

State, Society and Citizenship in Contemporary China

Political Science 4079

Instructor: Liang Kong

Email: kongliang1117@gmail.com

Office: Stubbs 334

Office Hour: Monday and Wednesday, 9:00AM to 10:30AM or by appointment

Class: 324 Hodges Hall

Class hours: Monday, Wednesday, Friday 1:30-2:20

Objective:

The primary objective of this course is to provide students knowledge regarding politics of modern China. With no prerequisites required, this course is open to students interested in comparative politics, international relations, and other relevant social science subjects. This course seeks to offer a detailed introduction and review of the history of Chinese Communist Party, contemporary Chinese government, crucial political institutions, and other important issues.

Requirements:

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|--------------------|-----|--------------------------------|
| 1. Short Paper One | 20% | (September 14) |
| 2. Midterm Exam | 20% | (October 10) |
| 3. Short Paper Two | 20% | (October 26) |
| 4. Final Exam | 40% | (Take-Home: due on December 6) |

1. Short Paper One: Documentary Review

Choose one of the documentaries listed below and give your own opinion on the topic being discussed in the video. You can find all the documentaries in YouTube. Five documentaries on different topics are listed, so you can choose one you interested in. The paper should be no shorter than 6 pages (double space). You need to have a clear and coherent argument in the paper. I encourage you to use materials outside the video as supplementary evidence to support your argument. Citations and references are required for the paper.

(1) Environmental Problem of China

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OU1J_U1NSOg

(2) BBC: the Xi factor

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OdnUL57cYuM>

(3) BBC Documentary 2016: Our World Designed in China
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CM1PLlvEcU>

(4) BBC: Secrets of China (episode two)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wBzu1nGz74o>

5) Discovery: How China Works (Episode One)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EMF9MXKnQDE>

2. Short Paper Two: Article Review

Choose one from the following five articles and write a review paper on it. This paper should be no shorter than 6 pages (double space). In this review paper, you need to clearly state whether you agree with the author or not. You can use materials outside the video as supplementary evidence to support your argument. Citations and references are required for the paper.

(1) Kerry P. Brown, **Factions in Modern Chinese Politics: A Help or a Hindrance?** *The Journal of the Oriental Society of Australia*, vol. 47 (2015): 61-72.

(2) Kevin J. O'Brien, **Rightful Resistance**. *World Politics*, vol. 49, no. 1 (1996): 31-55.

(3) Melanie Manion, **How to Assess Village Elections in China**. *Journal of Contemporary China*, vol. 18, no. 60 (2009): 378-383.

(4) Pierre Landry and Liu Xiaobo, **Show Me the Money: Interjurisdiction Political Competition and Fiscal Extraction in China**, *American Political Science Review*, vol. 108, no. 3 (2014): 706-722.

(5) Xian Huang, **The Politics of Social Welfare Reform in Urban China: Social Welfare Preferences and Reform Policies**. *Journal of Chinese Political Science*, vol. 18 (2013): pp.61-85.

3. Mid Term Exam (October 10)

The midterm exam is closed book exam. Students need to provide a bluebook. Students will have 50 minutes to answer the questions.

4. Final Exam (November 30 to December 6)

The final exam is a take-home exam. Students will have a week to answer the questions.

Grading Scale:

Letter grades for the course will be based on the following thresholds, reflective of both LSU's new +/- grading scale and the LSU General Catalog, which stipulates that the various letter grades reflect the following levels of mastery of the course material. Each student will be assigned a grade in the highest category that matches their final course average.

"A" indicates "distinguished mastery"

A+ = final averages of 97 and above

A = final averages of 93 and above

A- = final averages of 90 and above

"B" indicates "good mastery"

B+ = final averages of 87 and above

B = final averages of 83 and above

B- = final averages of 80 and above

"C" indicates "acceptable mastery"

C+ = final averages of 77 and above

C = final averages of 73 and above

C- = final averages of 70 and above

"D" indicates "minimally acceptable achievement for credit"

D+ = final averages of 67 and above

D = final averages of 63 and above

D- = final averages of 60 and above

"F" indicates "failing"

F = final averages below 60

Schedule:

Part One: Political History

(Weeks 1-4)

The Chinese Communist Party defines Chinese politics today. To understand Chinese politics, one of the most basic questions is "What is the Chinese Communist Party?" In the first part of the class, we study this question by tracing back to the beginning of Chinese communist party. How was Chinese Communist Party founded? How did the Chinese Communist Party become the ruling party? Why did the Chinese Communist Party change from a traditional communist party to an unconventional authoritative party? We will explore these questions in the first four weeks of study.

Week 1: History of Chinese Communist Party (1921-1949)

Documentary: The Chinese Revolution

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Mz7ogy6e39I>

Week 2: History of Chinese Communist Party (1949-1978)

Tom Phillips, "The Culture Revolution: all you need to know about China's political convulsion," *The Guardian*. May 2016.

Week 3: Politics of the Deng Xiaoping Era (1978-1992)

Documentary: Deng Xiaoping

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pqzqxqE09QEc>

Documentary: 1989 Tiananmen Square

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SeoMn1DeUek>

Week 4: Politics after Deng (1992-present)

No readings required for this week.

→ **Short Paper One is due before Wednesday's class (September 14)**

Part Two: Chinese Political Institutions (Weeks 5-7)

Since there are no real elections in Chinese politics, political institutions become even more important for scholars of Chinese politics. In this part of class, we will study the governing structure of the Chinese government, the formal rules of Communist Party, and the informal institutions in Chinese politics. Understanding these institutions can give students the general sense of how Chinese politics works. It also helps the students to understand why Chinese politics is different from the politics of other authoritarian regimes.

Week 5: Governing Structure

Xueguang Zhou, "The Institutional Logic of Collusion among Local Governments in China," *Modern China*, vol. 36, no. 1 (2010): 47-78.

Young Nam Cho, "The Politics of Lawmaking in Chinese Local People's Congresses," *China Quarterly*, vol. 187 (2006): 592-609.

Daniel Kelliher, "The Chinese Debate over Village Self-Government," *China Journal*, vol. 37 (1997): 63-66.

Week 6: Formal Rules of Communist Party

Xi Jinping, "The Governance of China," *China Today*.

Week 7: Informal Institutions

Ben Hillman, "Factions and Spoils: Examining Political Behavior within the Local State in China," *China Journal*, vol. 64 (2010): 1-18.

Bruce Gilley, "Paradigms of Chinese Politics: Kicking Society Back Out," *Journal of Contemporary China*, vol. 20, no. 70 (2011): 517-533.

Part Three: Important Issues in Chinese Politics (Weeks 8-12)

This section of the course will cover some important issues in Chinese politics. Some of the issues have always been important, while some others only became important in recent years. In the following five weeks, we will introduce the following aspects of these issues: (1) the background and formation, (2) the further development, (3) the impact and the future tendency.

Week 8: Censorship and Media Control

Gary King, Jennifer Pan and Margaret E. Roberts, "How Censorship in China Allows Government Criticism but Silences Collective Expression," *American Political Science Review*, vol. 107, no. 2 (2013): 326-343.

Ora John Reuter and David Szakonyi, "Online Social Media and Political Awareness in Authoritarian Regimes." *British Journal of Political Science*, vol. 45, no. 1 (2015): 29-51.

Week 9: Corruption and Anti-Corruption

Samson Yuen, "Disciplining the Party: Xi Jinping's Anti-Corruption Campaign and its Limits," *China Perspectives*, no. 3 (2014): 41-47.

Week 10: The Chinese Economic Miracle and Its Slow Down

Chenggang Xu, "The Fundamental Institution of China's Reforms and Development," *Journal of Economic Literature*, vol. 49 (2011): 1076-1151.

Jean C. Oi, "Fiscal Reform and Economic Foundations of Local State Corporatism in China," *World Politics*, vol. 45 (1992): 99-126.

→ **Short paper two is due before Wednesday's class (October 26)**

Week 11: Territorial Issue and the South China Sea

Premesha Sasha, "The Genesis of the South China Sea Dispute," *Asian Journal of Research in Social Science and Humanities*, vol. 5, no. 8 (2015): 40-55.

Week 12: Pollution and Environmental Protection

Documentary: "Under the Dome" (the documentary on Chinese pollution, **not** the American TV show with the same name)

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T6X2uwIQQM>

Rachel E. Stern, "From Dispute to Decision: Suing Polluters in China," *China Quarterly*, vol. 206 (2011): 294-312.

Week 13: Tibet, Xinjiang and ethnic minorities

Jie Chen, "Framing Identity in Social Movements: The Identity and the Chinese Government Interpretation of the Tibet Separatists," M.A. Thesis, Iowa State University, 2015.

Documentary: "Tibet – The Truth"

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Wvo8MXny5XI>

Short YouTube Video: China' Ruthless crackdown on its Muslim population

Week 14: democratic movement and political stability

Elizabeth J. Perry, "Chinese Conceptions of 'Right': From Mencius to Mao-and Now," *Perspectives on Politics*, vol. 6, no. 1 (2008): 37-50.

Charter 08 (whole document)