

Course Title: Chinese Political Reforms

Course Description:

This course is designed to introduce students to key aspects of Chinese politics, with a focus on the post-Mao reforms since 1978. The goal of the course is to help students to gain different perspectives on current Chinese government structure, most importantly, the dynamics of the ongoing process of economic and political reforms. Discussion topics include Chinese political history (1949 to present), Chinese government structure and institutions, nationalisms in China, economic reforms and their political implications, civil society, mass media and other emerging issues in current Chinese society.

Required Readings:

1. Kenneth Lieberthal, *Governing China: From Revolution Through Reform*, W.W. Norton, 2004.
2. Susan L. Shirk, *China: Fragile Superpower: How China's Internal Politics Could Derail Its Peaceful Rise*, Oxford University Press, 2007.
3. Jie Chen and Bruce J. Dickson, *Allies of the State: China's Private Entrepreneurs and Democratic Change*, Harvard University Press, 2010.
4. David M. Lampton, *Following the Leader: Ruling China, from Deng Xiaoping to Xi Jinping*, University of California Press, 2014.
5. Guobin Yang, *The Power of the Internet in China: Citizen Activism Online*, Columbia University Press, 2009.
6. David Shambaugh, *China's Communist Party: Atrophy and Adaptation*, University of California Press, 2008.
7. Tamara Jacka, Andrew B. Kipnis and Sally Sargeson, *Contemporary China: Society and Social Change*, Cambridge University Press, 2013.
8. Joseph Fewsmith, *The Logic and Limits of Political Reform in China*, Cambridge University Press, 2013.

Requirements:

Students are required to do the assigned readings in the syllabus before each class and actively participate in class discussions. Students are expected to talk to the instructor around the middle of the semester about a possible topic for the research paper. Class attendance on time is required. Absence from class must ask for prior permission from the instructor and, in case of emergence, must report to the instructor immediately afterwards. Class absence beyond three with no excusable reasons may result in significantly reduced grade and absence beyond four times may result in failure of your total course grade. Similarly, lateness for class beyond one may result in reduction in your class participation grade.

Course Grading:

Presentation 30%

Class participation (including attendance) 20%

Research paper 30%

(10-15 pages, double spaced and including bibliography)

Exam 20%

Class Schedule: Topics and Readings

Introduction	
Topic 1:	Political History 1: The Mao Era Lieberthal, Chapter 3, 4
Topic 2	Political History 2: The Deng Era Lieberthal, Chapter 5; Lampton, Chapter 1
Topic 3	Political System 1: Organization Lieberthal, Chapter 6, 7
Topic 4	Political System 2: Adaptation Shambaugh, Chapter 6, 7, 8
Topic 5	Political System 3: Leadership and Policy Making Lampton, Chapter 2, 3, 5
Topic 6	The Political Effect of Privatization Chen and Dickson, Chapter 2, 4, 5
Topic 7	Local Governance Reforms Fewsmith, Chapter 1, 2, 5
Topic 8	Social Changes Jacka, Chapter 3, 4, 5
Topic 9	The Politics of Mass Media Yang, Chapter 2, 6, 7
Topic 10	Rising Nationalism Shirk, Chapter 4, 7, 8

VI. Periodicals and websites:

The China Quarterly

Asian Survey

Journal of Contemporary China

The China Journal

China: An International Journal

www.chinadaily.com.cn

www.xinhuanet.com (sponsored by the Xinhua News Agency)

www.china.com.cn (sponsored by the State Council Information Office)

www.gov.cn (official web portal of the Central People's Government of PRC)