

**POLI 130B: Politics of China**  
University of California, San Diego  
Winter 2010  
4:00-4:50 pm Monday-Wednesday-Friday  
Center Hall #101

Instructor: Derek Tai-wei Liu  
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Office Hours: Wednesday 2:00-3:50

**Course Description**

This course is designed to help students meet two objectives: 1) To understand the institutional background in China today. How do political institutions operate? How are leaders chosen? How are policies made and implemented? 2) To assess the development of China's political system. How has the communist political system evolved? What are the challenges when the society is under massive change as a result of economic reform and globalization? How is political stability maintained?

The course will be conducted in lecture/discussion format. Students are required to have read carefully the assigned readings before coming to class and may be asked to make brief presentations. They are also encouraged to ask questions in class and offer comments.

**Course Requirements**

All students are required to complete assigned readings before coming to class and to participate in discussion. Students are required to take one mid-term exam as well as a final paper. The grades for this course will be based on 1) participation (20%); 2) a midterm paper (20%); 3) mid-term exam (30%), and 4) a final paper (30%).

The midterm paper will be less than 5 pages (double-spaced) based on one to two essay questions. The midterm exam will be a combination of short answers and essay questions. The final paper will be about 8 pages (double-spaced) based on two to three essay questions.

**Required Reading Assignments** all are available through [electronic reserves](#) at the UCSD library.

## INSTITUTIONAL CONTEXT

### *Week 1*

#### **Monday, Jan 4: Introduction**

- Syllabus; Q and A

#### **Wednesday, Jan 6: Chinese Political System**

- Susan L. Shirk, The Political Logic of Economic Reform in China (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1993), Ch2 (available at <http://www.escholarship.org/editions/view?docId=ft1j49n6ck&brand=ucpress>)

#### **Friday, Jan 8: The Mao System**

- Kenneth Lieberthal, Governing China, Chapter 3, pp. 60-84

### *Week 2*

#### **Monday, Jan 11: Politics of the Reform**

- Susan L. Shirk, The Political Logic of Economic Reform in China (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1993), Ch1, pp 1-22 (<http://www.escholarship.org/editions/view?docId=ft1j49n6ck&brand=ucpress>)

#### **Wednesday, Jan 13: Authority in Chinese Political Institution**

- Susan L. Shirk, The Political Logic of Economic Reform in China (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1993), Ch 3, pp 55-69 (<http://www.escholarship.org/editions/view?docId=ft1j49n6ck&brand=ucpress>)

#### **Friday, Jan 15: Leadership in China**

- Lieberthal, Governing China, Chapter 7, pp. 206-244

### *Week 3*

#### **Monday, Jan 18: MLK holiday**

- No class

#### **Wednesday, Jan 20: Leadership Politics**

- Lyman Miller, "The Road to the 17<sup>th</sup> Party Congress," China Leadership Monitor, No. 18, Spring 2006 ([http://media.hoover.org/documents/clm18\\_lm.pdf](http://media.hoover.org/documents/clm18_lm.pdf)).

#### **Friday, Jan 22: Leadership Incentives**

- Susan L. Shirk, The Political Logic of Economic Reform in China (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1993), Ch 4, pp 70-91 (<http://www.escholarship.org/editions/view?docId=ft1j49n6ck&brand=ucpress>)

### *Week 4*

#### **Monday, Jan 25: Fiscal Decentralization**

- Montinola, Gabriella, Qian Yingyi, and Weingast, Barry R., "Federalism, Chinese Style, The Political Basis for Economic Success in China," World Politics, Vol. 48 (October 1995), pp 50-81.

#### **Wednesday, Jan 27: Political Centralization**

- Yang, Dali L. 2006. "Economic Transformation and Its Political Discontents in China: Authoritarianism, Unequal Growth, and the Dilemmas of Political Development." *Annual Review of Political Science*, 9:143-64

- Barry Naughton and Dali Yang, “Introduction” in their edited book, Holding China Together (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2004), pp 1-28 (available at <http://site.ebrary.com/lib/ucsd/docDetail.action?docID=10131677>)

**Friday, Jan 29: First Paper due**

- No class

*Week 5*

**Monday, Feb 1: Central-Local Hierarchy**

- Huang Yasheng, “Political Institutions and Fiscal Reforms in China,” Problems of Post-Communism, January/February 2001, pp 16-26.

**Wednesday, Feb 3: Central-Local Reciprocal Accountability**

- Shirk, The Political Logic of Economic Reform in China, Ch 9, pp 147-196. (<http://www.escholarship.org/editions/view?docId=ft1j49n6ck&brand=ucpress>)

**Friday, Feb 5: Factionalism**

- Andrew J. Nathan, “A Factionalism Model for CCP Politics,” in his China’s Crisis, Dilemmas of Reform and Prospects for Democracy (New York: Columbia University Press, 1990), pp 23-37.

POLICY

*Week 6*

**Monday, Feb 8: Political Connection**

- Cheng Li, “Reshuffling Four Tiers of Local Leaders: Goals and Implications,” China Leadership Monitor, No. 18, Spring 2006 ([http://media.hoover.org/documents/clm18\\_cl.pdf](http://media.hoover.org/documents/clm18_cl.pdf)).

**Wednesday, Feb 10: Economic Policy**

- Victor Shih, “Dealing with Non-Performing Loans: Political Constraints and Financial Policies in China,” The China Quarterly, 2004, pp 922-944.

**Friday, Feb 12: Policy Process**

- Lampton, David M., “A Plum for a Peach: Bargaining, Interest, and Bureaucratic Politics in China,” in Lieberthal and Lampton, eds. Bureaucracy Politics, and Decision Making in Post-Mao China, pp 33-58

*Week 7*

**Monday, Feb 15: President’s Day**

- No class

**Wednesday, Feb 17: Policy Evaluation**

- Susan H. Whiting, “The Cadre Evaluation System at the Grass Roots: The Paradox of Party Rule,” in Naughton and Yang, eds, Holding China Together, pp 101-119 (<http://site.ebrary.com/lib/ucsd/docDetail.action?docID=10131677>)

**Friday, Feb 19: Policy Implementation**

- O’Brien, Kevin and Li Lianjiang, “Selective Policy Implementation in Rural China,” Comparative Politics, Vol. 31, No. 2 (January 1999)

STATE AND SOCIETY

*Week 8*

### **Monday, Feb 22: Civil Society**

- Mary E. Gallagher, "The Limits of Civil Society in a Late Leninist State," in Muthiah Alagappa, ed., Civil Society and Political Change in Asia (Stanford: Stanford University Press, 2004), pp 419-452

### **Wednesday, Feb 24: Accountability by Civil Society**

- Tsai, Lily L. 2007. "Solidary Groups, Informal Accountability, and Local Public Goods Provision in Rural China." *American Political Science Review*, 101(2): 355-72

### **Friday, Feb 26: Midterm**

- **Midterm**

### **Week 9**

#### **Monday, Mar 1: Collective Action in the Urban Area**

- Murray Scot Tanner, "China Rethinks Unrest," The Washington Quarterly, Vol. 27, No. 3 (Summer 2004), pp 137-156
- Cai Yongshun, "The Resistance of Chinese Laid-Off Workers in the Reform Period," The China Quarterly, June 2002, pp 327-344.

#### **Wednesday, Mar 3: Collective Action in the Rural Area**

- Kevin J. O'Brien, "Collective Action in the Chinese Countryside," The China Journal, No. 48 (July 2002), pp 139-154
- Ronald Keith and Zhiqiu Lin, "The 'Falun Gong Problem': Politics and the Struggle for the Rule of Law in China," *China Quarterly*, no. 175 (September 2003): 623-642.

#### **Friday, Mar 5: Private Business and the CCP**

- David L. Wank, "The Transformation of Political Order," in his Commodifying Communism: Business, Trust, and Politics in a Chinese City (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1999), pp 176-203.

### **Week 10**

#### **Monday, Mar 8: Private Business and the CCP (cont'd)**

- Bruce J. Dickson, Red Capitalists in China: The Party, Private Entrepreneurs, and Prospects for Political Change (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2003, pp 56-115.

#### **Wednesday, Mar 10: China's Future**

- Pei Minxin, China's Trapped Transition: The Limits of Developmental Autocracy (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 2006), Introduction and Chapter 1(pp 1-44).
- Andrew W. Walder, "The Party Elite and China's Trajectory of China," China: An International Journal, Vol. 2, No. 2 (September 2004), pp 189-209.

#### **Friday, Mar 12: China's Future cont'd**

- Suisheng Zhao, "Political Liberalization Without Democratization: Pan Wei's Proposal for Political Reform," in Suisheng Zhao (ed), *Debating Political Reform in China, Rule of Law vs. Democratization* (Armonk, N.Y.: M.E. Sharpe, 2006), pp 41-57 (<http://site.ebrary.com/lib/ucsd/docDetail.action?docID=10178098>)
- Mary E. Gallagher, "Reform and Openness, Why China's Economic Reforms Have Delayed Democracy," World Politics, No. 54 (April 2002), pp 338-72..