

Spring 2014  
Politics of China

Jeremy Wallace  
PLSC440 / EAST 421

Time: Wednesdays, 3:30-5:20 PM  
Location: Rosenkranz Hall 301  
Office Hours: Tuesdays, 3:30-5:00 PM  
Location: Rosenkranz Hall 403  
E-mail: jeremy.wallace@yale.edu

Many historic lessons were obtained through tremendous sacrifice. Such as eating food – if something is poisonous, we all seem to know it. It is common sense. But in the past many people must have eaten this food and died so that now we know better. Therefore I think the first person who ate crabs was admirable. If not a hero, who would dare eat such creatures? Since someone ate crabs, others must have eaten spiders as well. However, they were not tasty. So afterwards people stopped eating them. These people also deserve our heartfelt gratitude. – Lu Xun

This course provides an introduction to the study of contemporary Chinese politics. The course explores both the content of 20th and 21st century Chinese political history with an emphasis on the past thirty years of reform as well as the methods and approaches used by scholars trying to peer into this often opaque society. Substantive topics include economic reforms, contemporary social movements, development, and inequality.

### Course Requirements

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|-----------------------|-----|
| 1. Response Papers    | 30% |
| 2. Participation      | 20% |
| 3. Leading Discussion | 5%  |
| 4. Research Paper     | 45% |

Each student is responsible for writing 3 response papers ( $\leq 500$  words each) over the semester to be shared on a class blog. Response papers should be full of comments and synthesis (not summary) and conclude with discussion questions. Starting in week 3, each session will have two discussion leaders tasked with moving the conversation forward. The principal assignment for the course is a research paper ( $\leq 15$  pages) due by the end of reading week (May 1). At least one response paper and a draft outline of the research paper must be completed by the end of week 6 (Feb. 19).

## Policies and Procedures

This course follows all normal University procedures, including those related to disability services and academic misconduct.

## Plagiarism

The strength of the university depends on academic and personal integrity. Plagiarism is the use of someone else's work, words, or ideas as if they were your own. Yale punishes all academic dishonesty severely. Please review Yale's policies on Academic Integrity, e.g. <http://yalecollege.yale.edu/content/cheating-plagiarism-and-documentation>.

## Schedule of Readings

All readings are available online through the course website, linked, on reserve at the library, or available at a bookstore of your choosing. If you have a problem obtaining the materials, please let me know immediately. The following three books may be useful for those without extensive background in Chinese politics.

Kenneth Lieberthal. *Governing China: From Revolution Through Reform*; Barry Naughton. *The Chinese Economy: Transitions and Growth*; Roderick MacFarquhar (ed.) *The Politics of China*

❖ denotes recommended but not required reading

### Week 1 – Introduction

Jan. 15

- [1] Perry Link. 2002. "The Anaconda in the Chandelier," *New York Review of Books*.  
[2] Carsten Holz. 2007. "Have All China Scholars Been Bought?" *Far Eastern Economic Review*.  
❖ Robert Bates. 1997. "Area Studies and the Discipline: A Useful Controversy?" *PS: Political Science and Politics*, 30:2, pp. 166-169.

### Week 2 – Factory Girls

Jan. 22

- [1] Leslie Chang. 2008. *Factory Girls: From Village to City in a Changing China*. [Link](#).

### Week 3 – China 3.0

Jan. 29

- [1] Mark Leonard (ed). 2012. *China 3.0*. European Council on Foreign Relations.

[Including: Cui Zhiyuan, Xiao Bin, Yu Yongding, Justin Yifu Lin, Zhang Weiyang, Wang Shaoguang, Hu Shuli, Sun Liping, Ma Jun, Pan Wei & Shang Ying, Wang Hui, Michael Anti, Wang Yizhou, Yan Xuetong, Wang Jisi]

## **Week 4 – China and Comparative Politics**

**Feb. 5**

- [1] Barbara Geddes 1999. "What do we know about Democratization after 20 Years?" *Annual Review of Political Science (ARPS)*. pp. 115-144.
- [2] Stathis Kalyvas. 1999. "The Decay & Breakdown of Communist One-Party Systems." *ARPS*.
- [3] Lucan Way. 2011. "Comparing the Arab Revolts – The Lessons of 1989." *Journal of Democracy*. pp. 17-27.
  
- ❖ Isabela Mares & Matthew Carnes. 2009. "Social Policy in Developing Countries." *ARPS*.
- ❖ Jennifer Gandhi & Ellen Lust-Okar. 2009. "Elections under Authoritarianism." *ARPS*.

## **Week 5 – CCP Victory and the Great Leap Forward**

**Feb. 12**

- [1] Ezra Vogel. 1967. "From Revolutionary to Semi-Bureaucrat." *China Quarterly (CQ)*. No. 29.
- [2] James Kung & Shuo Shen. 2011. "The Tragedy of *Nomenklatura*." *American Political Science Review (APSR)*.
- [3] James C. Scott. 2012. "Tyranny of the Ladle." *London Review of Books*. 6 December. pp. 21-8.
  
- ❖ Kenneth Lieberthal. 1994. "The Great Leap Forward and the split in the Yan'an leadership, 1958-1965" in R. MacFarquhar (ed.) *Politics of China*.

## **Week 6 – Cultural Revolution & Elite Politics**

**Feb. 19**

- [1] Andrew Nathan. 1973. "A Factional Model of Chinese Politics." *CQ*, No. 53.
- [2] Andrew Walder. 2002. "Beijing Red Guard Factionalism: Social Interpretations Reconsidered." *Journal of Asian Studies*. Vol. 61, No. 2. pp. 427-471.
- [3] Elizabeth Perry and Li Xun. 1997. "Introduction." in *Proletarian Power: Shanghai in the Cultural Revolution*. Westview Press. pp. 1-6.
- [4] Lowell Dittmer. 1978. "Bases of Power in Chinese Politics: The Fall of the Gang of Four." *World Politics*. Vol. 31, no. 1. pp. 26-55.
  
- ❖ Harry Harding. 1994. "The Chinese state in crisis, 1966-1969" in *Politics of China*.

## **Week 7 – Transition and Reform**

**Feb. 26**

- [1] Vivienne Shue. 1995. "Grasping Reform: Economic Logic, Political Logic, and the State-Society Spiral." *CQ*. No. 144.
- [2] David Zweig. 1986. "Prosperity and Conflict." *CQ*. No. 105. pp. 1-18.
- [3] Jean Oi. 1999. "Two Decades of Rural Reform in China." *CQ*. No. 159. pp. 616-628.

## **Week 8 – Tiananmen**

**Mar. 5**

- [1] Andrew Nathan. 2001. "The Tiananmen Papers." *Foreign Affairs*.
- [2] Andrew Walder. 1991. "Workers, Managers and the State: The Reform Era and the Political Crisis of 1989." *CQ*. No. 121.
- [3] Dingxin Zhao. 2001. *The Power of Tiananmen: State-Society Relations and the 1989 Beijing Student Movement*. Selections.

## Spring Break

### Week 9 – Growth and Discontents

Mar. 26

- [1] Yasheng Huang. 2008. *Capitalism with Chinese Characteristics: Entrepreneurship and the State*. Preface & Chapter 1.
- [2] Dorothy Solinger. 2003. "State and Society in Urban China in the Wake of the 16th Party Congress." *CQ*. No. 176.
- [3] Dali Yang. 2006. "Economic Transformation and Its Political Discontents in China." *ARPS*, Vol. 9, pp. 143-64.
- [4] Ching Kwan Lee. 2007. *Against the Law: Labor Protests in China's Rustbelt and Sunbelt*. Chapter 1: "Chinese Workers Contentious Transition from State Socialism."

### Week 10 – Protest

Apr. 2

- [1] Yongshun Cai. 2008. "[Power Structure and Regime Resilience: Contentious Politics in China](#)." *British Journal Political Science* 38:411-432.
- [2] Lianjiang Li & Kevin O'Brien. 1996. "Villagers & Popular Resistance in Contemporary China." *Modern China*.
- [3] Elizabeth Perry. 2008. "Permanent Rebellion? Continuities and Discontinuities in Chinese Protest." in Kevin O'Brien (ed.) *Popular Protest in China*.
- [4] Xi Chen. 2009. "The Power of 'Troublemaking': Protest Tactics and Their Efficacy in China." *Comparative Politics*. Vol. 41(4).

### Week 11 – Promotion and Information Politics

Apr. 9

- [1] Victor Shih et. al 2012. "Getting Ahead in the Communist Party: Explaining the Advancement of Central Committee Members in China." *APSR*.
- [2] David Shambaugh. 2008. *China's Communist Party: Atrophy and Adaptation*. University of California Press. Selections.
- [3] Sebastian Heilmann, Elizabeth Perry, & Patricia Thornton. *Mao's Invisible Hand: The Political Foundations of Adaptive Governance in China*. HUP. Chapters 1 and 7.
- [4] Graeme Smith. 2009. "Political Machinations in a Rural County" *China Journal*.

- ❖ Victor Shih. 2008. "'Nauseating' Displays of Loyalty: Monitoring the Factional Bargain through Ideological Campaigns in China." *Journal of Politics*. Vol. 70, No. 4. pp. 1177-1192.
- ❖ Pierre Landry. 2008. *Decentralized Authoritarianism in China*. Cambridge University Press.

**Week 12 – China and the Global Financial Crisis**

**Apr. 16**

- [1] Barry Naughton. 2009. "The Scramble to Maintain Growth." *China Leadership Monitor (CLM)*.
- [2] Alice Miller. 2009. "Leadership Sustains Public Unity amid Stress." *CLM*.
- [3] Jeremy Wallace. 2014. "Return to Sender: the *Hukou* System & the Great Recession." from *Cities and Stability: Urbanization, Redistribution, and Regime Survival in China*. OUP.

- ❖ Barry Naughton. 2009. "Loans, Firms, and Steel: Is the State Advancing at the Expense of the Private Sector?" *China Leadership Monitor*.

**Week 13 – Where to Now? What Next?**

**Apr. 23**

- [1] Willy Lam. 2012. "The Maoist Revival and the Conservative Turn in Chinese Politics." *China Perspectives*.
- [2] Cheng Li. 2012. "The End of the CCP's Resilient Authoritarianism?" *CQ*. No. 211.
- [3] TBD.

- ❖ Barry Naughton. 2013. "Signaling Change: New Leaders Begin the Search for Economic Reform." *CLM*.