

Political Science 332 Chinese Politics

Dr. Shelley Rigger
Preyer 201-B
704-894-2505

Fall Semester 2008
Tues/Thurs 10:00-11:15, Chambers 2198
Office hours: Tues/Thurs 4:00-5:25
Wed. 9:00-10:30

Introduction

The goal of this course is to introduce contemporary politics in the People's Republic of China. Understanding politics in the PRC today requires a good knowledge of Chinese history, so the first part of the course will be devoted to Mao's revolution. We will begin with the conditions underlying the revolution, then look at the period from 1949 through Mao's death in 1976. The rest of the course will consider Chinese politics under Mao's successors: Deng Xiaoping, Jiang Zemin and Hu Jintao.

Even if the People's Republic of China did not have the largest population of any country on earth (a distinction it will soon lose to India), it still would be worth studying. When Europeans were living in caves before the Roman invasion and dying in wars and plagues during the Dark Ages, China was a flourishing commercial state with a stable government, highly-developed literary tradition and refined, self-confident culture. Many Chinese take heart from the belief that any problems they face today are but wrinkles in the rich fabric of their nation's history.

Much to the frustration of Westerners seeking to promote everything from instant coffee to liberal democracy, the Chinese by and large are unconvinced that the West has much to teach them, aside from scientific and technical skills. China has absorbed less of our culture, less of our religion, less of our philosophy, less of our economics than almost any other country, despite the unrelenting efforts of Western traders, politicians, thinkers and missionaries to "crack the China market." China's strong sense of nationalism — national strength, national unity and national autonomy — is a central theme of this course.

In short, when we study China we study a country that cannot be understood through the logic and assumptions we use to make sense of other nations. Learning about China is an adventure; it requires us to open our minds to a way of seeing the world that is new to us, although very old.

Readings

The core text for the course is *Governing China* by Kenneth Lieberthal. Barry Naughton's *The Chinese Economy: Transitions and Growth* offers an overview and analysis of China's evolving economic conditions and policies. Susan Shirk's *China: Fragile Superpower* discusses the domestic challenges facing the Chinese government and how they affect China's foreign relations. The syllabus also includes readings available on electronic reserve (ER), in full-text versions (linked to the syllabus; if the article doesn't open, click on "Search for Article at Davidson College Library"). These readings are **mandatory**, as are the films. (This means there will be questions about them on the exams, and you will be expected to discuss them in class.)

Requirements

1. Above all, you must read. The course will incorporate discussion and lecture. While I expect you to participate, I recognize that some students are more gregarious than others. If you are not a big talker, take heart: quality is more important than quantity, and asking a good question is just as valuable as making a good comment. Ask questions.
2. There will be a mid-term examination.
3. You will write one short (3-4 page) essay. You may write about a topic assigned for any of the classes *after* Fall Break (October 13). You will hand in your paper on the day on which we will discuss your topic. (E.g., if you want to write about religion in China you will hand in your essay on October 29.)
4. For your final assignment, you may choose *either* a three-hour final exam *or* a research paper (15-20 pages) on a topic of your choice, with my approval.

Participation:	5%	A = 95
Mid-term:	30%	A- = 91
Essay:	25%	B+ = 88
Final paper/exam:	40%	B = 85, etc.

Anything you hand in is pledged work, but to remind you of the honor code's importance, please write the honor code on the cover sheet of any work you hand in ("On my honor I pledge that I have neither given nor received help on this work, nor am I aware of any violation on the part of others.") Make sure you understand the definition of plagiarism. If you have any questions, doubts or concerns, please come and talk to me.

Lateness policy: Work that is handed in *after class* on the day an assignment is due will be penalized 1/3 of a grade for each day it is late. It is *always* to your advantage to hand in a paper, even late. Computer failure is *not* an acceptable excuse for lateness. *Back up your work.* If you are having printer trouble, email the paper as an attachment. **Do not assume you have secured my permission for something unless you have spoken to me in person or received an e-mail or voice mail message from me.**

Extensions: Please do not ask for extensions because you have "too much work;" everyone does, and it's unfair to give extensions to those who ask, while those who don't ask end up with less time to do a good job. Also, no extensions will be granted for extracurricular commitments. Look at your athletic, musical, union and theatrical schedules in advance, and plan your work accordingly.

Honor Code: While I encourage you to talk about China and Chinese politics with your classmates and anyone else you can find who is interested in the topic, when the time comes to complete written work, it must be yours alone. Ideas and phrases that originated with others need to be quoted or paraphrased, and cited. Bear in mind that one sign of conscientious research is an abundance of quotations and citations. If you ever have a question about citation, plagiarism or anything else, please speak to me. I am happy to help you learn the proper techniques and procedures of scholarly research. You may use the spell and grammar checking features of your word processor. You may ask friends to read your papers for clarity, but they should not correct your mistakes for you.

Course Schedule

(each reading assignment is due the day it appears on the schedule)

Week 1

8/25: Introduction

8/27: From Dynasty to Republic to People's Republic, 1840-1949

- Lieberthal, pp. 27-56
- Naughton, pp. 16-53

Week 2

9/1: Maoist Ideology and Institutions

- Lieberthal, pp. 59-83

9/3: Maoism in Action

- Lieberthal, pp. 84-109
- Naughton, pp. 55-72, 231-240

Week 3

9/7: Evening Showing of "Morning Sun"

9/8: The Cultural Revolution

- Lieberthal, pp. 109-122
- Naughton, pp. 73-83

Hand in due date for short essay

9/10: Politics and Economics in the Deng Xiaoping Era

- Lieberthal, pp. 123-148 & 245-272
- Naughton, pp. 85-100

Week 4

9/15: Challenging the System: The 1989 Tiananmen Crisis

- "The Truth about the Beijing Turmoil" Beijing Publishing House 1990.
- Geremie Barme, "Beijing Days, Beijing Nights," *The Pro-Democracy Protests in China: Reports from the Provinces*, edited by Jonathan Unger (Armonk, NY: M.E. Sharpe, Inc., 1991).

9/17: "The Tank Man" (Frontline Documentary) (chapters 1, 2, 3 & 6)

- Shirk, chapter 1

Week 5

9/22: China's Economy in the Reform Era

- Shirk, chapter 2
- Naughton, pp. 100-110

9/24: Economic Reform in Rural Areas

- Naughton, pp. 240-248, 272-282, 285-293

Week 6

9/29: Economic Reform in Urban Areas

- Naughton, pp., 297-304, 316-326
- Bruce J. Dickson, "Integrating Wealth and Power in China: The Communist Party's Embrace of the Private Sector," *China Quarterly*, 2007: 827-854.

10/1: Work, Labor and Migration

- Naughton, pp. 179-206
- Anita Chan, "A 'Race to the Bottom': Globalisation and China's Labour Standards" *China Perspectives* 46 (Mar/Apr 2003).

60th Anniversary of the Founding of the People's Republic of China

Week 7

10/6: MIDTERM REVIEW

10/8: Social Consequences of Reform

- Richard Madsen, "One Country, Three Systems" (ER)
- Naughton, pp. 113-135, 209-227

Week 8

10/13: FALL BREAK

10/15: Governing China in the Reform Era

- Lieberthal, pp. 171-205
- Laura Paler, "China's Legislation Law and the Making of a More Orderly and Representative Legislative System," *China Quarterly* 182 (Jun 2005):301-318.
- Kevin O'Brien, "Local People's Congresses and Governing China," *China Journal* 61 (Jan 2009): 131-141.

Week 9

10/20: Governing China in the Reform Era

- Lieberthal, pp. 206-242, 289-314
- Donald C. Clarke, "Introduction: The Chinese Legal System since 1995," *China Quarterly* 191 (Sep 2007):555-566.

10/22: Reforming the Communist Party

- David Shambaugh, *China's Communist Party: Atrophy and Adaptation* (Woodrow Wilson Center 2008), pp. 103-160 (ER)
- Shirk, chapter 3

Week 10

10/27: A New Generation of Chinese Leaders

- Cheng Li, “China’s Fifth Generation: Is Diversity a Source of Strength or Weakness?” *Emerging Leaders in East Asia: The Next Generation of Political Leadership in China, Japan, South Korea and Taiwan*. National Bureau of Asian Research, September 2008, pp. 15-53.

10/29: Religion Above and Below Ground

- Richard Madsen, “Chinese Christianity: indigenization and conflict” *Chinese Society 2nd Ed.*, Perry & Selden, Eds. (ER)
- Beatrice Leung, “China’s Religious Freedom Policy: The Art of Managing Religious Activity,” *China Quarterly* (Dec 2005): 894-913. (ER)
- Adam Yuet Chao, “The Politics of Legitimation and the Revival of Popular Religion in Shaanbei, North-Central China,” *Modern China* 31:2 (Apr 2005):236-278.

10/29: Dean Rusk Program Talk: “Understanding the Nuclear and Human Security Issues Surrounding North Korea,” 7 PM

Week 11

11/3: Women and Youth in Reform China

- Wang Zheng, “Gender, Employment and Women’s Resistance” *Chinese Society 2nd Ed.*, Perry & Selden, Eds. (ER)
- Limin Bai, “Graduate Unemployment: Dilemmas and Challenges in China’s Move to Mass Higher Education,” *China Quarterly* (2006): 128-144.

11/5: Trouble Ahead? Demographic Issues

- Tyrene White, “Domination, Resistance and Accommodation in China’s One-Child Campaign,” *Chinese Society 2nd Ed.*, Perry & Selden, Eds. (ER)
- Valerie Hudson and Andrea den Boer, “Missing Women and Bare Branches: Gender Balance and Conflict,” Woodrow Wilson Center Commentary (2005)
- Ian Bremmer, “China’s Underpopulation Crisis” *Slate* (March 7, 2006)
- Naughton pp. 161-177

Week 12

11/10: Trouble Ahead? Environmental Issues

- Elizabeth Economy, “The Great Leap Backward,” *Foreign Affairs* (September-October 2007).
- Yanqi Tong, “Bureaucracy Meets the Environment: Elite Perceptions in Six Chinese Cities,” *China Quarterly* (2007): 100-121
- Naughton pp. 487-503

11/12: Rights, Law and the Legal System

- Andrew C. Mertha, "From 'Rustless Screws' to 'Nail Houses': The Evolution of Property Rights in China," *Orbis* 53:2 (Spr 2009):233-249.
- Robert Weatherly, "Defending the Nation: The Role of Nationalism in Chinese Thinking on Human Rights," *Democratization* 15:2 (Apr 2008):342-362.

Week 13

11/17: Chinese Nationalism

- Shirk, chapters 4, 5, 6 and 7
- William A. Callahan, "Trauma and Community: The Visual Politics of Chinese Nationalism and Sino-Japanese Relations," *Theory and Event* 10:4 (2007).

11/19: China in the Global Economy

- Naughton pp. 377-423, 333-343

Week 14

11/24: China's Foreign Relations

- Zheng Bijian, "China's 'Peaceful Rise' to Great Power Status," *Foreign Affairs* (September 2005).
- Aaron L. Friedberg, "The Future of US-China Relations: Is Conflict Inevitable?" *International Security* (Fall 2005) pp. 7-45.

11/26: THANKSGIVING

Week 15

12/1: Sino-US Relations

- Robert B. Zoellick, Deputy Secretary of State, "Whither China: From Membership to Responsibility?" Remarks to the National Committee on US-China Relations, September 21, 2005, with commentary, *NBR Analysis* (December 2005)
- Jia Qingguo, "Learning to Live with the Hegemon: evolution of China's policy toward the US since the end of the Cold War," *Journal of Contemporary China* (August 2005) pp. 395-407.
- Shirk, chapter 8

12/3: Changes and Challenges

- Lieberthal, pp. 315-336
- Shirk, chapter 9

December 8 is an optional class day. I will give you at least two weeks' notice if it becomes necessary to meet on December 8.