POLI 130B: Politics of China (Spring 2014)
University of California, San Diego
1:00-1:50 pm Monday-Wednesday-Friday
Location: PETER 102

**Instructor:** Dimitar Gueorguiev
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Office Hours: Wednesday 2:00-3:50

**Teaching Assistant:** Jack (Jiakun) Zhang
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Office Hours: Friday 2:00-3:50

**Course Description:**
This course provides a comprehensive introduction to politics in the People’s Republic of China. The class will focus predominantly on domestic politics and institutions but will also touch on important foreign policy issues facing China’s current leadership. As a course in comparative politics, reading material and theoretical foundations introduced in this class will prepare students to think about China not only as a single political microcosm but as an important example among a broader set of modern authoritarian, and specifically one-party, political systems. As such, this course should appeal to a broad audience, including those with personal or professional experience in China as well as those with no background in Chinese studies but with a curiosity and concern for the country and its future.

Overarching topics addressed in this course include: (1) core political institutions of government and leadership (2) governance challenges and reform (3) tensions between state and society (4) future prospects.

**Course Requirements:**
This course will be conducted in lecture/discussion format. Students are required to have read carefully the assigned readings before coming to class. Multiple choice reading quizzes will be administered at the start of class each Friday and will cover all readings assigned during that week. Participation during class is required and all students should come prepared to answer questions and offer comments. In addition to the short reading quizzes, students are also required to complete one in-class midterm exam as well as a final paper. The mid-term will comprise term identification, short answer, and a brief essay response. The final paper will be no longer than 5 typed pages and must be submitted to Turnitin.com in order to deter plagiarism. Further instructions on format and requirements will be provided after midterms.

**Grading:**
Course grading will be divided into four components:
- Participation (reading quiz 10% and participation 5%) = 15%
- Midterm (in-class)= 35%
- Final Paper = 50%

**Course Materials:**
There is no textbook assigned for this course. Instead readings will come from books and journal articles. All reading materials will be provided through the USCD Blackboard terminal (also known as TED). In joining this course you are prohibited from using course materials for any purpose other than outlined in this syllabus.
- Also, please see the: “China in Focus” Blog <http://chinafocus.us/>
**Week 1: Introduction to the PRC** (March 31 – April 04)

**Monday**

**Wednesday**

**Friday**
- Map Quiz

**Week 2: Reform and Resilience** (April 07 – April 11)

**Monday**

**Wednesday**
- Pei. 2006. *China’s Trapped Transition: The Limits of Developmental Autocracy* Introduction and Chapter 1, pp. 1-44

**Friday**

**Week 3: The Chinese Communist Party** (April 14 – April 18)

**Monday**

**Wednesday**

**Friday**

**Week 4: Center-Local Relations** (April 21 – April 25)

**Monday**

**Wednesday**

**Friday**

**Week 5: Institutions** (April 28 – May 02)

**Monday**

**Wednesday**

**Friday**
Week 6: Governance and Policymaking (May 05 – May 09)

Monday
- Midterm (in class) May 5th 2014

Wednesday

Friday
  ➢ …or, Fewsmith. 2013. “The Elusive Search for Effective Sub-County Governance.” Chapter 9 in Mao’s Invisible Hand

Week 7: State and Society (May 12 – May 16)

Monday

Wednesday

Friday
- Overseas Chinese (Guest Lecture).

Week 8: Media and Public Opinion (May 19 – May 23)

Monday

Wednesday

Friday

Week 9: Looking Forward (May 26 – May 30)

Monday: Holiday

Wednesday
- “Decision on Major Issues Concerning Comprehensively Deepening Reforms in Brief”, China Daily, Nov. 16, 2013,

Friday

Week 10: China’s Foreign Policy (June 2 – June 6)

Monday

Wednesday

Friday