

Course ID Number: REC5730

Course Title: Contemporary Chinese Politics

No. of Credits: 2

Graduate School of International Relations

International University of Japan

Term: Fall 2013

Instructor: Vida Macikenaite

Course Description:

Today's Chinese leadership, although able to celebrate China's unprecedented economic growth, faces numerous challenges – necessity to accommodate to new socio-economic conditions, cope with environmental degradation or appropriately respond to changing demands from the citizens, louder than ever expressed through new means of media. Seeking to foresee how such issues will shape China's future, it is necessary to understand how political system in China functions. However, understanding of the political system in contemporary China is hardly possible without appropriate grasp of its historical development.

This course is designed to provide not only the knowledge of how the current political system of China works but also an explanation on how it has developed into such a system as we observe it today. The first part of the course looks into historical development since the Imperial period, through the rise of the communist movement into the first decades of the People's Republic of China (PRC). Second part of the course discusses contemporary political system and economic reform, but the readings selected provide historical perspective on the issues discussed. At the end of the course two lectures are dedicated to specific issues in contemporary China before it is wrapped up by the topic on regime stability.

CONTEMPORARY CHINESE POLITICS

Fall Semester 2013

[Class Time, Classroom]

COURSE SYLLABUS

Instructor: Vida Macikenaite
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COURSE DESCRIPTION

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COURSE FORMAT

The course consists of 10 double-class meetings. The class is conducted as a lecture but is open to a class discussion anytime. The course is designed for foreign students, thus selected reading materials are in English. In the seminars of *week 8* and *week 9* the students will be asked to make individual presentations on the topics they have selected before *week 3*.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND ASSIGNMENTS

1) ***Class attendance and participation.*** Students are required to keep up with the reading assignments and participate in class discussions during the seminars.

2) ***Presentation.*** Before *week 3* each student will select an issue to be followed and research on an in-depth-basis during the course. In *week 4* they will submit a one-page overview of the issue. The student is expected to describe recent development of the issue and also explain its importance for the consideration of contemporary Chinese politics. Each student will present their selected issue for class discussion in the seminar of *week 7* or *week 8*. Students are advised to consult some additional literature on the issue.

3) ***An essay.*** After the seminar of *week 1* the students are required to write a short essay on the topic of the week *Historical Legacy of the PRC*. The essay of 3-4 pages (double space) should cover the reading assignments and each student's response to it. The students are expected to explain how China's past has shaped/continues to shape the politics of contemporary China.

4) **Research proposal (final assignment)** At the end of the course each student is required to submit a research proposal for an *academic* paper related to the issue they select in the beginning of the course. The proposal should also include literature review. No later than 2 weeks after the end of the course the students should submit their final paper to the Instructor (deadline to be finalized).

MAIN READINGS

The following are the main required readings for this course:

1. Dittmer, Lowell, and Guoli Liu (ed.) *China's Deep Reform: Domestic Politics in Transition*. Rowman and Littlefield Publishers, Inc., 2006.
2. Li, Cheng (ed.) *China's Changing Political Landscape*. Brookings Institution Press, 2008.
3. Lieberthal, Kenneth. *Governing China: From Revolution Through Reform*. 2nd ed. W.W.Norton, 2004.
4. Wang, James C.F. *Contemporary Chinese Politics: An Introduction*. 7th ed. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall, 2002.

Note that for each class there are additional required reading assignments.

WEEKLY CLASS SCHEDULE AND READING ASSIGNMENTS

PART I. POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT OF CHINA.

How did the political system of China develop to become as it is today? What kind of political and cultural legacies has it inherited from the past?

C1. Historical Legacy of the pre-1949 China. Establishment of the PRC. Mao Era in China. Cultural Revolution and power struggle in China.

Traditional Chinese political system; Confucianism; the last Chinese Empire and its relations with the Western countries, China's treaties with the Western countries. Nationalist revolution. The CCP, United Front, establishment of the PRC.

1. Lieberthal, *Governing China: From Revolution Through Reform*, Ch. 1-2 (pp. 1-58).
2. Wang, *Contemporary Chinese Politics: An Introduction*, Ch.1 (pp. 1-14), Ch. 2 (15-19).
3. Mao Zedong. 'On New Democracy.' In *Selected Works of Mao Tse-Tung*, vol. II. Available from http://www.marxists.org/reference/archive/mao/selected-works/volume-2/mswv2_26.htm
4. We will possibly watch a movie relevant to the weekly topic. The title to be finalized later.

As the seminar follows the first lecture of the course, the students are not expected to come familiar with the reading assignments. Therefore the lecture will extend into the seminar. For the remaining time we will watch a movie or documentary related to Chinese politics. However, the students are required to read the materials independently and write a short essay on the topic of the week *Historical Legacies of the People's Republic of China*. The essay is due on *week 3*.

C2. Post-Mao China: Deng Xiaoping, Economic Reform and the Erosion of Ideology.

Open-door policy: sources, process and implications. Economic reform without political reform. Decline of ideology, Deng's four basic principles. Jiang Zemin's thought.

1. Lieberthal, *Governing China: From Revolution Through Reform*, Ch. 5 (pp. 122-156), Ch.8, 245-272.
2. Wang, *Contemporary Chinese Politics: An Introduction*, Ch. 3 (pp. 37-68).
3. Qian, Yingyi. "The Process of China's Market Transition, 1978-1998: The Evolutionary, Historical, and Comparative Perspectives." In Dittmer & Liu, Ch. 8 (pp. 229-251).
4. Wang, *Contemporary Chinese Politics: An Introduction*, Ch. 11 (pp. 301-337).

Additionally:

1. Wang, *Contemporary Chinese Politics: An Introduction*, Ch.12 (pp. 338-370).
2. Pu, Bao, Renee Chiang & Adi Ignatius (ed.) *The Prisoner of the State*. Simon & Shuster, 2009. Part 3 (pp. 89-158), 5 (pp. 215-244).

PART II. POLITICAL SYSTEM OF CONTEMPORARY CHINA.

How does the political system in China function?

C3. The Structure of the Party-State. Institutions. Political Leadership, Succession and Power Sharing.

The structure of China's party-state. Political elite, power succession, institutionalization of the change of political leadership. Power succession in 2012.

1. Li, Cheng. 2011. "The Battle for China's Top Nine Leadership Posts." *The Washington Quarterly* 35(1): 131-145.
2. Lieberthal, *Governing China: From Revolution Through Reform*, Ch. 6 (pp. 171-205).
3. Lieberthal, *Governing China: From Revolution Through Reform*, Ch. 7 (pp. 183-242).

Additionally:

Review the process leading towards power succession in 2012 (media reports).

Submit your essay from week 1.

C4. Political Reform in China. Local elections. Democracy in Asia.

What is meant by "political reform" in China? Intra-party democracy. China's approach to human rights and development. Local elections.

1. Nathan, Andrew J. "China's Constitutionalist Option." In Dittmer & Liu, Ch. 6 (pp. 177-190).
2. Kevin J. O'Brien, *Reform without Liberalization: China's National People's Congress and the Politics of Institutional Change*, 2008. Ch. 7 (pp. 125-156), Ch. 8 (pp. 157-179).
3. Pu, Bao, Renee Chiang & Adi Ignatius (ed.) *The Prisoner of the State*. Simon & Shuster, 2009. Part 6 (pp. 245-274).

Additionally:

4. Wright, Teresa. *Accepting Authoritarianism*. Stanford University Press, 2010. Ch. 1 (pp. 1-36). (the same as class 10)
5. "Human Rights and 'Values in Asia'" in Daniel. A. Bell. 2006. *Beyond Liberal Democracy: Political Thinking for an East Asian Context*, Ch.3, pp.52-83.

C5. State-Society Relations and the New Media.

Does the media liberalization and Internet lead to democracy? Evolution of media in China. State-society relations.

1. Lieberthal, *Governing China: From Revolution Through Reform*, Ch. 11 (pp. 292-313).
2. Yang, Guobing. "The Internet and Civil Society in China: Coevolutionary Dynamics and Digital Formations." In Dittmer & Liu, Ch. 11 (pp. 303-318).
3. Lagerkvist, Johan. *After the Internet, Before Democracy. Competing Norms in Chinese Media and Society*. Peter Lang International Academic Publishers, 2010. Introduction (pp. 11-40).
4. Shirk, Susan. *China: Fragile Superpower*. Oxford University Press, 2008. Ch. 4 (pp. 78-105).

C6. Civil-Military Relations in China.

Development of the PLA, military's role in Chinese politics. Party-military relations, its evolution.

1. Wang, *Contemporary Chinese Politics: An Introduction*, Ch. 9 (pp. 238-268).

2. Mulvenon, James. "Straining against the Yoke? Civil-Military Relations in China after the Seventeenth Party Congress." In Li, Cheng (ed.) *China's Changing Political Landscape*, Ch. 14 (pp. 267-282).

3. Thompson, Drew. 2005. "Beijing's Participation in UN Peacekeeping Operations," in *China Brief V(11)*, pp. 7-9.

C7. Administrative system in China. Central-local relations.

Taiwan. Special administrative regions: Hong Kong, Macao.

Class presentations.

1. "Greater China: Reversion of Hong Kong and Macao, the Pearl River Delta Regional Development, and the Taiwan Question," in Wang, *Contemporary Chinese Politics: An Introduction*, Ch. 8 (pp. 196-238).
2. [to be announced]

Reading materials to be decided.

PART III. SELECTED ISSUES IN CONTEMPORARY CHINESE POLITICS.

C8. Ethnic minorities. Ethnic politics.

The issue of Tibet and Xinjiang. Ethnic minorities and "Chinese" nation.

Class presentations.

1. Wang, *Contemporary Chinese Politics: An Introduction*, Ch. 6 (pp. 177-186).
2. [to be announced]

C9. The Consequences of Economic Reform: income inequality, urban-rural divide, corruption, environmental pollution, etc.

1. Lieberthal, *Governing China: From Revolution Through Reform*, Ch. 10 (pp. 276-291, also see pp. 259-275).

2. Meng, Qingyue, Jian Zhang, Fei Yan, Edward J. Hoekstra, and Jiatong Zhuo. 2012. 'One Country, Two Worlds – The Health Disparity in China.' *Global Public Health* 7 (2): 124-136.

Optional:

Harney, Alexandra. *The China Price: The True Cost of Chinese Competitive Advantage*. Penguin Press, 2008.

C10. Concluding Class. Political (In-)stability and Party Adaptation.

Sources of regime stability in China. The main threats to regime stability.

1. Shirk, Susan. *China: Fragile Superpower*. Oxford University Press, 2008. Ch. 3.
2. Wright, Teresa. *Accepting Authoritarianism*. Stanford University Press, 2010. Ch. 1 (pp. 1-36).
3. Guo, Baogang. 'Political Legitimacy in China's Transition: Toward a Market Economy.' In Dittmer & Liu, Ch. 5 (pp. 147-176).

Hand in the final assignment.