Politics in Contemporary China

GOV 322M (38665)
ANS 322M (31805)

Fall 2017
Time: Monday/Wednesday 1:00-2:30PM
Location: SZB 370

Instructor: Dr. Xiaobo Lü
Office: Department of Government, BAT 3.152
Office Hours: Tuesday/Thursday 1:00-2:30PM, or by appointment
E-mail: xiaobolu@austin.utexas.edu
Course Homepage: http://canvas.utexas.edu/

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:

1. Four (randomly scheduled) quizzes 15%
2. First in-class midterm exam (Oct. 2): 25%
3. Second in-class midterm exam (Oct. 30): 25%
4. Third Midterm exam (Dec. 11): 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:

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](http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/sjs/scholdis_plagiarism.php).

Class Guidelines

1. All quizzes will be administered promptly at the beginning of the class. The quizzes may or may not be announced in advance. Make-up quizzes cannot be accommodated. At the end of the semester, your lowest quiz grade will be dropped from your final quiz score for the semester.
2. All lectures and discussions, readings, and films will be subject to examination.

Grading:

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**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 30): Introduction


- Film Screening (when time permits): *China: A Century of Revolution: Part Two: The Mao Years*

Week 2 (Sep 6): The Shadow of Mao

No class on Sep. 4 (Labor Day)


- Film Screening (when time permits): *China: A Century of Revolution: Part Two: The Mao Years*

Recommended:


Week 3 (September 11 & 13): Formal Chinese Government Structure


- Lawrence, Susan V. 2013. China’s Political Institutions and Leaders in Charts, *Congressional Research Service*. (pp. 12-19 Only)
Week 4 (September 18 & 20): 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)

Recommended:

Week 5 (September 25 & 27): Bureaucracy, Legislature, and Policy Making


Recommended:

Week 6 (October 2 & 4): Political Elites and Elite Politics

Midterm Exam # 1 will be administrated on Oct. 2.


Economy, Elizabeth. 2014. “China’s Imperial President” *Foreign Affairs*

**Recommended:**


**Week 7 (October 9 & 11): Local Politics**


**Documentary: The Chinese Mayor**
http://www.zhaqifilms.com/the-chinese-mayor.html

**Week 8 (October 16 & 18): Elections and Representation**


Week 9 (October 23 & 25): Participation of the Masses


**Recommended:**


Week 10 (October 30 & November 1): The Political Origins of Economic Development in China

**Midterm Exam # 2 will be administrated on Oct. 30.**


- Naughton, Barry. 2010. “China’s distinctive system: can it be a model for others?” *Journal of Contemporary China*, pp.437-460.


**Recommended:**


**Recommended:**


Week 12 (November 13 & 15): Governance


**Recommended:**

Week 13 (November 20): Future Political Development in China I

- Wedeman, Andrew Hall. 2012. *Double paradox: rapid growth and rising corruption in China*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press. (Chapter 1 and Chapter 4)


Week 14 (November 27 & 29): Future Political Development in China II


Week 15 (December 4 & 6): Future Political Development in China III & Course Review


- Film Screening(when time permits): **Please Vote For Me**
Week 16 (December 11): Midterm #3