

Barnard College/Columbia University

Professor Xiaobo Lü
Class Time: Tue and Thu 10:10 -11:25am
Office: 406 Lehman
Office Hours: Wed 2-4pm
Email: x129@columbia.edu

Teaching Assistant:
Luise Papcke (Imp2159@columbia.edu)

Introduction to Contemporary Chinese Politics (V3620, Spring 2015)

This undergraduate course is designed to introduce to students who have limited knowledge of China some basic aspects of political institutions and processes as well as major events in Chinese political life under the communists since 1949, focusing on the post-Mao reform period since 1978. It examines economic and political development in China--their causes, patterns, consequences, and implications--in a broader context of transition from authoritarianism and state socialism. In this class, we will apply some concepts and theories in comparative politics in analyzing Chinese politics. By taking this class, students are expected to gain substantial knowledge about contemporary Chinese politics and acquire some basic ability to apply such knowledge to relate to and analyze current affairs concerning China.

Lectures and reading are arranged with both topical coverage and chronological sequence. Grades will be based on attendance and class (including discussion sessions) participation (20%), an in-class midterm and a take-home short essay (3-5pages, 30%); and an in-class final and take-home essay (5-7pages, 50%). There will be weekly discussion sessions conducted by teaching assistant, time and place to be announced.

Although students are recommended to have taken introduction to comparative politics (e.g. V3541) courses, there are no prerequisites for this class. Some knowledge of Chinese history or culture is helpful, but not essential.

The articles that are required readings will be available online. Please use coursework@columbia.edu to check updated readings and requirements. Students are expected to purchase the following **required texts** from Columbia Bookstore:

William Joseph, *Politics in China*, Oxford University Press, 2014.
Tony Saich, *Governance and Politics of China* (3rd edition), Macmillan, 2011.

In addition to the two textbooks, the followings books highly recommended for purchase since we will read some parts of them:

Kenneth Lieberthal, *Governing China* (2nd ed.), Norton, 2003.
Richard McGregor, *The Party: the Secret World of Chinese Communist Rulers*, Harper, 2010.
Xiaobo Lu, *Cadres and Corruption*, Stanford, 2000.

Two recent books are recommended:

Evan Osnos, *Age of Ambition: Chasing Fortune, Truth and Faith in the New China*, 2014.
Jeffrey Wesserstrom, *China in the 21st Century: What Everyone Needs to Know*, Oxford University Press, 2010.

(Readings marked with an asterisk are required. Other readings are recommended. The following documentary films are also recommended: 1. *China in Revolution* (2 hours) 2. *The Mao Years* (2 hours); 3. *The Gate of Heavenly Peace* (2.5 hours); 4. *In Search of China* (1.5 hours); 5. *China: the Wild East* (1 hour).

Useful websites:

Web Resources on China: <http://www.uni.edu/becker/chinese2.html>
Maps of China: <http://www.chinapage.com/map.html>
Bibliography on Chinese politics: <http://www.princeton.edu/~lynn/chinabib.pdf>

Part 1: The Origins of the Revolution

1 (1/120). Introduction: Why Chinese politics?

*Joseph, chapter 1.

The Economist, “Xi who must be obeyed”, Sept 20, 2014.
<http://www.economist.com/news/leaders/21618780-most-powerful-and-popular-leader-china-has-had-decades-must-use-these-assets-wisely-xi>

2 (1/22). Chinese Political System in Pre-Revolutionary Societies

*Joseph, chapter 2.

*Lieberthal, pp.1-26 (online @coursework)

3 (1/27). Nationalism, the Communists, and Revolution

*Lieberthal, pp26-56. (online @coursework)

Further reading:

John K. Fairbank, *The United States and China* (latest ed.).

Jonathan Spence, *The Search for Modern China*.

Mary Wright, *China in Revolution*.

Joseph Levenson, *Confucian China and Its Modern Fate*.

4 (1/29). **Communist Victory and the New Regime**

*Joseph, chapter 3

*Lieberthal, pp.60-82. (online @coursework)

Students to watch the documentary *China in Revolution* outside class.

Part 2: Maoism and Continuous Revolution

5 (2/3). **The Soviet vs. Maoist Models of Development**

*Lieberthal, chapter 4, pp.83-121.

*Saich, chapter 2.

6 (2/5). **The Attempted Leap and Its Failure**

*Xiaobo Lu, *Cadres and Corruption*, chapter 3, pp.73-113. (online @coursework)

*Carl Riskin, *China's Political Economy* chapters. 3-6, pp38-147. (online @coursework)

Further readings:

Lowell Dittmer, *Continuous Revolution*, pp.1-76.

David Bachman, *Bureaucracy, Economy, and Leadership in China: the Institutional Origins of the Great Leap Forward*.

Rodrick MacFarquhar, *The Origins of Cultural Revolution*,v.2.

7 (2/10). **Politics in Command**

*Lu, chapter 4, pp114-53.

*Saich, chapter 3.

Further readings:

Rodrick MacFarquhar, *The Origins of the Cultural Revolution*, v.3.

Lowell Dittmer, *Continuous Revolution*, chpt 2-3.

8 (2/12). **The Cultural Revolution**

*TBA (will be available online)

Further readings:

Jung Chang, *Wild Swans: Three Daughters of China*

Stanley Rosen, *Red Guard Factionalism and the Cultural revolution in Guangzhou*.

Lynn White, *Politics of Chaos*.

Yue Daiyun, *To the Storm: Revolutionary Odyssey of a Chinese Woman*.

Students to watch documentary, *The Mao Years* or movie, *To Live*

Part 3: From Revolution to Reform

9 (2/17). **Origins of the Reform**

- *Joseph, chapter 4.
- *Saich, chapter 4.

Lieberthal, *Governing China*, chpt 5, pp.122-153.
 Lowell Dittmer, *Continuous Revolution*, pp 210-269
 Harry Harding, *China's Second Revolution*.
 Victor Nee & D. Mozingo, *State and Society in Contemporary China*.
 E. Perry & C. Wong, *The Political Economy of Reform in Post-Mao China*.
 K. Lieberthal & D. Lampton eds., *Bureaucracy, Politics, and Decision Making in Post-Mao China*.

10 (2/19). The Party, Ideology and Change

- *Saich, chapter 5.
- *Joseph, chapter 5.
- *McGregor, chapter 1.
- The Economist*, “Xi Jinping and the Chinese Dream”, May 4, 2013

Kevin O'Brien, *Reform Without Liberalization*.
 Brant Womack, ed., *Contemporary Chinese Politics in Historical Perspective*.
 James Ethridges, *China's Unfinished Revolution*.

11 (2/24). Leadership and Cadres

- *Joseph, chapter 4.
- *McGregor, chapter 3.
- *Lu, chapter 5.

12 (2/26). Government, Bureaucracy, and Regulation

- *Joseph, chapter 6
- *McGregor, chapters 2 and 7.

13 (3/3) Legal System and Rule of Law

- *Joseph, chapter 7

14 (3/5). Informal Politics and Corruption

- *Lu, chapter 6.
- *McGregor, chapter 5.
- *Tak-Wing Ngo, “Rent-seeking and Economic Governance in the Structural Nexus of Corruption in China”, *Crime, Law, and Social Change*, v49, 2008, 27-44.
- *Yan Sun, “Cadre Recruitment and Corruption: what goes wrong?” *Crime, Law, and Social Change*, v49, 2008, 61-69.

15(3/6). Political Economy of the Reform

- *Saich, chapter 9.
- *Joseph, chapter 8.

16 (3/10). **Decentralization, Federalism, and Economic Development**

*Saich, chapter 6.

*Montinola, Qian, and Weingast article (<http://elsa.berkeley.edu/~yqian/93-4.pdf>)

*McGregor, chapter 6.

(3/12) *Midterm exam (in class)*

Spring Recess: March 16-21.

17 (3/24). **Public Policy in Contemporary China**

*Joseph, chapter 11, 12, 13.

18 (3/26). **State and Society in Contemporary China**

*Saich, chapter 9

*Lieberthal, *Governing China*, chapter 11.

19 (3/31). **Urban China: Changing Social and Political Scene**

* Joseph, chapters 10.

* Saich, chapter 11

20 (4/2). **Rural China: Reforms and Contention**

*Joseph, chapter 9.

*Saich, chapter 10.

21 (4/7). **Political Participation, Civil Society, and Dissent**

**Saich, chapter 8.

Midterm essay is due in class today.

22 (4/9). **Authoritarian Resilience and Democratization**

* TBA

23 (4/14). **New Technology and Political Change**

* Guobin Yang, "Online Activism." *Journal of Democracy*. Symposium on "China Since Tiananmen" 2009, v.20(3), pp.33-36

*Rebecca MacKinnon, "Flatter World and Thicker Walls? Blogs, censorship, and civil discourse in China", *Public Choice*, 2008, 31-46.

*B. Einhorn, "Mad as Hell in China's Blogosphere". *Business Week*, no. 3997 (August 14 2006) p. 39.

24 (4/16). **"Fragmented Authoritarianism": Emerging Interests and Actors**

* McGregor, chapter 4.

25 (4/21). **Nationalism: Old and New**

*Joseph, chapters 16, 17.

* William Callahan, "National Insecurity: Humiliation, Salvation, and Chinese Nationalism", *Alternatives*, v.29, 2004, 199-218.

* Minsheng Li, "Chinese Cyber Nationalism in the year of Olympics", *Communication, Creativity, and Global Citizenship*, July 2009.

* Suisheng Zhao, "China's Pragmatic Nationalism" Is it Manageable?" *the Washington quarterly*, 2006.

26 (4/23). **Ethnic Relations and Politics of Periphery**

*Joseph, chapters 14, 15

*Lieberthal, chapter 12, pp. 321-328

27 (4/28) **China's Role in the World**

*Saich, chapter 11.

*Lieberthal, chapter 12, pp.330-342.

28 (4/30). **China and the United States and Review: What have we learned about Chinese politics?**

*TBA

Final essay questions/topics will be posted on class site on May 1.

Final in-class exam will be on May 12, and the essay is due at the same time.