State, Society and Citizenship in Contemporary China
POLI 4079

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Fall 2008
M, W, 3:10-4:30
Office Hours:
Tuesday 2:00-4:00 PM

This course offers a general introduction to the politics of People’s Republic of China. There are no prerequisites for the course. It is designed both for advanced undergraduates and beginning graduate students. The primary objective of this course is to provide a working knowledge for understanding political events in contemporary China. The course is divided into two parts. The first (Sections I-III) reviews major political events from the Revolution to Deng’s Reform. In the second part (Sections IV & V) we proceed to a thematic discussion of institutional reform and state-society relations in the Reform Era.

Course Requirements

Course grades will be determined in the following manner:

Class participation 10%
Midterm 20%
8-10 page paper 30%
Final 40%

Class members are required to write a research paper on any aspect of Chinese politics, but the topic must be approved by the instructor. An outline with a brief annotated bibliography will be due on October 27. The paper should be double-spaced with standard 1" margins and typed in 12-point font. The paper is due on December 3 in class. Work turned in after the deadline without adequate justification will be marked down half a letter grade for each day it is late.

The midterm examination will be held in class on October 13. The final examination will be of the take-home variety. The exam will be handed out in class on December 3, and will be due by 5 p. m. on December 10. Examinations will draw on both class sessions and required readings.

Readings

Three books are available at LSU bookstore:
Elizabeth Perry and Merle Goldman, Grassroots Political Reform in Contemporary China (Harvard University press, 2007)


I. Introduction

August 25 & 27

Kenneth Lieberthal, Governing China, pp. 1-26

II. Traditional China, the Revolution and Maoist Era

Sept. 3 & 8: The Revolution
Kenneth Lieberthal, Governing China, pp. 39-56
Will be posted on Moodle.

Sept. 10 & 15: Socialist Transformation (Land Reform, One Hundred Movement, Great Leap Forward)
Kenneth Lieberthal, Governing China, pp. 83-111

Sept. 17 & 22: Cultural Revolution
Kenneth Lieberthal, Governing China, pp. 111-121

III. Origins and Trajectory of Deng’s Reform

Sept. 24 & 29: Origins of Reform
Kenneth Lieberthal, Governing China, pp. 122-153

October 1: From Reform to Movement
Merle Goldman & Roderick MacFarquhar, The Paradox of China’s Post-Mao Reforms; chapters 1 & 2

October 6: Movie: To Live
October 13: Mid-term Exam

IV. The Evolution of Political Institutions in the Reform Era

October 15: Authoritarian Resilience?
Elizabeth Perry and Merle Goldman, Grassroots Political Reform in Contemporary China, Introduction

October 20: Overview of Political Institutions
Kenneth Lieberthal, Governing China, 171-242

October 22: Elite Politics
Merle Goldman & Roderick MacFarquhar, The Paradox of China's Post-Mao Reforms, Chapter 3
Kenneth Lieberthal, Governing China, 148-167

October 27: National People's Congress
Merle Goldman & Roderick MacFarquhar, The Paradox of China's Post-Mao Reforms, Chapter 5
Young Nam Cho, "From 'Rubber Stamps' to 'Iron Stamps': The Emergence of Chinese Local People's Congresses as Supervisionary Powerhouse," The China Quarterly, 2002, 724-740

October 29: Legal Reform?
Elizabeth Perry and Merle Goldman, Grassroots Political Reform in Contemporary China, Chapter 9

Nov. 3: Grassroots Elections
Merle Goldman & Roderick MacFarquhar, The Paradox of China's Post-Mao Reforms, Chapter 6
Elizabeth Perry and Merle Goldman, Grassroots Political Reform in Contemporary China, Chapters 2, 6

V. Changing State-society Relations in the Reform Era

Nov. 5: Workers
Merle Goldman & Roderick MacFarquhar, The Paradox of China's Post-Mao Reforms, Chapter 8
Elizabeth Perry and Merle Goldman, *Grassroots Political Reform in Contemporary China*, Chapter 10

**Nov. 10: Peasants**
Thomas Bernstein & Xiaobo Lu, "Taxation without Representation: Peasants, the Central and the Local States in Reform China," The China Quarterly, No. 163 (Sep., 2000), 742-763

**Nov. 12: Intellectuals and Students**

**Nov. 17: Business Class**
Kellee S. Tsai, "Capitalists without A Class: Political Diversity among Private Entrepreneurs in China," *Comparative Political Studies*, vol.38, No.9 (November 2005): 1130-1158

**Nov. 19: Middle Class and Civil Society**
Elizabeth Perry and Merle Goldman, *Grassroots Political Reform in Contemporary China*, Chapters 7, 8, 12
Tony Saich, "Negotiating the State: The Development of Social Organizations in China," The China Quarterly 161 (March 2000), 124-141

**Nov. 24: Internet and the Media**
Elizabeth Perry and Merle Goldman, *Grassroots Political Reform in Contemporary China*, Chapter 13

**Nov. 26: The Rise of Popular Collective Action**
David Zweig, "The 'Externalities of Development': Can New Political Institutions Manage Rural Conflict?" in Perry and Selden, ibid, pp. 120-142. Will be posted on Moodle.
Elizabeth Perry and Merle Goldman, *Grassroots Political Reform in Contemporary China*, Chapter 11

**Dec. 1. Final Review**