Instructor

Shaohua Lei


Course Description

This course will explore the contemporary political system of China, with a special focus on its policy making process with an emphasis on China’s political structure and state and society relations. This course aims to provide students with a background on major political events in modern China, and then to investigate the current political issues in China today - environmental civil society activity, problems and benefits associated with continuing economic liberalization, and discourse from within the CCP on political reform.
Assessment

1. Midterm Paper (50%)

2. Final Exam (50%)

The format will be 2-hour in-class closed-book exam with essay style questions. Students need to choose 3 of 5 questions to answer. The exam will be based on materials included in readings and lectures.

Recommended Movies and Videos

1. PBS: China From the Inside
2. KBS: SuperChina Discover Channel: The People’s Republic of Capitalism
3. Carma Hinton: Tiananmen
5. Zhang Yimou: To Live
6. Jiang Wen: In the Heat of the Sun
7. Feng Xiaogang: I Am Not Madame Bovary

Course Schedule

Part I Overview

1. Methodology for Researching Chinese Politics, Legacies and Diversity


2. From Revolution to Development


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3. Political Drivers of Economic Change

Sebastian Heilmann: *China’s Political System*, Chapter 4
Barry Naughton, *The Chinese Economy*, Chapter 4, pp. 85-111

Tony Saich, Governance and Politics of China, NY: Palgrave Macmillan, 2011, chapter 4


Part II Political System and State-Society Relations

4. The Chinese Communist Party
Sebastian Heilmann: *China’s Political System*, Chapter 2 (pp. 46-92)

Tony Saich, *Governance and Politics of China*, chapter 5

5. Local Autonomy under Central Authority and Decision Making

Sebastian Heilmann: *China’s Political System*, Chapter 2 (pp.85-104) Tony Saich, *Governance and Politics of China*, pp. chapter 7


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6. States and Society

Tony Saich, *Governance and Politics of China*, chapter 9
Zhao Dingxin, *The Power of Tiananmen*, University of Chicago Press, pp. 39-52


**Part III Chinese Politics and Public Policy**

7. Contemporary Critical Social Issues in China, Cyberspace and Censorship


8. Nationalism


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Jiang Ying, “Anger as a Display of Nationalism”, from *Cyber-Nationalism in China*, University of Adelaide Press, 2012


**9. Ethnicity, Identity and Domestic Conflicts/Terrorism**

Neil Collins and Andrew Cottee, *Understanding Chinese Politics*, Manchester University Press, pp.124-140

Sebastian Heilmann: *China’s Political System*, Chapter 5 (pp.281-288)


**Recommend:**


**10. China Faces the Future**


Sebastian Heilmann: *China’s Political System*, Chapter 7

Elizabeth Perry, “Growing Pains: Challenge for a Rising China”, Daedalus, 143(2), 2014, pp.5-13

Barry Naughton, “China’s Economy: Complacency, Crisis& the Challenge of Reform”, pp. 14-25 a
Selected Readings for the Research of Chinese Politics


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