

## Chinese Politics<sup>1</sup>

Dr. Rongbin Han  
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Class Time: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 12:30 - 13:45 (Baldwin Hall 307)  
Office Hours: Tuesdays 2:30-3:30pm or by appointment (322 Candler Hall)

### **Course Overview**

This course introduces to students institutions, reform processes and major events in Chinese political life under the communists since 1949, with special focus on the reform era since 1978. In particular, it will walk students through the economic and political development in China—their causes, patterns, consequences, and implications—in a broader context of transition from socialism. The course will apply concepts and theories in comparative politics in analyzing Chinese politics. By taking this class, students are expected to gain substantial knowledge about contemporary Chinese politics and acquire some basic ability to apply such knowledge to relate to and analyze current affairs concerning China.

### **Suggested Readings for Students without prior knowledge about China**

Saich, Tony 2015. *Governance and Politics of China*. 4<sup>th</sup> Edition. Macmillan.  
Kenneth Lieberthal, *Governing China* (2<sup>nd</sup> edition) (W. W. Norton & Co., 2004).

Useful websites

Online News on China:	<a href="http://www.china.org.cn/">http://www.china.org.cn/</a>
China Daily:	<a href="http://usa.chinadaily.com.cn/">http://usa.chinadaily.com.cn/</a>
China Digital Times:	<a href="http://chinadigitaltimes.net/">http://chinadigitaltimes.net/</a>
EastSouthWestNorth Blog:	<a href="http://www.zonaeuropa.com/weblog.htm">http://www.zonaeuropa.com/weblog.htm</a>
China Media Project:	<a href="http://chinamediaproject.org/">http://chinamediaproject.org/</a>

### **Course Requirements and Grading Criteria**

*Attendance* (10%) One absence is allowed for any reason. Additional absences will need legitimate reasons and documentation (ex. doctor's note). Please report to the instructor if you are late. Failing to do so may result in absence in record not disputable.

*Participation* (20%) Read and reflect upon assigned readings before coming to class. Besides engaging in class discussion actively, you will also do two mini presentations on selected dates. You shall present the most important points in the readings in your own words and clarify them with original examples if necessary. The presentation shall be strictly 10 minutes or shorter as a group.

*Mid-term* (25%) The exam will be a take-home open book essay question. It will be based on the readings, lectures and discussion. Detailed instructions will be announced before the exams.

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<sup>1</sup> The syllabus is a general plan for the course; updates and revisions may be necessary.

Final Paper (45%; 5% for submitting the topics timely; 40% for the paper) You will select your topics with the instructor's guidance. Only two restrictions on topics: (1) It must be related to China; (2) It must be empirical. The end product shall be a 15-page paper. Please report to the instructor by March 1<sup>st</sup> a few potential topics, with research question, and potential data sources. You are expected to **make an argument and try to convince readers with your analysis**. Additional attention shall be paid to **organization of the paper, the coherence of the analysis and the elaboration of your argument**. You have to **cite sources properly and avoid grammatical errors**. You are expected to present your research project at the end of the semester on a date that you selected.

### **\*\*\*\*\* Important Dates \*\*\*\*\***

March 1<sup>st</sup> Report to Instructor about the topics of your research paper

May 3<sup>rd</sup> Research Paper due

#### **Grade Dispute:**

If you have any questions about your exam grade, you shall report to the instructor **within one week** from the time you receive the grade. You need to present a written appeal explaining why you think your grade should be changed. Please also bear in mind that disputing grade may end up with higher, lower or no change in your grade.

#### **Academic Honesty:**

As a University of Georgia student, you have agreed to abide by the University's academic honesty policy, "A Culture of Honesty," and the Student Honor Code. All academic work must meet the standards described in "A Culture of Honesty" found at: [www.uga.edu/honesty](http://www.uga.edu/honesty). Lack of knowledge of the academic honesty policy is not a reasonable explanation for a violation. Questions related to course assignments and the academic honesty policy should be directed to the instructor.

## **Topics and Readings**

### **Week 1 (Jan. 4) Introduction: Why China & China before PRC**

\* Lieberthal, pp.1-28 or Tony Saich, pp. 1-28.

### **Week 2 (Jan. 9 & 11) China's Revolution and Its Legacies**

Tuesday

\* Lieberthal, pp.28-56, 59-83.

\* Lowell Dittmer, "Bases of Power in Chinese Politics: The Fall of the Gang of Four," *World Politics* 31 (October 1978), pp. 26-60.

Thursday

\* Andrew Walder, "Some Ironies of Maoist Legacy in Industry," *The Australian Journal of Chinese Affairs* (1981), pp. 21-38.

\* Barry Naughton, *The Chinese Economy: Transitions and Growth* (Cambridge: MIT Press, 2007). pp. 55-78.

## Understanding Economic Reform and Opening Up

### Week 3 (Jan. 16 & 18)

#### Tuesday ***Rural Reform and Industrialization***

- \* Barry Naughton, *The Chinese Economy: Transitions and Growth* (Cambridge: MIT Press, 2007). pp. 271-294.
- \* Jean C. Oi, "Fiscal Reform and the Economic Foundations of Local State Corporatism." *World Politics* 45:1 (1992):99-126.

#### Thursday ***SOEs and Urban Reform***

- \* Barry Naughton, *The Chinese Economy: Transitions and Growth* (Cambridge: MIT Press, 2007). pp. 271-294.
- \* Andrew Walder, "Factory and manager in an Era of Reform," *The China Quarterly* 118 (1989), pp 242-264.

### Week 4 (Jan. 23 & 25)

#### Tuesday ***The Rise of the Private Sector***

- \* Carolyn Hsu, "Cadres, Getihu, And Good Businesspeople: Making Sense Of Entrepreneurs In Early Post-Socialist China," *Urban Anthropology and Studies of Cultural Systems and World Economic Development* 35:1 (2006), pp. 1-38
- \* Feng Chen, 2006. "Privatization and its Discontents in Chinese Factories," *The China Quarterly*, No.185, pp. 42-60.

#### Thursday ***Foreign Direct Investment***

- \* John Whalley and Xian Xin, "China's FDI and non-FDI economies and the sustainability of future high Chinese growth," *China Economic Review* 21 (2010), pp. 123-135.
- \* Mary Gallagher, *Contagious Capitalism: Globalization and the Politics of Labor in China* (Princeton University Press, 2005), Chapter 3.

### Week 5 (Jan. 30 & Feb. 1)

#### Tuesday ***Explaining China's Economic Reform***

- \* Barry Naughton, *The Chinese Economy: Transitions and Growth* (Cambridge: MIT Press, 2007). pp. 85-112, 139-160, and 179-208.

#### Thursday ***Explaining China's Economic Reform (continued)***

- \* Babriella Montinola, Qian, Yingyi and Barry R. Weingast, "Federalism, Chinese Style: The Political Basis for Economic Success in China," *World Politics* no. 48:1(1995):50-81.
- \* Wing Thye Woo "The Real Reasons for China's Growth," *The China Journal* 41 (Jan., 1999): 115-137.
- \* Hongbin Cai and Daniel Treisman, "Did Government Decentralization Cause China's Economic Miracle?" *World Politics* 58:4(2006), pp. 505-535.

Suggested: \* Shu-yun Ma, "Understanding China's Reform: Looking beyond Neoclassical Explanations," *World Politics* 52: 4 (July 2000): 586-603.

## State Society Relations in Reform Era: Problems, Protests, and Participation

### Week 6 (Feb. 6 & 8) Economic Liberalization and Political Reform

Tuesday ***Why Economic Liberalization Failed to Bring Democracy***

\* Kellee Tsai, "Capitalists without a Class: Political Diversity among Private Entrepreneurs in China," *Comparative Political Studies* 39 (2005): 1130-1158.

\* Mary Gallagher, "Reform and Openness: Why Chinese Economic Reforms Have Delayed Democracy," *World Politics* 54:3 (April 2002): 338-372.

Thursday ***China's Deep Reform?***

\* Lowell Dittmer and Guoli Liu (eds.), *China's Deep Reform* (Rowman & Littlefield, 2006), Introduction.

\* Maria Edin, "State Capacity and Local Agent Control in China" *China Quarterly* 173 (2003): 35-52.

\* Andrew Mertha, "Fragmented Authoritarianism 2.0," *China Quarterly* 200 (2009): 995-1012.

*Suggest reading:* \* Melanie Manion, "When Communist Party Candidates Can Lose, Who Wins?" *China Quarterly*, 195 (September 2008): 607-30.

### Week 7 (Feb. 13 & Feb. 15)

Tuesday ***Rural Grassroots Democracy***

\* Tianjian Shi, "Village Committee Elections in China," *World Politics* 51:3 (1999): 385-412.

\* Kevin J. O'Brien and Rongbin Han, "Path to Democracy? Assessing Elections in Rural China," *Journal of Contemporary China* 18:60 (2009): 359-78.

*Suggest reading:* \* Yusheng Yao, "Village Elections and Their Impact," *Modern China*, 39:1 (2013): 37-68.

Thursday ***Engaging Law in China***

\* Mary Gallagher, "Mobilizing the Law in China," *Law and Society Review* 40:4 (2006): 783-816.

\* Kevin J. O'Brien, and Lianjiang Li, "Suing the Local State," *The China Journal* 51(2004): 75-96.

### Week 8 (Feb. 20 & 22)

Tuesday ***Tiananmen and Its Implications***

\* Dingxin Zhao, "State-Society Relations and the Discourses and Activities during the 1989 Beijing Student Movement," *American Journal of Sociology*, 105 (2000): 1592-632.

\* Andrew Walder and Gong Xiaoxia, "Workers in the Tiananmen Protests," *Australian Journal of Chinese Affairs* 29 (1993), pp. 1-30.

Thursday Documentaries: *The Gate of Heavenly Peace* (1996)

### Week 9 (Feb. 27 & Mar. 1)

Tuesday ***Protests and Resistance in Reform Era***

\* Nathan, Beha, Perry, Wasserstrom, O'Brien, Lee& Friedman, and Yang, "China Since Tiananmen," *Journal of Democracy* 20:3 (2009): 5-40.

\* Rachel Stern, "From Dispute to Decision," *China Quarterly* 206 (June 2011): 294-312.

\* Leta Hong Fincher, "China's Feminist Five," *Dissent* 63:4(2016), pp. 84-90.

*Suggest reading:* \* Yuan Yao and Rongbin Han "Challenging, But Not Trouble-Making," *Journal of Contemporary China* 25:98(2016): 292-306.

Thursday

\* Yanhua Deng and Kevin O'Brien, "Relational Repression in China: Using Social Ties to Demobilize Protesters," *China Quarterly* 215 (2013): 533-552.

\* Ching Kwan Lee and Yonghong Zhang, "The Power of Instability" *American Journal of Sociology* 118:6 (2013): 1475-1508.

*Suggest reading:* \* Rachel Stern and Jonathan Hassid, "Amplifying Silence: Uncertainty and Control Parables in Contemporary China," *Comparative Political Studies* 45: 10 (2012): 1230-1254.

## Week 10 (Mar. 6 & 8)

Tuesday **Civil Society?**

\* Gu Xin, "A Civil Society and Public Sphere in Post-Mao China? An Overview of Western Publications," *China Information* (1993-94): 38-52.

\* Lily Tsai, "Solidary Groups, Informal Accountability, and Local Public Goods Provision in Rural China," *American Political Science Review* 101: 2 (2007), pp. 355-372.

\* Tony Saich, "Negotiating the State," *China Quarterly* (2000): 124-41.

Thursday

Documentary: *Ai Weimei Never Sorry*

## Spring Break-No Class

## Week 11 (Mar. 20 & 22) Media and Cyber Politics

Tuesday

\* Zhou Yuezhi, "Watchdogs on Party Leashes?" *Journalism Studies* 1:4(2000): 577-97.

\* Daniela Stockmann and Mary Gallagher, "Remote Control," *Comparative Political Studies* 44:4 (2011): 436-467.

*Suggest reading:* \* Xiaoping Li, "'Focus' (Jiaodian Fangtan) and the Changes in the Chinese Television Industry." *Journal of Contemporary China* 11:30(2002): 17-34.

Thursday

### Cyber Activism

\* Ashley Esarey and Xiao Qiang "Political Expression in the Chinese Blogosphere," *Asian Survey* 48 (2008): 752-772.

\* Yuen Yuen Ang, "Authoritarian Restraints on Online Activism Revisited," *Comparative Politics* 47:1 (2014): 21-40.

## Week 12 (Mar. 27 & 29) Media and Cyber Politics

Tuesday **State Responses to Cyberactivism**

\* Gary King, Jennifer Pan and Margaret Roberts, "How Censorship in China Allows Government Criticism but Silences Collective Expression," *American Political Science Review* (2013), pp. 1-18.

\* Rongbin Han, "Manufacturing Consent in Cyberspace," *Journal of Current Chinese Affairs* 44:2 (2015), pp. 105-34.

*Suggest reading:* \* Peter Lorentzen, "China's Strategic Censorship," *American Journal of Political Science* 58:2 (2014): 402-14.

Thursday      **Nationalism and Cyber-nationalism**

\* Suisheng Zhao, "Foreign Policy Implications of Chinese Nationalism Revisited: The Strident Turn," *Journal of Contemporary China* 22: 82 (2013), pp. 35–53.

\* Yongming Zhou, "Informed Nationalism: Military Websites in Chinese Cyberspace." *Journal of Contemporary China* 14: 44 (2005), pp. 543–62.

*Suggest reading:* \* Rongbin Han, "Patriotism without state blessing," book chapter.

<Year, Hair, Affair> Youtube Clips

**Week 13 (Apr. 3 & 5) Resilient Authoritarianism or Fragile Super Power?**

Tuesday

\* Minxin Pei, *China's Trapped Transition: The Limits of Developmental Autocracy* (Harvard University Press, 2009), Chapters 3, 4, and 5.

*Suggest reading:* Susan Shirk, *China: Fragile Superpower* (Oxford University Press, 2007).

Thursday

\* Andrew Nathan, "Authoritarian Resilience," *Journal of Democracy* 14.1 (2003): 6-17.

\* Cheng Li, "The End of the CCP's Resilient Authoritarianism? A Tripartite Assessment of Shifting Power in China," *The China Quarterly* 211 (2012): 595-623.

**Week 14 (Apr. 10 & 12)      Presentation**

**Week 15 (Apr. 17 & 19)      Presentation**

**Week 16 (April 24)      Presentation**