Course Description
This graduate-level course surveys the latest developments in the field of Chinese politics. The syllabus reflects two themes and three trends in the field. Two overarching themes are evident in the study of Chinese politics today: explaining economic growth and authoritarian resilience. In light of China’s unorthodox economic institutions, political scientists seek explanations for China’s three-and-a-half decades of sustained economic growth with reference to political features of the regime. As in comparative politics more broadly, the resilience of authoritarian regimes in the twenty-first century poses another puzzle, particularly in light of late-twentieth-century expectations of the “end of history.” Issues in Chinese politics as diverse as elections, media, civil society, welfare provision, and labor politics are framed today in terms of authoritarian resilience. This emphasis on the durability of the CCP regime replaces an earlier theme of potential for democratization, raising questions about how we know what we know in general comparative theory and Chinese politics.

Three underlying trends are evident in the field: first, the study of Chinese politics is increasingly engaged with general comparative theory. Second, and relatedly, the field is characterized by improved access to data and methodological diversification. Third, the boundaries among disciplines are increasingly blurred, uniting the work of economists and sociologists, among scholars of other disciplines, with that of political scientists.

The course examines these themes and trends through sets of weekly readings on the following topics: leadership selection and incentives within the one-party state, elections, economic development, welfare and public goods, contentious politics, rights consciousness and constitutionalism, labor politics, media politics, and civil society. For each topic, we will trace the development of debates in the fields of comparative and Chinese politics and critically examine the relationship between theory and method in the Chinese case. In a ten-week quarter, some topics are, of necessity, left out. There could easily be sessions, for example, on revolutionary change; nationalism and regime legitimation; ethnic conflict; industrial policy and technological innovation; global supply chain dynamics, etc. The final paper assignment provides students the opportunity to build on syllabus topics or to explore these other issues.

Course Requirements

Short responses (40%)
You will write eight short responses to the readings, not to exceed one page in length. Each response should critically and constructively explore a theme, debate, method, etc. in one or more readings for that class session. Short responses are to be posted to Catalyst (https://catalyst.uw.edu/gopost/board/swthing/36412/) by the beginning of class. No late responses will be accepted, since the idea is to quickly get your thoughts down and to use them as a starting point for class discussion.

Participation (20%)
You are expected to read the assigned material before class and to contribute to discussion regularly and thoughtfully. In addition, you will give one or more short presentations (approximately 5-10 minutes) based on the readings for that day, and you will co-facilitate class discussion. Your presentation should appreciate and critique the readings, raise questions, and draw connections to other readings and themes of the course. The purpose of your presentation is to launch discussion, and you will help direct the conversation that follows.
Final paper (40%)
You will write a longer, analytical paper of approximately 10-15 pages in length. The longer paper may take the form of a theoretically informed research paper, an extensive critical review of the literature, or a research design that treats the literature as a springboard. The final paper is due on Friday, June 6 to Dropbox: (https://catalyst.uw.edu/collectit/dropbox/switing/31248). Unexcused late papers will be marked down 0.1 point per day.

Office Hours
Office hours are Fridays 10am-12noon in 45 Gowen Hall.

Additional Course Information
If you would like to request academic accommodations due to a disability, please contact Disability Resources for Students, 011 Mary Gates Hall (http://depts.washington.edu/uwdrs). If you have a letter from Disability Resources for Students indicating you have a disability that requires academic accommodations, please present the letter to me so that we can discuss the accommodations you may need for class.

Course Materials
The following books are available for purchase at the University Book Store:
Allen Carlson et al., eds., Contemporary Chinese Politics
Pierre Landry, Decentralized Authoritarianism in China
Susan H. Whiting, Power and Wealth in Rural China
Lily L. Tsai, Accountability without Democracy
Xi Chen, Social Protest and Contentious Authoritarianism
Daniela Stockmann, Media Commercialization and Authoritarian Rule in China
Timothy Hildebrandt, Social Organizations and the Authoritarian State in China
Journal articles are available full-text online through the UW Library E-Journal collection.

Course Schedule *Required readings
WEEK ONE
Tuesday, April 1, 2014
Introduction
(*Readings to be done in advance of first class; No short responses)
For reference:
Elizabeth J. Perry, “The Cultural Foundations of Chinese Communism,” http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q6fRrhxBt_A
WEEK TWO
Tuesday, April 8, 2014
Leadership selection and incentives in the party-state
For reference:
Susan H. Whiting, Power and Wealth in Rural China (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2001), Chp 3.
Yasheng Huang, Investment and Inflations Controls (New York: Cambridge University Press,), Part I: The Economic and Political Roles of Local Government Officials.”
Susan L. Shirk, The Political Logic of Economic Reform in China (Berkeley: University of California Press, )
“Leadership Incentives”

WEEK THREE
Tuesday, April 15, 2014
Elections
For reference:

**WEEK FOUR**
**Tuesday, April 22, 2014**

**Economic Development**

**WEEK FIVE**
**Tuesday, April 29, 2014**

**Public Goods and Welfare Provision**
*Lily L. Tsai, “Quantitative Research and Issues of Political Sensitivity in Rural China,” in Carlson et al., eds., *Contemporary Chinese Politics: New Sources, Methods, and Field Strategies* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2010)

For reference:

**WEEK SIX**
**Tuesday, May 6, 2014**

**Contentious politics**


For reference:  


**WEEK SEVEN**
**Tuesday, May 13, 2014**

**Rights Consciousness and Constitutionalism**


For reference:  


Philip C. C. Huang, “Introduction to Constitutionalism,” *Modern China* Vol. 36, No. 1 (January 2010), pp. 3-11

*Columbia Journal of Asian Law* Spring-Fall2005 issue on Chinese constitutionalism

WEEK EIGHT  
Friday, May 23, 2014  
CUP Seattle Seminar  
Labor Politics  
For reference:  
Eli Friedman and Ching Kwan Lee, British Journal of Industrial Relations Vol. 48, No. 3 (September 2010).  

WEEK NINE  
Tuesday, May 27, 2014  
Media Politics/ Political Communication  
For reference:  

WEEK TEN  
Tuesday, June 3, 2014  
Civil Society  
For reference:
Sabine Lang, *NGOs, Civil Society, and the Public Sphere* (New York: Cambridge University Press 2012).