

## Political Science 537 Government and Politics of China

**Jeremy Wallace  
The Ohio State University**

Time:	Tu Th 9:30 – 11:18am	Location:	Ramseyer 110
Office Hours:	W 9:30 – 11:30am, & by appointment	Location:	Derby Hall 2104
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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

China is full of contradictions: a Communist Party ruling over a rapidly growing capitalist economy; a dictatorship that often fails to implement policies on the ground; a country full of poor citizens loaning trillions of dollars to the US and other rich countries. This course explores how Chinese politics led to this place and where the future points.

### Course Requirements

1. China Map Quiz	05%	4. Analysis	15%
2. News Presentation	10%	5. Midterm Exam	25%
3. Participation & Attendance	10%	6. Cumulative Final Exam	35%

**China Map Quiz** – In the second session of the class, there will be a quiz that requires students to correctly place the various provinces of China on a map.

**News Presentation** – In addition to a brief presentation described below in the Format section, students are to turn in a single-spaced, one page description of the issue, relevant players, potential biases in the coverage, etc.

**Participation & Attendance** – As stated in the Format section below, class sessions will combine lectures and seminar discussions. In order for discussions to thrive, your active presence is required.

**Analysis** – In week 8, students will be given a list of writing prompts. On the last day of classes, a 2-3 page single-spaced analysis will be turned in.

**Midterm Exam** – This exam will cover all material from the lectures and readings that occurs prior to the exam.

**Cumulative Final Exam** – This exam will cover material from the entirety of the course, although the exam will be biased towards topics discussed *after* the Midterm Exam.

Monday, March 12, 2012. 9:30-11:18am FINAL EXAMINATION

<http://registrar.osu.edu/scheduling/SchedulingContent/WI12Finals.pdf>

## Grading

93-100	A	80-82.99	B-	67-69.99	D+
90-92.99	A-	77-79.99	C+	60-66.99	D
87-89.99	B+	73-76.99	C	Below 59.99	E
83-86.99	B	70-72.99	C-		

Grading will be based upon (a) accuracy of factual information; (b) ability to synthesize the appropriate evidence, both theoretical and empirical, from all parts of the course not just rehashing the texts; (c) judgment in separating the important from the trivial, keeping on the subject, critically evaluating all assumptions [including your own and mine]; and (d) effective expression—organization, choice of words, basic grammar, etc.

## Requirements

This course does not assume any prior knowledge of Chinese politics or history. All students are expected to have read the assigned material before class. Students are also expected to keep up-to-date on current developments and news related to China. In addition to major newspapers, there are numerous English-language news aggregators that make the job of keeping up with China substantially easier. First among equals is [www.chinadigitaltimes.net](http://www.chinadigitaltimes.net).

## Format

The class format will be that of a combined lecture-seminar. Sessions will typically include extensive remarks by the instructor – remarks designed to orient the students and to provide a context within which the readings for that day can be understood. Sessions will also include periodic discussion of both points made in the lecture and of the readings assigned for that day. All students are encouraged to ask questions and raise points of interest during our sessions. At the end of each session after Week 3, at least one student will make a brief presentation of an event or news story that relates to contemporary China.

## Academic Misconduct

It is the responsibility of the Committee on Academic Misconduct to investigate or establish procedures for the investigation of all reported cases of student academic misconduct. The term “academic misconduct” includes all forms of student academic misconduct wherever committed; illustrated by, but not limited to, cases of plagiarism and dishonest practices in connection with examinations. Instructors shall report all instances of alleged academic misconduct to the committee (Faculty Rule 3335-5-487). For additional information, see the Code of Student Conduct ([http://studentaffairs.osu.edu/resource\\_csc.asp](http://studentaffairs.osu.edu/resource_csc.asp)).

## Disability Services

**Students with disabilities that have been certified by the Office for Disability Services will be appropriately accommodated, and should inform the instructor as soon as possible of their needs. The Office for Disability Services is located in 150 Pomerene Hall, 1760 Neil Avenue; telephone 292-3307, TDD 292-0901; <http://www.ods.ohio-state.edu/>.**

## Schedule of Readings

You may find it helpful to purchase the following books as a reference text although doing so is not required for the course.

Kenneth Lieberthal. 2004. *Governing China: From Revolution Through Reform*. 2<sup>nd</sup> EDITION.  
Jeffrey Wasserstrom. 2010. *China in the 21st Century: What Everyone Needs to Know*.

Other materials and readings will be available on carmen.osu.edu and/or with links below.

### Week 01 – Introduction

Jan 3 – Initial Session

Jan 5 – Area Studies & Comparative Politics

[1] Robert Bates. 1997. "Area Studies and the Discipline: A Useful Controversy," *PS: Political Science and Politics*. (June): 166-169.

[2] Perry Link, "The Anaconda in the Chandelier," *New York Review of Books*, April 11, 2002.

#### *China Map Quiz*

### Week 02 – Area Studies, Legacies of Imperial China, & Beginnings of Mao

Jan 10, 12

[1] Lieberthal. Chapters 1&2

[2] Lieberthal. Chapter 4

### Week 03 – Maoist China

Jan 17, 19

[1] Ezra Vogel, "From Revolutionary to Semi-Bureaucrat," *China Quarterly*, January-March, 1967, pp. 36-60.

[2] Barry Naughton. *The Chinese Economy: Transitions and Growth*. Ch. 3

[3] Resolution on CPC History (1949-1981), Selections

#### *China: A Century of Revolution* [watching and discussing portions of the film in class]

### Week 04 – The Decision to & Beginnings of Reform

Jan 24, 26

[1] Lowell Dittmer, "Bases of Power in Chinese Politics: The Fall of the Gang of Four," *World Politics*, 31, NO. 1 (Oct. 1978), pp. 26-55.

[2] David Zweig, "Prosperity and Conflict," *China Quarterly* No. 105 (March 1986), pp. 1-18.

[3] Jean Oi, "Two Decades of Rural Reform in China: An Overview and Assessment," *China Quarterly* No. 159 (September 1999), pp. 616-628.

#### *Midterm Review*

### Week 05 – Midterm & Economics of Reform

#### Jan 31 – MIDTERM EXAMINATION

Feb 2

[1] Barry Naughton. *The Chinese Economy: Transitions and Growth*. Chapters 4 & 5.

## Week 06 – Tiananmen & Workers

Feb 7, 9

- [1] Andrew Walder, "Workers, Managers and the State: The Reform Era and the Political Crisis of 1989." *China Quarterly*. V. 121. 1991.
- [2] Zhao, Dingxin. 2001. *The Power of Tiananmen: State-Society Relations and the 1989 Beijing Student Movement*. Chicago, University of Chicago Press. Selections.
- [3] Dorothy Solinger. "State and Society in Urban China in the Wake of the 16th Party Congress." *China Quarterly*, v. 176, 2003.

## Week 07 – Differing Perspectives

Feb 14, 16

- [1] Yasheng Huang. *Capitalism with Chinese Characteristics: Entrepreneurship and the State*. Preface & Chapter 1.
- [2] Graeme Smith. 2009. "Political Machinations in a Rural County" *China Journal*.

## Week 08 – Social Stability & Nationalism

Feb 21, 23

[Analysis Writing Prompts Handed Out]

- [1] Lianjiang Li & Kevin O'Brien. "Villagers & Popular Resistance in Contemporary China." *Modern China*. 1996.
- [2] Tanner, Murray Scot. 2004. "China Rethinks Unrest." *The Washington Quarterly* 27(3): 137-56.
- [3] Susan L. Shirk. "The Echo Chamber of Nationalism: Media and the Internet," in *China: Fragile Superpower*. Oxford University Press, 2007, p. 79-104.
- [4] Jessica Weiss. "Autocratic Signaling, Mass Audiences and Nationalist Protest in China" *International Organization*. Forthcoming.

## Week 09 – China and the Global Economic Crisis

Feb 28, Mar 2

- [1] Barry Naughton. 2009. "The Scramble to Maintain Growth." *China Leadership Monitor*.
- [2] Barry Naughton. 2009. "Loans, Firms, and Steel: Is the State Advancing at the Expense of the Private Sector?" *China Leadership Monitor*.
- [3] Alice Miller. 2009. "Leadership Sustains Public Unity amid Stress." *China Leadership Monitor*.
- [4] Joseph Fewsmith. 2009. "Social Order in the Wake of Economic Crisis." *China Leadership Monitor*.

## Week 10 – Conclusions

Mar 6, 8

[Mar 8: Analysis due]

- [1] Dali Yang, "Economic Transformation and Its Political Discontents in China," *Annual Review of Political Science*, Vol. 9, 2006, pp. 143-64.
- [2] Yasheng Huang. *Capitalism with Chinese Characteristics: Entrepreneurship and the State*. Conclusion.

*Final Exam Review*

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