

## CHINESE POLITICS

Political Science 3352, Spring 2010  
M 6:30–9:20pm, Dedman Life Science Building 131  
Web page: <http://courses.smu.edu>

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Office hours:  
W 2:30–4:30pm  
and by appointment

### Course Description and Objectives

This course offers a general introduction to the politics of contemporary China. Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- (1) understand Chinese political history since the fall of the Qing Dynasty;
- (2) analyze some of the major challenges confronting the People's Republic of China (PRC) today; and
- (3) to critically evaluate the positive and negative aspects of China's socialist experiment by using a working knowledge of Chinese politics.

Throughout the course, efforts will be made to integrate historical materials with the study of specific political issues and analytical concepts. We begin in Part I by reviewing historical background on the imperial, Republican, and Maoist eras, covering the rise of the Communist Party, the 1949 revolution, socialist transformation, the Great Leap Forward, and the Cultural Revolution. Part II then examines China's post-Mao economic reforms in various aspects, including agriculture, industry, and foreign economic relations. Part III discusses the buildup of internal political and socio-economic tensions throughout the post-Mao reform that promises to bedevil the Chinese leadership well into the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

For those lacking sufficient previous knowledge of Chinese history, I would highly recommend Jonathan Spence, *The Search for Modern China* (New York: W. W. Norton, 1990), or William T. Rowe, "Approaches to Modern Chinese Social History," in Oliver Zunz, ed., *Reliving the Past: The Worlds of Social History* (Chapel Hill, NC: University of North Carolina Press, 1985), pp. 236-96. Spence is particularly strong on intellectual history and foreign relations, and writes gracefully. Rowe provides a fine summary of the state of the field on the large questions in Chinese history: e.g., when feudalism ended; why capitalism did not develop; oriental despotism or local autonomy; administrative units or macro regions. **No prior knowledge of Chinese politics or history will be assumed.**

### Course Requirements

1. Attendance and participation (1/8 of a student's course grade): Attendance at lecture and participation in discussion are mandatory. The readings vary in length and difficulty but

average about 150 pages per week. You are expected to attend all the lectures and do the required readings. Come to class **prepared and ready to participate** in discussing the material assigned in the readings. Most importantly, *students are required to turn in a one-page memo by emailing it to the instructor by Sunday at 5pm before class*. An unexcused absence will adversely affect your course grade, as will being present but unprepared to participate, or participating without being prepared.

*After two unexcused absences, I drop you from the course.* An excused absence is almost exclusively restricted to religious reasons, certain university activities, documented medical conditions, or documented family emergencies. Absences for religious reasons or for university extracurricular activities require communication with me at the **beginning** of the semester. It is **your** responsibility to make arrangements with me **prior** to any missed scheduled examination or other missed assignment for making up the work.

Ultimately your attendance and participation grade turns on **my** impression of how seriously you take this course. It is **your** responsibility to take this course seriously and let me know that. How? Attend class; be prepared for class—read the assignments for understanding, be ready to ask and answer questions, take an informed role in discussions, and especially write a good memo; **arrive early** to class; remain for the entire class; *be attentive in class without distracting me or your classmates with cell phones, text messages, side conversations, bathroom trips, coming-and-going, and so forth*; take exams when scheduled and complete assignments when due; and demonstrate your understanding on the exams and other assignments. Laptops, cell phones, and PDAs may not be used in class—**not even for note-taking**.

2. In-class midterm (1/8): The in-class midterm will take place on February 15 (Monday), 6:30–7:20pm. It will consist of short answer questions in which you will be asked to identify terms or events and explain their significance. *It will be open book and open notes.*
3. Take-home midterm (1/8): The take-home midterm will be made available on March 1 (Monday) and due at the beginning of class on March 15 (Monday). The exam is open book and open notes and will require no more than 5 pages (typed, double-spaced, 12-point font) of writing. No extensions will be granted except in the case of a serious illness or a death in the family. **Please plan to finish the assignment prior to the due date, and leave adequate time to work out any computer or printer problems that may arise.**
4. Research paper (1/4): Each student will be required to write an 8–10 page research paper (typed, double-spaced, and 12-point font) on a controversial issue in Chinese politics. Topics and readings for the paper should be developed in close consultation with the course instructor. *Each paper must be re-written, taking into account criticism of your first draft.* Each student is *required to meet the following due dates*:

Paper topic / question	Feb. 1
Progress report	Mar. 1
First draft	Apr. 5
Final draft	May 3

Each research paper will be evaluated based on the final draft. However, *the paper will not be graded and given an F if you have not turned in the first draft or some of the previous assignments.* Moreover, if you turn in the first draft late, your research paper grade will be marked down with 20%. *A paper written without close consultation with the instructor will receive a lower grade.* **Late papers will not be accepted.** More detailed information on this assignment will be posted on the course web site.

5. Take-home final (1/4): The take-home final will be made available on May 3 (Monday) and **due at the beginning of in-class final at 7:30pm on May 10 (Monday)**. It will cover material from the entire semester. The exam is open book and open notes and will require no more than 10 pages (typed, double-spaced, 12-point font) of writing. **Late assignments will not be accepted.** Incompletes will be granted only in circumstances beyond your control: e.g., illness or family emergencies.
6. In-class final (1/8): The in-class final is scheduled for May 10 (Monday), 7:30–8:30pm, and will take place in our usual classroom. It will cover material introduced after the in-class midterm. The exam will consist of short answer questions. *It will be open book and open notes.* Because of the size of the class, it will not be possible to offer alternative exam times. Please note the date and make your course and vacation plans accordingly.

*Each of you must meet with me for 10 minutes in the first weeks of the semester.* Sign up for an appointment time during the first day in class. Be punctual.

### **Disability Accommodations**

If you need academic accommodations for a disability, it is **your** responsibility to first contact Ms. Rebecca Marin, Coordinator of Services for Students with Disabilities (214-768-4557), to verify the disability and establish eligibility for accommodations. Then, you should schedule an appointment with me to make appropriate arrangements.

### **Religious Observance**

If you wish to be absent on religiously observed holidays that require missing class, you should notify me in **writing** at the **beginning** of the semester, and should discuss with me, in advance, acceptable ways of making up any work missed because of the absence.

### **Excused Absences for University Extracurricular Activities**

If you participate in an officially sanctioned, scheduled university extracurricular activity, you will be given the opportunity to make up class assignments or other graded assignments missed as a result of your participation. It is **your** responsibility to make arrangements with me **prior** to any missed scheduled examination or other missed assignment for making up the work.

### **Books and Readings**

The following books are available for purchase at the bookstore. Readings marked with an asterisk (\*) are available electronically on the course webpage at the Blackboard

(<http://courses.smu.edu>). There may be changes in the readings and assignments below. This course requires use of the Blackboard.

Lucien Bianco, *Origins of the Chinese Revolution, 1915-49* (Stanford, CA: Stanford University Press, 1971).

Anita Chan, Richard Madsen, and Jonathan Unger, *Chen Village: Under Mao and Deng*, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition (Berkeley, CA: University of California Press, 1992).

Leglie T. Chang, *Factory Girls: From Village to City in a Changing China* (New York: Spiegel & Grau, 2008).

Liang Heng and Judith Shapiro, *Son of the Revolution* (New York: Vintage Books, 1983).

Kenneth Lieberthal, *Governing China: From Revolution through Reform*, second edition (New York: W. W. Norton, 2004).

Barry Naughton, *The Chinese Economy: Transitions and Growth* (Cambridge, MA: MIT Press).

## **Schedule and Reading Assignments**

Readings provide background on topics covered in class lectures and discussions, so read the assignment **before** the class for which they are assigned. Since the course will make frequent reference to current events, you should make a habit of *reading a respectable newspaper on a regular basis* and pay attention to the events in China.

### **1. Introduction (Jan. 25)**

Naughton, introduction, chapter 1 (pp. 1–32)

\* Elizabeth J. Perry, “Studying Chinese Politics: Farewell to Revolution?” *China Journal* 57 (January 2007), pp. 1–22.

\* Jessica C. Teets, Stanley Rosen, and Peter Hays Gries, “Introduction: Political Change, Contestation, and Pluralization in China today” (pp. 1–21)

### **Film, *China: A Century of Revolution 1: China in Revolution* (first half)**

## **I. Politics and Economy in Pre-Reform Era**

### **2. The Revolutionary Heritage (Feb. 1)**

Bianco, chapters 1–2 & 5–6 (pp. 1–52 & 108–166)

Naughton, chapter 2 (pp. 33–54)

\* Susanne Rudolph, “State Formation in Asia,” *Journal of Asian Studies* 46(4) (November 1987), pp. 731–746.

**Film, *China: A Century of Revolution 1: China in Revolution* (second half)**

**PAPER TOPIC AND QUESTION DUE ON FEB. 1**

**3. Socialist Transformation and Great Leap Forward (Feb. 8)**

Chan, chapter 1 (pp. 13–40)

Liang and Shapiro, chapters 1–3 (pp. 3–39)

Lieberthal, chapters 3–4 (pp. 59–122)

Naughton, chapter 3 (pp. 55–84)

**4. IN-CLASS MIDTERM (Feb. 15)**

**Watching *Morning Sun* after the in-class midterm**

**5. Cultural Revolution (Feb. 22)**

Chan, chapters 2–4 (pp. 41–140)

Liang and Shapiro, chapters 4–14 (pp. 40–175)

**6. Mao’s Legacy and Origins of the Post-Mao Reform (Mar. 1)**

Chan, chapters 6 & 9 (pp. 169–185 & 236–266)

Liang and Shapiro, chapters 15–22 (pp. 176–267)

**PROGRESS REPORT FOR RESEARCH PAPER DUE ON MAR. 1**

## II. Post-Mao Economic Reform

### 7. Understanding the Trajectory of Reform (Mar. 15)

Lieberthal, chapter 5 (pp. 123–167)

Naughton, chapters 4–5 (pp. 85–136)

**TAKE-HOME MIDTERM – Distributed on Mar. 1 and due at the start of class on Mar. 15**

### 8. Rural Reform and Agricultural Development (Mar. 22)

Chan, chapters 10–12 (pp. 267–333)

Naughton, chapters 10–12 (pp. 231–294)

\* Teresa Wright, “Farmers”

### 9. Urban Reform and Industrial Development (Mar. 29)

Naughton, chapters 13–14 (pp. 297–348)

\* Patricia M. Thornton, “Censorship and Surveillance in Chinese Cyberspace: Beyond the Great Firewall” (pp. 179–198).

\* Teresa Wright, “Rank-and-File State Sector Workers” and “Rank-and-File Private Sector Workers”

### 10. Film, *China Blue* (Apr. 5)

Chang, *Factory Girls* (entire)

**RESEARCH PAPER FIRST DRAFT DUE ON APR. 5**

### 11. China and the World (Apr. 12)

Naughton, chapters 16–17 (pp. 377–424)

\* Yasheng Huang, *Selling China: Foreign Direct Investment during the Reform Era* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2003): pp. 1–64.

\* Susan L. Shirk, *China: Fragile Superpower* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2007): pp. 105–139.

\* Elizabeth C. Economy and Adam Segal, “The G-2 Mirage: Why the United States and China Are Not Ready to Upgrade Ties,” *Foreign Affairs* 88(3) (May/June 2009), pp. 14–23.

### **III. Post-Mao Limited Political Reform**

#### **12. Government Structure, Chinese Communist Party, and Elite Politics (Apr. 19)**

Lieberthal, chapters 6–7 (pp. 171–242)

\* David Shambaugh, *China’s Communist Party: Atrophy and Adaptation* (Washington, D.C.: Woodrow Wilson Center Press, 2008): pp. 1–10 & 41–86.

\* Bruce J. Dickson, “Dilemmas of Party Adaptation: The CCP’s Strategies for Survival” (pp. 22–40).

\* Andrew Scobell, “China’s Evolving Civil-Military Relations: Creeping Guojiahua,” *Armed Forces and Society* 31(2) (2005), pp. 227–244.

#### **13. Principled Protest and Popular Participation: 1989 and After (Apr. 26)**

\* Richard Baum, *Burying Mao: Chinese Politics in the Age of Deng Xiaoping* (Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 1994): pp. 247–310.

\* Minxin Pei, *China’s Trapped Transition: The Limits of Developmental Autocracy* (Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press): pp. 45–95.

\* Lianjiang Li and Kevin J. O’Brien, “Protest Leadership in Rural China” (pp. 85–108)

#### **14. Challenges Ahead (May 3)**

Lieberthal, chapters 8–11 (pp. 245–336)

Naughton, chapters 9 & 20 (pp. 209–228 & 487–504)

\* Dorothy J. Solinger, “A Question of Confidence: State Legitimacy and the New Urban Poor” (pp. 243–257)

**RESEARCH PAPER FINAL DRAFT DUE MAY 3**

**TAKE-HOME FINAL – Distributed on May 3 and due at the start of the in-class final on May 10**

**IN-CLASS FINAL – MAY 10 (TUESDAY), 7:30–8:30PM**