CHINESE GOVERNMENT AND POLITICAL INSTITUTIONS

Fall 2010

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Description

The primary objective of this course is to provide a working knowledge for understanding modern politics of China, either domestic or international. With no prerequisites required, this course is open to students interested in studying comparative politics, international relations, and other relevant social science subjects. This course seeks to offer a detailed introduction and review of contemporary Chinese government and other crucial political institutions. With a focus on contemporary Communist government (1949 - ?) and its supporting structures, lectures will also cover Chinese society, social groups, ethnic minorities, macro economy and Chinese foreign policies and strategies.

Requirements

Students are advised to attend class regularly and to devote class time to participate in the study of the subject. Each student’s grades will be determined in the following manner:

- 4 In-class Quizzes: 20%;
- Mid-term Exam: 20%;
- One Book Review, 6-7 pages: 20%;
- Final Exam: 40%.

Students will be notified of the date of the quizzes 1-2 class periods ahead of time. Mid-term exam will be performed in class in the week of October 11-16; Final exam will be on Friday, December 10th, 2010; and students are responsible for bringing brand new bluebooks on the examination days. Students’ book reviews due on Friday, December 3rd, in class.

Student is responsible for choosing just ONE book from the reading list given; and writes a 6 to 7 pages long, double-spaced, PRINTED review about the book. Student can use any lecture materials to enhance one’s argument against the book one has chosen; but outside class reading citations must be approved by the instructor. Late submissions will marked down on the grade.

Recommended Reading

No officially selected textbook will be used in the course; but the instructor recommends a collegiate introduction reading for the class. The book is available for purchase at LSU Bookstore.

Selected Reading List

You need to pick ONE of the following and find the material yourself to work on your book review.

1. Brautigam, Deborah: The Dragon's Gift: The Real Story of China in Africa
2. Bergsten, C. Fred: China's Rise: challenges and opportunities
3. Bray, David: Social Space and Governance in Urban China
4. Clegg, Jenny: China’s Global Strategy
5. Dickson, Bruce: Wealth into Power: The Communist Party’s Embrace of China’s Private Sector
6. Fewsmith, Joseph: China since Tiananmen: the Politics of Transition
7. Goldman, Merle and Roderick MacFarquhar: The Paradox of China’s Post-Mao Reforms
8. Gries, Peter and Stanley Rosen: State and Society in 21st Century China: Crisis, Contention and Legitimation
10. Kang, David C.: China Rising: peace, power, and order in East Asia
13. Pei, Minxin: China's trapped transition: the limits of developmental autocracy
15. Shirk, Susan L.: China: fragile superpower
17. Studwell, Joe: The China Dream: the Quest for the Last Great Untapped Market on Earth
18. Sun, Yan: Corruption and Market in Contemporary China
19. Thornton, Patricia M.: Disciplining the state: virtue, violence, and state-making in modern China
20. Yang, Dali L.: Remaking the Chinese Leviathan: market transition and the politics of governance in China
21. Yang, Guobin: The Power of the Internet in China: Citizen Activism Online
22. Zheng, Yongnian: Globalization and State Transformation in China

Topics and Schedules

August 23: Introduction

Part One: Orders, Traditions and Revolutions

August 25 and 27: Bureaucracy and Imperial legacies; “The 3000-Year-Crisis”

August 30, September 1, 3: Marxism in China, and the rise of Communist Party
September 8, 10: Post War, Failure of the Nationalists, and the Rise of Mao
September 13, 15, 17: Mao and the Establishment of the Party-State Socialism

Film: *A Century of Revolution* (PBS Documentary)

**Part Two: Mao and Mao’s China: in Transformations**

September 20, 22, 24: Consolidation of the New Regime, Land Reform, and Planned Economy
September 27, 29, October 1: The Party Rule, Mao and “Enemies”, Intellectuals and Movements
October 4, 6, 8: Cultural Revolution; Rethinking the State and Society; Rural and Urban
October 11, 13, 15: Post-Mao Leadership Battle, the Rise of Deng, and Call of Reform

*Mid-term exam is scheduled on October 15th in class, which covers Introduction, Part One and Two.*

**Part Three: Deng’s Era: Reform and Revolution In-between?**

October 18, 20: Great Reform: Land, Peasants, and State-run Enterprises
October 25, 27, 29: Great Reform: Party, Leadership, Education, Military and Others
November 1, 3, 5: End of 80s, Social Movements, Open to the World, and the Changing Society
November 8, 10, 12: Post-Deng’s China, End of Planned Economy, and “To Participate”

Film and Discussion: TBD

**Part Four: China in 21st Century**

November 15, 17, 19: Deepening Market; Party and “New” Classes; Domestic Challenges; State-control over Media and Internet

Wed, November 22: China in 21st World; Foreign Strategies and Partnerships; Rising Superpower?

**Conclusion: Were the Future Predictable?**

Mon, November 29, December 1, 3: Film, Conclusion and Final Review

Film and Discussion: TBD

Book Review Due in class on December 3

**Final Exam: Friday, December 10, 5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.**