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 19th. The organization and responsibilities of study groups will be introduced in class.

Second, students will take an in-class midterm exam (20%) on Tuesday, October 22nd and a take-home final exam (30%). The final exam will be administered electronically during exam week and will allow a maximum of two hours for completion.

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 Thursday, October 31st. (Happy Halloween!) A preliminary bibliography is due before the start of class on Tuesday, November 12th. The term paper itself is due by electronic submission on Friday, December 6th. Late papers will be marked down 0.1 point per day. Graduate students enrolled in the course are required to produce 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 readings are available through E-Reserves.

Office Hours
Tuesday/Thursday 9:30-10:30am in 45 Gowen Hall.

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

Part I: Political and Institutional History

WEEK ONE
Thursday, September 26, 2013
1. Introduction
Marc Blecher, *China Against the Tides: Restructuring through Revolution, Radicalism, and Reform* (London: Pinter, 1997), Chp. 1, pp. 9-42. E-Reserves.

WEEK TWO
Tuesday, October 1, 2013
2. Ideology and Ideological Change

Thursday, October 3, 2013

WEEK THREE
Tuesday, October 8, 2013
4. State-led Development: The Planned Economy and the Great Leap Forward

Thursday, October 10, 2013
5. State-led Development (Continued); Elite and Mass Political Conflict in the Cultural Revolution

WEEK FOUR
Tuesday, October 15, 2013
6. Political Economy of Reform: Agriculture and the Reform Impulse
For further reading:

**Thursday, October 17, 2013**
7. **The Political Economy of Reform: Growing Out of the Plan**

**WEEK FIVE**
**Tuesday, October 22, 2013**
8. **MIDTERM EXAM**

**PART II: Institutions**

**Thursday, October 24, 2013**
9. **Institutions: Party-State Apparatus**

**WEEK SIX**
**Tuesday, October 29, 2013**
10. **Institutions: State Capacity and Central-Local Fiscal Relations**

**Thursday, November 7, 2013**
11. **TERM PAPER TOPICS DISTRIBUTED**
12. **Institutions: Governing Civil Society**

**WEEK SEVEN**
**Tuesday, November 5, 2013**
12. **Institutions: Local Elections**

**Thursday, November 7, 2013**
13. **Institutions: Governing Civil Society**

For further reading:
WEEK EIGHT
Tuesday, November 12, 2013
14. PRELIMINARY BIBLIOGRAPHY FOR TERM PAPER DUE
Institutions: Media
For further reading:

PART III: Governance Issues
Thursday, November 14, 2013
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.

WEEK NINE
Tuesday, November 19, 2013
16. IN-CLASS DEBATE
Environmental Conditions

Thursday, November 21, 2013
17. Inequality and Social Welfare

WEEK TEN
Tuesday, November 26, 2013
18. Religious and Ethnic Minorities
For further reading:
THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY

WEEK TEN
Tuesday, December 3, 2013
19. Nationalism and International Relations

Thursday, December 5, 2013
20. Taiwan’s Development
For further reading:

Friday, December 6, 2013, 4:30pm
TERM PAPER DUE

Friday, December 13, 2013, 4:30pm
TAKE-HOME FINAL EXAM DUE

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.”
http://www.taiwandocuments.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.taiwandocuments.org/tra01.htm

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