty and Wealth in Postsocialist China: An Overview.")
- Mok, Ka Ho, Yu Cheung Wong, and Xiulan Zhang. 2009. "When marketisation and privatisation clash with socialist ideals: Educational inequality in Urban China." *International Journal of Educational Development* 29 (5):505-12.

Week 12 (November 12 & 14): Governance

- Pei, Minxin. 2006. *China's trapped transition: the limits of developmental autocracy*. Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press. (Chapter 5: "China's Mounting Governance Deficits")

- Yang, Dali L. 2004. *Remaking the Chinese Leviathan: Market Transition and the Politics of Governance in China*. Stanford, Calif.: Stanford University Press. (Chapter 8: Institutions of Horizontal Accountability and Good Governance)
- Manion, Melanie. 2004. *Corruption by Design: Building clean government in mainland China and Hong Kong*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press. (Chapter 5: “Anticorruption Campaigns as Enforcement Mechanism”.)

Recommended:

- Smith, Graeme. 2010. The Hollow State: Rural Governance in China. *The China Quarterly* 203:601-618.
- Wedeman, Andrew Hall. 2012. *Double paradox: rapid growth and rising corruption in China*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press. (Chapter 1 and Chapter 4)

Week 13 (November 19): Future Political Development in China I

No class on Nov. 21 (Thanksgiving Holiday)

- Nathan, Andrew. 2003. Authoritarian Resilience. *Journal of Democracy*, 14(1), pp. 6-17.
- Pei, Minxin. 2006. *China's trapped transition: the limits of developmental autocracy*. Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press. (Chapter 2: “Democratizing China?”)
- Fewsmith, Joseph. 2013. *The logic and limits of political reform in China*. New York: Cambridge University Press. (Chapter 3: Inner-Party Democracy)
- Li, Eric X. 2013. "The life of the party: the post-democratic future begins in China." *Foreign Affairs* Jan.-Feb. 2013.

Week 14 (November 26 & 28): Future Political Development in China II

- Gilley, Bruce. 2003. The Limits of Authoritarian Resilience. *Journal of Democracy*, 14(1), pp. 18-26.
- Huang, Yasheng. 2013. Democratize or Die. *Foreign Affairs*. January/February 2013.
- Yang, Dali. 2003. State Capacity on the Rebound. *Journal of Democracy*, 14(1), pp. 43-50
- Pei, Minxin. 2003. Contradictory Trends and Confusing Signals. *Journal of Democracy*, 14(1), pp. 73-81.

Week 15 (December 3 & 5): Future Political Development in China III & Course Review

- Shi, Tianjin. 2015. *The Cultural Logic of Politics in Mainland China and Taiwan*. New York. Cambridge University Press. (Chapter 2, “Cultural Norms East and West”)
- Tang, Wenfang. 2018. The "Surprise" of Authoritarian Resilience in China, *American Affairs*, February 20.
- Film Screening(when time permits): **Please Vote For Me**

Week 16 (December 10): Midterm #3