



21st Century City

POLS 350: Contemporary Chinese Politics: State, Party, People

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? And most importantly, the million-dollar question: Will China democratize?

Course Structure

The course will be conducted in seminar/discussion format. Students are strongly encouraged to ask questions to participate in discussion on the assigned readings or course materials.

Course Requirements

All students should complete assigned readings before coming to class and to participate in discussion. Students are required to make one in-class presentation and turn in a final paper.

Course Schedule

Module I: Institutional Context

01-14 Introduction

02-14 Chinese Political System and the Mao Era

Readings:

Susan L. Shirk, *The Political Logic of Economic Reform in China* (Berkeley: University

of California Press, 1993), Ch. 2

Kenneth Lieberthal, *Governing China*, Lieberthal, *Governing China*, 60-77

03-14 Politics of the Reform: Authority in Chinese Political Institution

Readings:

Susan L. Shirk, *The Political Logic of Economic Reform in China* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1993), Ch.1 and 3

04-14 Economic Policy and Policymaking Process

Readings:

Victor Shih, "Dealing with Non-Performing Loans: Political Constraints and Financial Policies in China," *The China Quarterly* (December 2004), No. 180, pp. 922-944.

Gang Guo, "China's Local Political Budget Cycles," *American Journal of Political Science* (June 2009), Vol. 53, No. 3, pp 621-632.

05-14 Leadership Politics and Incentives

Readings:

Lieberthal, *Governing China*, Ch. 7.

Shih, Victor, Christopher Adolph, & Mingxing Liu, "Getting Ahead in the Communist Party: Explaining the Advancement of Central Committee Members in China," *American Political Science Review* (February 2012). Vol. 106, No. 1, pp.166-187.

06-14 Fiscal Decentralization vs. Political Centralization

Readings:

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.

Barry Naughton and Dali Yang, "Introduction" in their edited book, *Holding China Together* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2004), pp. 1-28.

Hongbin Cai and Daniel Treisman, "Did Government Decentralization Cause China's Economic Miracle?" *World Politics* (July 2006), Vol. 58, No. 4, pp. 505-535.

07-14 Central-Local Hierarchy Reciprocal Accountability

Readings:

Huang Yasheng, "Political Institutions and Fiscal Reforms in China," *Problems of Post-Communism* (January/February 2001), pp. 16-26.

Shirk, *The Political Logic of Economic Reform in China*, Ch. 9, pp. 147-196.

08-14 Faction, Patronage, and Political Connection (Guanxi)

Readings:

Shih, Victor, *Factions and Finance in China: Elite Conflict and Inflation*. New York: Cambridge University Press, 2007, Ch. 1-2.

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.

09-14 Policy Evaluation and Implementation

Readings:

Susan H. Whiting, "The Cadre Evaluation System at the Grass Roots: The Paradox of Party Rule," in Naughton and Yang, eds, *Holding China Together: Diversity and National Integration in the Post-Deng Era* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2004), pp. 101-119.

O'Brien, Kevin and Li Lianjiang, "Selective Policy Implementation in Rural China," *Comparative Politics* (January 1999), Vol. 31, No. 2, pp.167-186.

Module II: State and Society

10-14 Private Business and the CCP

Readings:

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

Lynette H. Ong, "Between Development and Clientelist States: Local State-Business Relationships in China," *Comparative Politics* (January 2012), Vol. 44, No. 2, pp.191-209(19).

11-14 Communist Party Rule vs. Democratization

Readings:

David Shambaugh, "Staying Alive: Can the Communist Party Survive?" pp. 161-183 in his book *Chinese Communist Party: Atrophy and Adaptation* (New York: University of California Press, 2008), pp.161-83.

Pierre F. Landry, Deborah Davis and Shiru Wang, "Elections in Rural China:

Competition without Parties,” *Comparative Political Studies* (June 2010), Vol. 43, No. 6, pp. 763-790.

12-14 **TBD?**

13-14 **Student Class Presentation**

14-14 **Class Presentation and Final Review**

Required Text & Reading Materials

Lieberthal, Kenneth. 1995 or newer version, *Governing China: From Revolution Through Reform*.

Required Reading Assignments all are available through me or the Alliance program.

Evaluation

Attendance & Class Participation	30%
Presentation	40%
Final Paper	30%

Assessment Criteria

Presentation

The requirements of presentation will be the following: students will choose a topic on current news, trend, and/or event, and conduct independent research on the background and development. Students will present the results and finding for 10-15 minutes in front of the class.

At the end of each class, the instructor will prepare a news article and discuss with everyone about the background and development of the news event. This will not only help students understand the real-life situations in China, but only provide an example how everyone should prepare for the presentation.

Final Paper (5-7 pages)

The final paper will be 5-7 pages long based on any topic from the course readings.

Grading

Alliance programs utilize the follow standard grading policy well accepted by most US institutions.

Excellent	A	93-100%	Good	B+	87-89%	Acceptable	C+	77-79%
	A-	90-92%		B	83-86%		C	73-76%
				B-	80-82%		C-	70-72%
						Unsatisfactory	D+	67-69%
							D	63-66%
							D-	60-62%
						Failing	F	<60%

Course Policies

Exams and Assignments

Students are required to take all regularly scheduled exams in courses for which they are registered, and to submit all assignments on time. Any compelling academic, personal, or medical reason that might justify a rescheduled exam or assignment must be brought up to the Resident Director, not program faculty. Failure to take scheduled exams or submit the requisite assignments for a course will adversely affect your grade as per the stated grading criteria for each course.

Classroom Conduct

Student punctuality is extremely important in China and India. Please do not be late for classes or other activities, as it is considered impolite to do so. It is improper to eat in class, to engage in other activities such as texting, or to slump or nap. Students are expected to be alert and engaged as a sign of respect for their professors.

Attendance

Class attendance is mandatory. It is essential that the students participate fully in the coursework and all required academic activities. Authorized absences may only be approved by the Resident Director, and students are expected to make up any missed work. Unauthorized absences will adversely affect a student's grades.