



FUDA POCC350 Contemporary Chinese Politics

The Alliance for Global Education Contemporary Society and Language Program, Fall 2009

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Course Overview

This course is an introduction to the contemporary Chinese politics, with an emphasis on the post-Mao reform era. It covers basic topics concerning political history, political ideology, political institutions and political behaviours in People's Republic of China. By the end of the semester, students are expected to gain a better understanding about the nature and dynamics of contemporary Chinese politics. It is essential for students to read the required materials before class and attend all class sessions.

Course Assessment

1. Participation (10%)

- On your evident grasp of the readings as indicated by your questions in classroom discussion.
- You are expected to attend the class regularly. Showing up late and missing classes will result in deductions from your participation grade.

2. Class Presentation/discussion (20%)

- There will be one 45-minute discussion session for each class meeting. Each session will be led by one student, who should summarize the readings orally, do a PowerPoint presentation on the lectured topic. It is also essential to create a list of discussion questions for the day's class.

3. Hypertext Comment (20%)

- You are expected to keep up with current events in China. A hypertext comments (3-4 double space pages) is based on a piece of editorial related to political affairs from major China media (such as *South China Morning Post*, *China Daily* and *Xinhua News*) and make critical dialogue with your chosen editorial. Your hypertext comment is to be written as an op-ed piece.

4. Final Paper (50%)

- A substantial final paper (8-10 double spaced pages) should be independently produced by each student. The paper should be related to one of the lecture topics and be presented to **the course essay seminar on the last day of class**. The papers should respond to all of the points asked in the proposed outline, and should incorporate relevant literatures, and should be written in a clear manner.

- Abstract and paper outline is due on Wednesday, November 25. The seminar is on Wednesday, December 16 and the final paper is due on the Sunday, December 20.

The Final Paper should respond to all the points asked in the proposed outline, incorporate relevant literatures, and must be written in a clear manner.

5. Grading Scale

A+	97-100%	
A	93-96%	
A-	90-92%	Excellent Performance
B+	87-89%	
B	83-86%	
B-	80-82%	Good Performance
C+	77-79%	
C	73-76%	
C-	70-72%	Acceptable Performance
D+	67-69%	
D	63-66%	
D-	60-62%	Unsatisfactory Performance
F	Below 60%	Failure of the course

Course Schedule and Readings (* for required readings)

1. Historical Context: From Crisis to Revolution

- * Lieberthal Kenneth (1995), “The Republic Era”. Pp27-53 in *Governing China*. New York: W.W. Norton & Company.
- * Lieberthal Kenneth (1995), “The Maoist Era”. Pp84-112 in *Governing China*. New York: W.W. Norton & Company.
- Cohen Paul (1988). The Post-Mao Reforms in Historical Perspective, *The Journal of Asian Studies* 47 (3): 519-41.

2. Political Institutions: Organizing the Party-state

- *Shirk, Susan (1995). “Authority Relations: The Communist Party and the Government”, Pp55-91 in *The Political Logic of Economic Reform in China*, University of California Press.
- *Oksenberg, M (2002) “China’s Political System: Challenges of the Twenty-first Century”, Pp193-209 in Unger Jonathan, eds. *The Nature of Chinese Politics: From Mao to Jiang*, M.E. Shape.
- Hamrin Carol Lee (1992). “The Party Leadership System,” in Kenneth G. Lieberthal and David M. Lampton, eds., *Bureaucracy, Politics, and Decision Making in Post-Mao China*, 95–124 Berkeley: University of California Press.
- Harding, H (1981). *Organizing China: The Problem of Bureaucracy*, Stanford University Press. Chapter 1.

- Zheng, Shiping (1997). *Party vs. State in Post-1949 China: The Institutional. Dilemma*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

3. **Political Ideology: From Conflict to Harmony**

- *Shambaugh, David (2008) “Rebuilding the Party: The Ideological Dimension” in *China’s Communist Party: Atrophy and Adaptation*, University of California Press, pp. 103-127.
- Schurmann Franz (1968) *Ideology and Organization in Communist China*, 2nd edition, Berkeley: University of California Press (Ideology).
- Nora Sausmikat (2006). More Legitimacy for One-Party Rule? The CCP's Ideological Adjustments and Intra-Party Reforms *ASIEN* 99 (April 2006), Pp. 70-91.

4. **Political Elite: The Dynamics of Informal Politics**

- *Bachman, David (1992) “The Limits on Leadership in China”, *Asian Survey* 32 (11): 1046-1062.
- *Dittmer, Lowell and Wu Yu-san (1995). “Modernization of Factionalism in Chinese Politics” *World Politics* 47(4): 467-94.
- Bo, Zhiyue (2007). “China’s Elite Politics: Political Transition and Power Balancing,” Pp. 1–8, 109–199, 255–295. Singapore: World Scientific Publishing.
- Fewsmith, G Joseph (2002). “The Evolving Shape of Elite Politics,” in Jonathan Unger, ed., *The Nature of Chinese Politics: From Mao to Jiang*, Armonk, N.Y.: M. E. Sharpe, Pp. 258-273.
- Zang, Xiaowei (2005). “Institutionalization and Elite Behaviour in Reform China,” *Issues and Studies*, 41 (1): 204–217.
- Huang, Jing (2000). *Factionalism in Chinese Communist Politics*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

5. **Policy making: Old Games, New Players?**

- *Lieberthal, K and Oksenberg, M (1988) “Structure and Process” (Chapter 1), in *Policy making in China: Leaders, Structures, and Processes*. NJ: Princeton University Press.
- *Wright, Tim (2007). 'State Capacity in Contemporary China: "Closing the Pits and Reducing Coal Production"', *Journal of Contemporary China* 16(51): 173-194.
- Lieberthal, Kenneth G (1992). “Introduction: The ‘Fragmented Authoritarianism’ Model and Its Limitations,” in Kenneth G. Lieberthal and David M. Lampton, eds., *Bureaucracy, Politics, and Decision Making in Post-Mao China*. Berkeley: University of California Press. Pp.1-25.
- Special Issue: “China’s Think Tanks,” *China Quarterly*, No. 171 (2002).
- Special Issue: “Elite, Social Changes and Policymaking in China”, *Policy and Society* No. 24 (2006).

6. **Intergovernmental Relations: The Chinese Federalism?**

- *Mertha, Andrew (2005). “China’s ‘Soft’ Centralization: Shifting *Tiao/Kuai* Authority Relations,” *China Quarterly*, 184: 791–810.

- * Tsui, Kai-yuen and Youqiang Wang (2004) “Between Separate Stoves and A Single Menu: Fiscal Decentralization in China,” *China Quarterly*, No. 177: 71–90.
- Chung, Jae Ho (2001), “Reappraising Central-Local Relations in Deng’s China: Decentralization, Dilemmas of Control, and Diluted Effects of Reform,” Pp. 46-75 in Chien-min Chao and Bruce J. Dickson, eds., *Remaking the Chinese State: Strategies, Society, and Security*, New York: Routledge.
- Sheng, G Yumin (2005), “Central–Provincial Relations at the CCP Central Committees: Institutions, Measurement and Empirical Trends, 1978–2002,” *China Quarterly*, No. 182: 338–355.

7. Individual meeting discuss final course essay

8. Course Field Visit: Urban Community Building in Shanghai

- * Liu, Chunrong (2006) Social Changes and Neighbourhood Policy in Shanghai, *Policy and Society* 24 (1): 133-159.
- Liu Chunrong (2008). “Empowered Autonomy: The Politics of Community Governance Reform in Shanghai.” *Chinese Public Administration Review*, 5 (1/2), March/June.
- Read, Benjamin L. (2003). “Democratizing the Neighborhood? New Private Housing and Homeowner Self-organization in Urban China.” *The China Journal* 49 (January): 31-59.

9. Local democracy in Countryside

- *O’Brien, Kevin J., and Lianjiang Li. (2000). “Accommodating “Democracy” in a One-Party State: Introducing Village Elections in China.” *The China Quarterly* 162: 465-489.
- * Li, Lianjiang (2003) “The Empowering Effect of Village Elections in China,” *Asian Survey*, 43(4): 648–662.
- * Manion, G Melanie (1996). “The Electoral Connection in the Chinese Countryside,” *American Political Science Review*, 90(4): 736–748.
- G John James Kennedy (2002). “The Face of ‘Grassroots Democracy’ in Rural China: Real versus Cosmetic Elections,” *Asian Survey*, 42 (3): 456–482.
- Shi, Tianjian (2000). “Cultural Values and Democracy in the People’s Republic of China.” *The China Quarterly* 162:540-559
- Oi, G Jean C. and Scott Rozelle (2000). “Elections and Power: The Locus of Decision-Making in Chinese Villages,” *China Quarterly*, 162: 513–539.
- Kelliher, Daniel. (1997). “The Chinese Debate over Village Self-Government.” *The China Journal* 37: 63-86.
- Benewick, Robert, Irene Tong, and Jude Howell. (2004). “Self-Governance and Community: A Preliminary Comparison between Villagers’ Committees and Urban Community Councils.” *China Information*, 18 (1):11-28.
- Chen, G Jie and Yang Zhong (2002). “Why Do People Vote in Semicompetitive Elections in China?” *Journal of Politics*, 64 (1): 178–197.
- G Kevin J. O’Brien (1990). *Reform without Liberalization: China’s National People’s Congress and the Politics of Institutional Change* Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

- Paler Laura (2005). "China's Legislation Law and the Making of a More Orderly and Representative Legislative System," *China Quarterly*, no. 182: 301–318.

10. Local Democracy in the urban context

- * Chen, Jie and Yang Zhong (2002). Why Do People Vote in Semicompetitive Elections in China? *The Journal of Politics*, Vol. 64, No. 1. (Feb., 2002), pp. 178-197.
- * Cho, Young Nam (2002). "From Rubber Stamps to Iron Stamps: The Emergence of Chinese Local Peoples Congresses as Supervisory Powerhouse," *The China Quarterly* 171:724-740
- Read, Benjamin L. (2003). "Democratizing the Neighborhood? New Private Housing and Homeowner Self-organization in Urban China." *The China Journal* 49 (January): 31-59.

11. The Emerging Contentious Politics

- *Chen Feng (2006). Privatization and Its Discontents in Chinese Factories, *The China Quarterly*, No. 185, March 2006, 42-60.
- *O'Brien Kevin (2002). Collective Action in the Chinese Countryside, *The China Journal* 48 (July).
- *Lee, Ching Kwan (2007). Is Labour a political force in China? Pp 228-253 in *Grassroots Political Reform in Contemporary China*, Edited by Elizabeth Perry and Merle Goldman, Harvard University Press.
- *Perry, Elizabeth (2008). "Permanent Rebellion? Continuities and Discontinuities in Chinese Protest", Pp205-216 in O' Brien Kevin Edited, *Popular Protest in China*. Harvard University Press.
- Solinger, Dorothy J. (2002). "Labour Market Reform and the Plight of the Laid-off Proletariat." *The China Quarterly*, Volume 170, June, pp. 304-326.
- Tang Wenfang (2001) "Political and Social trends in Post-Deng Urban China" *The China Quarterly*.
- O'Brien and Li (1995) "Politics of Lodging Complaints in Rural China". *The China Quarterly*, No. 143.
- Tomba, Luigi (2004). "Creating an Urban Middle Class: Social Engineering in Beijing." *The China Journal*, Number 51, pages 1-26.
- Zhou, Xueguang. (1993). "Unorganized Interests and Collective Action in Communist China." *American Sociological Review* 58: 54-73.
- Jeffery Wasserstrom and E. Perry, eds (1991). *Popular Protest and Political Culture in China*, Stanford University Press.
- Kevin J. O'Brien and Lianjiang Li (2006). *Rightful Resistance in Rural China* Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Zhao, Dingxin. (2001). "State-Society Relations and the Discourses and Activities of the 1989 Beijing Student Movement." *American Journal of Sociology* 105: 1592-1632.

12. Cross-straits Relationship (Guest Lecture)

13. Domestic Politics and Foreign Policy (Guest Lecture)

14. Course Essay Seminar