Chinese Political Reforms

(Spring 2010)
Instructor: GUI Yongtao

Time: 1:30-4:20 pm Friday
Location: 209 History Department
Phone: 62765695

Office: A321, School of International Studies
Office Hours: 4:30-5:30 pm Friday

I. Course Description:

This course is designed to introduce students to key aspects of Chinese politics, with a focus on the post-Mao reforms since 1978. The goal of the course is to help students to gain different perspectives on current Chinese government structure, most importantly, the dynamics of the ongoing process of economic and political reforms. Discussion topics include Chinese political history (1949 to present), Chinese government structure and institutions, nationalisms in China, economic reforms and their political implications, democratization, civil society, environment, and other emerging issues in current Chinese society.

II. Texts:

1. Kenneth Lieberthal, *Governing China: From Revolution Through Reform*, W.W. Norton, 2004.
2. Susan L. Shirk, *China: Fragile Superpower: How China's Internal Politics Could Derail Its Peaceful Rise*, Oxford University Press, 2007.
3. Willy Wo-Lap Lam, *Chinese Politics in the Hu Jintao Era: New Leaders, New Challenges*, M. E. Sharpe, 2006.
4. Minxin Pei, *China's Trapped Transition: The Limits of Developmental Autocracy*, Harvard University Press, 2006.
5. C. Fred Bergsten, Bates Gill, Nicholas R. Lardy and Derek Mitchell , C*hina: The Balance Sheet: What the World Needs to Know About the Emerging Superpower*, Public Affairs, 2006.
6. David Shambaugh, C*hina's Communist Party: Atrophy and Adaptation*, University of California Press, 2008.

III. Requirements:

Students are required to do the assigned readings in the syllabus before each class and actively participate in class discussions. Students are expected to talk to the instructor around the middle of the semester about a possible topic for the research paper. Class attendance on time is required. Absence from class must ask for prior permission from the instructor and, in case of emergence, must report to the instructor immediately afterwards. Class absence beyond three with no excusable reasons may result in significantly reduced grade and absence beyond four times may result in failure of your

total course grade. Similarly, lateness for class beyond one may result in reduction in your class participation grade.

IV. Course Grading:
Presentation 20%
Class Participation (including attendance) 20%
Research Paper 30%
(10-15 pages, double spaced and including bibliography; **due Mar 26**)
Exam 30%

V. Class Schedule: Topics and Readings

Week 1:	**Introduction**
	Bergsten, Chapter 1, 3
Week 2:	**Political History 1: The Maoist Era**
	Lieberthal, Chapter 3, 4
Week 3	**Political History 2: The Reform Era**
	Lieberthal, Chapter 5; Lam, Chapter 1
Week 4	**Political System: The Government and the Party**
	Lieberthal, Chapter 6, 7
Week 5	**Economic Reform and Environment**
	Lieberthal, Chapter 8, 9; Bergsten, Chapter 2
Week 6	**Political Reform 1: Ideas and Policies**
	Lam, Chapter 2, 3
Week 7	**Political Reform 2: Rebuilding the Party**
	Shambaugh, Chapter 6, 7
Week 8	**Political Reform 3: Trapped Transition**
	Pei, Chapter 2, 3
Week 9	**Political Reform 4: State and Society**
	Lieberthal, Chapter 10; Pei, Chapter 4
Week 10	**The China Model?**
	Pei, Chapter 5, Shambaugh, Chapter 8
Week 11	**Nationalism and Public Opinion**
	Shirk, Chapter 4, 7
Week 12	**Domestic Politics and Foreign Policy**
	Exam
	Shirk, Chapter 6, 8

VI. Periodicals, newspapers and websites:
Far Eastern Economic Review

China Daily
Beijing Review
China Quarterly
Asian Survey

www.xinhuanet.com (sponsored by the Xinhua News Agency)
www.china.com.cn (sponsored by the State Council Information Office)
www.gov.cn (official web portal of the Central People's Government of PRC)
www.feer.com (*Far Eastern Economic Review* on line)
www.chinadaily.com.cn (*China Daily* on line)