Course Description

China is now the second largest economy in the world and a growing global power; at the same time, it faces considerable governance challenges. This upper-division course provides an in-depth analysis of the political history, institutions, and governance issues facing China. It highlights several major themes from the twentieth century to the present: the role of nationalism, the changing place of markets and private property, and the shifting penetration of the state from the center to the grassroots. The first part of the course on political history provides a necessary foundation for subsequent topics. It addresses the collapse of imperial China in social and ideological terms, the formation of political parties, revolutionary change, state-building, the planned economy, and the re-introduction of markets. The second part of the course focuses on the political institutions that govern China today, including the organization of the party-state, how the state controls its own agents, how it uses elections, and how it attempts to control civil society and the media. The final part of the course uses the foundations of political history and political institutions to analyze crucial issues facing China today, including labor and environmental conditions, inequality and social welfare, minority rights, contemporary nationalism, and relations with Taiwan.

Course Requirements

The first requirement of the course is attendance in class and participation in study groups and in-class activities. Successful participation is based on completion of all readings and class assignments, including an in-class debate to be held on Thursday, November 15th. The responsibilities and organization of study groups will be introduced in class.

Second, students will take an in-class midterm exam (20%) on Tuesday, October 23rd and a two-hour, take-home final exam (30%). The final exam will be distributed electronically at our official exam time of 2:30pm on Friday, December 14th and will be due two hours later via Dropbox.

Third, a term paper—not to exceed 10 double-spaced pages—is required (25%). A list of term paper topics will be handed out in class on Monday, October 30th. A preliminary bibliography is due in class on Thursday, November 8th. The term paper itself is due at the beginning of class on Thursday, December 6th (the last day of class). Late papers will be marked down 0.1 point per day. Graduate students enrolled in the course are required to produce longer research papers on topics determined in consultation with the professor. Graduate student papers should not to exceed 15 pages in length.

Course Materials

Journal articles available in the UW Library Electronic collection are marked “full text online.” Additional reading are available through E-Reserves.

Office Hours
Mondays 1:00-3:00pm in 45 Gowen Hall.

Course Website  http://faculty.washington.edu/swhiting/pols442
Schedule of Classes

Part I: Political and Institutional History
WEEK ONE
Tuesday, September 25, 2012
1. Introduction and Current Research
Marc Blecher, *China Against the Tides: Restructuring through Revolution, Radicalism, and Reform* (London: Pinter, 1997), Chp. 1, pp. 9-42. E-Reserves.

Thursday, September 27, 2012
2. Ideology and Ideological Change


WEEK TWO
Tuesday, October 2, 2012


Thursday, October 4, 2012
4. State-led Development: The Planned Economy and the Great Leap Forward


WEEK THREE
Tuesday, October 9, 2012
5. State-led Development (Continued): Elite and Mass Political Conflict in the Cultural Revolution


Thursday, October 11, 2012
6. Political Economy of Development: Agriculture and the Reform Impulse


For further reading:

WEEK FOUR
Tuesday, October 16, 2012
7. The Political Economy of Development: Growing Out of the Plan
Yasheng Huang, “Rethinking the Beijing Consensus,” Asia Policy, No. 11 (January 2011), pp. 1-26. Full text online.

Thursday, October 18, 2012
8. Institutions: Party-State Apparatus

PART II: Institutions
WEEK FIVE
Tuesday, October 23, 2012
9. MIDTERM EXAM (through Part I)

Thursday, October 25, 2012
10. Institutions: State Capacity and Central-Local Fiscal Relations

WEEK SIX
Tuesday, October 30, 2012
11. TERM PAPER TOPICS DISTRIBUTED
Institutions: Central Elites

Thursday, November 1, 2012
12. Institutions: Local Elections
WEEK SEVEN
Tuesday, November 6, 2012
13. Institutions: Governing Civil Society
For further reading:

Thursday, November 8, 2012
14. PRELIMINARY BIBLIOGRAPHY FOR TERM PAPER DUE
Institutions: Media
For further reading:

PART III: Governance Issues
WEEK EIGHT
Tuesday, November 13, 2012
15. Labor Conditions
Eli Friedman and Ching Kwan Lee, British Journal of Industrial Relations Vol. 48, No. 3 (September 2010), pp. 507-533. Full text online.

Thursday, November 15, 2012
16. IN-CLASS DEBATE
Environmental Conditions

WEEK NINE
Tuesday, November 20, 2012
17. Inequality and Social Welfare
Thursday, November 22, 2012
THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY

WEEK TEN
Tuesday, November 27, 2012
18. Religious and Ethnic Minorities


For further reading:

Thursday, November 29, 2012
19. Nationalism and International Relations


WEEK ELEVEN
Tuesday, December 4, 2012
20. Taiwan’s Development


For further reading:


Thursday, December 6, 2012
21. TERM PAPER DUE
Conclusion and Final Exam Review

Friday, December 14, 2012, 2:30-4:20pm
FINAL EXAM
Additional Readings in Primary Sources (E-Reserves, unless otherwise noted)
“Sixteen Point Decision,” Eleventh Plenum of the Central Committee of the CCP, August 1966.
“Decision of the Central Committee of the CCP on Some Problems in Accelerating Agricultural Development.”
“Constitution of the People’s Republic of China.” Full text online:
State Council Information Office White Paper Environmental Protection in China.
http://www.china.org.cn/english/china-us/26012.htm or
http://www.taiwandonuments.org/communique01.htm
“Taiwan Relations Act of 1979 (first two sections).” Full text online:
http://www.usconsulate.org.hk/ustw/geninfo/tra1979.htm or
http://www.taiwandonuments.org/tra01.htm

Chinese Law & Government (journal of translations published by M.E. Sharpe)