

GOVERNMENT 1280
Government & Politics of China

Fall 2013
Harvard Hall 201
Tue/Thurs 1-2:30 pm

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Office Hours: Rm 230, 2 Divinity Ave.
Thurs. 3-5 pm

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Daniel: Mon. 4-5 pm
Jennifer: Tues: 3-4 pm

This course tackles the big questions of Chinese politics. Why was there a communist revolution? What legacy does it leave for contemporary politics? How did the Chinese Communist Party manage to survive the “mass extinction” of communist regimes in 1989? Will it survive the Arab Spring?

In our effort to understand how China’s unusual and opaque political system works, we will first survey the development of Chinese politics from the Maoist era through the 1989 student uprising in Tiananmen Square. Then we will focus on contemporary politics, exploring the changing fault lines in Chinese politics between different classes, genders, and ethnic groups, among others. Finally, we will turn to the question of China’s future. Is political reform likely to lead to revolution? Or some kind of democratization?

Reading:

Articles and book chapters will be available online through the course website or through a course reading pack available from Gnomon Copy. In addition, the following books are available for purchase at the Coop:

- Leslie T. Chang, *Factory Girls*, Spiegel & Grau, 2009.
- Peter Gries and Stanley Rosen, eds. *Chinese Politics: State, Society and the Market*, Routledge 2010.
- Liang Heng & Judith Shapiro, *Son of the Revolution*, Vintage Books, 1984.
- R. Keith Schoppa, *Revolution and its Past: Identities and Change in Modern Chinese History*, 3rd ed. Prentice Hall, 2011.

Assignments:

In addition to active participation in class discussion, students will also have two exams and write a paper (10-12 pgs) on a topic of their choosing. Class participation will account for 20% of the final grade. The paper will contribute 30% of the course grade, while the midterm will be 20% and final 30%. Deadlines are firm. Papers or exams turned in late will be penalized 1/3 of a grade for every day that they are late.

CLASS SCHEDULE:

I. Introduction:

9/3 **Is the Chinese revolution over? Will China face an “Arab Spring” of its own?**

- *Optional Reading* : Sun Liping, “The Wukan Model and China’s Democratic potential” *Economic Observer*, April 2012.
- *Optional Reading*: Wang Hui, “Political Repression and the Resurgence of Neoliberalism in China” April 2012
- *Optional Reading* : Elizabeth J. Perry, “Studying Chinese Politics: Farewell to Revolution?” *The China Journal* 57 (2007): 1-22.

9/5 **Corruption: Why has it grown? Does it threaten the regime?**

- Ting Gong: “New Trend in China’s Corruption: Change amid Continuity” pp. 451-469 in Lowell Dittmer and Guoli Lu, eds. *China’s Deep Reform: Domestic Politics in Transition*, Rowman & Littlefield, 2006.
- Raymond Fisman & Edward Miguel, “Ch.3 The Smuggling Gap” pp. 53-75 in *Economic Gangsters: Corruption, Violence, and the Poverty of Nations*, Princeton University Press, 2008.
- Dali Yang, “Ch. 4 The Smuggling Crisis and the Leveling of the Economic Playing Field” pp. 110-142 in *Remaking the Chinese Leviathan: Market Transition and the Politics of Governance in China*, Stanford University Press, 2004.

II. Revolutionary Politics:

9/10 **What did Chinese Revolutions seek to overturn? Why?**

- Schoppa, *Revolution and its Past*, Ch. 6-8
- Skocpol, *States and Social Revolutions*, Cambridge University Press, 1979. Ch. 1, pp. 3-33, Ch. 2 pp. 73-81 (Reserve)

9/12 **What was the Nationalist Revolution? Did it fail?**

- Schoppa, *Revolution and its Past*, Ch. 9-11
- Skocpol, *States and Social Revolutions*, Ch. 7 pp. 242-251 (Reserve)

9/17 **Why did the Communists rebel? How did they wage revolution?**

- Schoppa, *Revolution and its Past*, Ch. 12-13
- Mao Zedong, “Report on a Peasant Movement in Hunan” in *Selected Works of Mao Tse-tung*, Vol. 1 (Foreign Languages Press, 1965) pp. 23-39, 44-48 (Reserve)

9/19 How and why did the Communists succeed?

- Schoppa, *Revolution and its Past*, Ch. 14-15
- Skocpol, *States and Social Revolutions*, Ch. 7 pp. 252-262 (Reserve)
- Joseph W. Esherick, "Ten Theses about the Chinese Revolution" *Modern China* 21:1 (1995): 45-76. (JSTOR)

III. Revolutionary Politics in Command:

9/24 New China: How did the Communists create a new society?

- Schoppa, *Revolution and its Past*, Ch. 16
- Lieberthal, *Revolution and Tradition in Tianjin*, Ch. 7 (Reserve)

9/26 The Great Leap Forward: What were the limits of revolution?

- Schoppa, *Revolution and its Past*, Ch. 17
- Jasper Becker, *Hungry Ghosts: Mao's Secret Famine*, Ch. 9 & 15 (Reserve)
- James Kung & Shuo Chen, "The Tragedy of the Nomenklatura" *American Political Science Review* 105:1 (Feb. 2011): 27-45.

10/1 The Cultural Revolution: Why did the Red Guards rebel?

- Schoppa, *Revolution and its Past*, Ch. 18
- Liang Heng & Judith Shapiro, *Son of the Revolution*, Ch. 1-17

10/3 The Cultural Revolution: Why did CCP leaders rebel?

- Liang Heng & Judith Shapiro, *Son of the Revolution*, Ch. 18-22
- Jin Qiu, *The Culture of Power: The Lin Biao Incident in the Cultural Revolution*, Stanford University Press, 1999. Ch.1 & Ch. 6 (Reserve)

IV. Post-Revolutionary Politics?

10/8 The Rise of Deng Xiaoping & Market Reform

- Schoppa, *Revolution and its Past*, Ch. 19
- Ezra Vogel, *Deng Xiaoping and the Transformation of China*, Harvard University Press, 2011, pp 49-71, 229-248 (Reserve)
- Deng Xiaoping, "Emancipate the Mind" *Deng Xiaoping: Speeches & Writings*, Pergamon Press, 1984, pp. 62-74 (Reserve)

10/10 1989: Was the Tiananmen student movement revolutionary? Why did it fail?

- Schoppa, *Revolution and its Past*, Ch. 20
- Zhang Liang, *The Tiananmen Papers*, Public Affairs, 2001. (Reserve)
- Han Minzhu, *Cries for Democracy*, Princeton University Press, 1990. (Reserve)
- Video: *The Gate of Heavenly Peace* (Library Reserve)

10/15 >> Midterm Exam <<

V. Changing Fault Lines in Contemporary Politics

10/17 The CCP & the 18th Party Congress: Who rules today? How?

- Andrew J. Nathan, “Authoritarian Resilience” *Journal of Democracy* 14:1 (2003): 6-17. (Project Muse)
- Richard McGregor, “The Red Machine” in *The Party: The Secret World Of China’s Communist Rulers*, Harper 2010.
- Cheng Li, “Rule of the Princes” *Cairo Review* (August 2013): 34-47.

10/22 China’s New Entrepreneurs: What influence do they have?

- Gries and Rosen, *Chinese Politics*, Ch. 1
- Richard MacGregor, *The Party: The Secret World of China’s Communist Rulers*, HarperCollins, 2010. Ch. 2 “China Inc.: The Party and Business” pp. 34-69 (Reserve)
- Scott Kennedy, “Fragmented Influence: Business Lobbying in China” in Kennedy, ed. *Beyond the Middle Kingdom: Comparative Perspectives on China’s Capitalist Transformation*, Stanford University Press, 2011. (Reserve)

10/24 Students Today: Activists? Or apathetic?

- Gries and Rosen, *Chinese Politics*, Ch. 3 & 7
- Vanessa Fong, *Only Hope: Coming of Age under China’s One-child Policy*, Stanford University Press, 2004. Ch 3. (Reserve)
- Diane Geng, “Students Setting Out to Alleviate “Poverty of Spirit” in Rural China” *Chinese Education & Society* 41:3 (2008): 72-84. (Academic Search Premier)

10/29 Migrant Politics: How do they participate in politics?

- Chang, *Factory Girls* Ch. 1-9 (Ch. 6 optional)

10/31 Rural Politics: What influence do farmers have?

- Gries and Rosen, *Chinese Politics*, Ch. 5
- Chang, *Factory Girls* Ch. 10-15 (Ch. 11 & 14 optional)

VI. Current Conflicts:

11/5 New Media: How does the internet affect Chinese politics?

- Gries and Rosen, *Chinese Politics*, Ch. 8 (or religion...)
- Daniela Stockman, "Who Believes Propaganda?" *China Quarterly* 202 (2010): 269-289. (Cambridge University Press Complete)
- Guobin Yang, "Coevolution of the Internet and Civil Society in China" *Asian Survey* (2003): 405-422. (JSTOR)

11/7 Nationalism: Why is nationalism on the rise today?

- Gries and Rosen, *Chinese Politics*, Ch. 7 & 9
- Evan Osnos, "Angry Youth: The Students who Reject the West" *New Yorker* (July 28, 2008): 28-37. (Academic Search Premier)
- Peter Gries, *China's New Nationalism: Pride, Politics, and Diplomacy*, UC Press, 2004. Ch. 2-3 (Reserve)

11/12 Taiwan: Why is Taiwan a flashpoint?

- Schoppa, *Revolution and its Past*, Ch. 21
- Christopher Hughes, *Taiwan and Chinese Nationalism*, Routledge, 1999. Ch 1-2 (Reserve)

11/14 Ethnic Minorities: Why is Tibet a flashpoint?

- Gries and Rosen, *Chinese Politics*, Ch. 10
- Robert Barnett, "Tibet" in William Joseph, *Chinese Politics*, Oxford University Press, 2010. (Reserve)
- Orville Schell, *Virtual Tibet*, Metropolitan Books, 2000. Ch. 2 & 5 (Reserve)

11/19 Religion: Why is religion on the rise? What are the political implications?

- Robert Weller and Sun Yanfei, “Religion: The Dynamics of Religious Growth and Change” in Fewsmith, *China Today, China Tomorrow*, Rowman & Littlefield 2010. (Reserve)

Adam Chau, “Expanding the Space of Popular Religion” pp. 211-240 in Ashiwa & Wank, *Making Religion, Making the State*, Stanford University Press, 2009. (Reserve)

- Video: *Jesus in China* (Library Reserve)

11/21 Human Rights: Why is the PRC promoting human rights?

- Schoppa, *Revolution and its Past*, Epilogue
- PRC State Council, “White Paper: Fifty Years of Progress in China’s Human Rights” Feb. 2000. (<http://english.gov.cn>)
- Marina Svensson, “Human Rights Debates since the Late 1980s” in Svensson, *Debating Human Rights in China*, (Rowman & Littlefield, 2002). (Reserve)
- Tyrene Whyte, “Domination, Resistance, and Accommodation in China’s One-child Campaign” in Perry & Selden, eds. *Chinese Society*, Routledge, 2010. (Reserve)

11/26 Income Inequality & Welfare: Can redistribution close the gap?

- Gries and Rosen, *Chinese Politics*, Ch. 2, 6, 11 & 12

THANKSGIVING

12/3 Is the Revolution Over? Where is China heading?

- Elizabeth J. Perry, “Studying Chinese Politics: Farewell to Revolution?” *The China Journal* 57 (2007): 1-22. (Academic Search Premier)
- Minxin Pei, “Is CCP Rule Fragile or Resilient?” *Journal of Democracy* 23:1 (2012): 27-41. (Project Muse)
- Bruce Gilley, “Could China be the Next Wave?” *Current History* (2011): 333-336. (Reserve)

12/4 >> Paper Due<<